



BETTY VILLEGAS
COUNTY SUPERVISOR - DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 4, 2020
TO: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board
FROM: Betty Villegas, District Five Supervisor
REGARDING: Item for the December 1, 2020 agenda

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Villegas".

Please add the following to the December 1, 2020 agenda:

Resolution

A Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and Income Inequality in Pima County to be a Public Health Crisis. (District 5)

Thank you

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH INEQUITIES AND INCOME INEQUALITY IN PIMA COUNTY TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated racial and social health inequities nationally and locally by disproportionately impacting communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic, Native American and African American communities in Pima County are experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and more recently deaths, when compared to White communities;¹ and

WHEREAS, low-income communities in Pima County (defined by census tracts and zip codes) are experiencing disproportionately higher case numbers of COVID-19;² and

WHEREAS, this COVID-19 demographic data is reflective of historic health inequities nationally and locally across racial and ethnic groups, as well as across income levels; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and Native Americans in Pima County have higher rates of premature death and higher child and infant mortality rates than Hispanics, Asians and Whites;³ and

WHEREAS, Native Americans lose an average of 16.8 years of life expectancy due to these factors followed by 10.05 years lost for African Americans, and 8.93 years lost for Hispanics, compared to an average of 1.14 years gained for Whites (using an average life expectancy of 75);⁴ and

WHEREAS, African Americans in Pima County experienced disproportionately higher rates of death due to cardiovascular disease (490.7 cases per 100,000 people) from 2016-2018 compared to Whites (370.9 people per 100,000 people);⁵ and

WHEREAS, African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans in Pima County have higher rates of preventable hospital stays, and lower rates of mammography screenings and flu vaccinations, than Asians and Whites;⁶ and

¹ Pima County COVID-19 Case Demographics Reports.

<https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=578441>

² Pima County COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/426baca70718453a9f63a4f85e545d8b>

³ County Health Rankings and Road Maps Program.

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/arizona/2020/rankings/pima/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

⁴ Pima County 2019 Death Certificate.

⁵ <https://nccd.cdc.gov/DHDSAtlas/Reports.aspx>

⁶ County Health Rankings and Road Maps Program.

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/arizona/2020/rankings/pima/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

WHEREAS, poverty rates in Pima County for 2018 were 23.6 percent for Hispanics, 28.1 percent for African Americans, 38.5 percent for Native Americans and 15.1 percent for Whites;⁷ and

WHEREAS, public health research and practice have long recognized racism, discrimination and income inequality as fundamental causes of health inequities; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism and poverty negatively impact the social factors that determine a person's health, including access to safe and affordable housing, active recreational opportunities, well-paying jobs, quality early childhood education, clean air and water, and health care and health insurance; and

WHEREAS, over 50 counties across the nation have adopted resolutions focused on acknowledging the racial drivers of health disparities, and supporting policies and initiatives to reduce these inequities;⁸ and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the National Partnership for Woman and Families, the American Public Health Association and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, have recognized that racial discrimination negatively impacts health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Pima County Health Department is undertaking strategic planning to define the organizational structure and resources necessary to reduce community health inequities and respond to new public health challenges, as guided by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health 3.0 and Healthy People 2030 (that recognize health agencies as community conveners across disciplines).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby declares racial and ethnic health inequities and income inequality in Pima County to be a public health crisis, and

1. Directs the County Administrator to support a county-wide strategy to address health inequities, including:
 - a. Expanding the Health Department's Health Equity Program to include other County departments that provide services impacting the health of individuals and families.
 - b. Expanding the Healthy Pima membership to include more representation from communities experiencing health inequities and from those advocating for improvements.

⁷ ACS 2018. <https://mapazdashboard.arizona.edu/health-social-well-being/poverty-rate>

⁸ <https://www.naco.org/county-resources-race-equity-and-inclusion>

- c. Continuing the Health Department’s Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH), a grant funded initiative of the CDC to reduce chronic diseases disproportionately impacting Native Americans and Hispanics.
 - d. Collecting, analyzing and reporting public health data by age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, neighborhood, and other sociodemographic characteristics, including adding such data to the Healthy Pima Community Health Assessments.
 - e. Ensuring equity in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.
2. Pledges to promote health equity through all Board of Supervisors policies and budgeting, to enhance the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety.
 3. Promotes policies that are well recognized to improve public health for adults and children from communities of color.
 4. Advocates locally, regionally, and nationally for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color and low-income communities.
 5. Advocates for economic development projects and opportunities designed to increase employment and income opportunities as a modality to reduce and eventually eliminate income inequality.
 6. Supports the expansion of continuing education, job training and workforce development programs as a pathway to economic self-sufficiency and stability for Pima County residents.


Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Ramón Valadez, Chairman
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Andrew Flagg, Deputy County Attorney