AGENDA MATERIAL
DATE 12-1-20 ITEM NO. RA 9

SAAF

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From: Ravi Grivois-Shah, MD, CEO Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

To: Pima County Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board

Re: "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality a Public Health Crisis"

Date: November 30, 2020

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I write this to support and ask that you vote in favor of the "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income inequality a Public Health Crisis," which is on the Pima County Board of Supervisors agenda on December 1, 2020.

As a family physician, I have seen the effects of health inequity due to race in my own practice, whether it was as a Cook County physician working in Chicago's underserved Hispanic and African American neighborhoods, or here in Tucson providing care to a majority Medicaid population and working with the Mobile Health Program which provides free care to Tucson's underserved communities.

At SAAF, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, we work with some of Pima County's most vulnerable communities, including those living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom come from the Hispanic, African American, and Indigenous communities. We see how housing insecurity, food insecurity, lack of health insurance, discrimination, and other barriers directly affect our clients in every aspect of their lives.

This resolution is the start of acknowledging the role of race in our society, an essential step in improving health outcomes, unifying the country, and bringing people out of poverty.

We applaud you for taking this step as It is time for us to look at the institutions and structures that govern daily life and eliminate structural racism policies.

We ask you to take this critical step in ensuring Pima County works for everyone and that equity is at the center of everything we do.

Sincerely,

Ravi Grivois-Shah

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