



# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 12-1-20 ITEM NO. RA 9

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Pima County Board of Supervisors  
ATTN: Chairman Ramon Valadez  
130 West Congress, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and  
Income Inequality in Pima County to be a Public Health Crisis

Dear Chairman Valadez & Supervisors,

We 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.

We know COVID-19 pandemic did not cause these inequities that have long been present in our society, however they have certainly been exacerbated by it and have been brought to the attention of the greater public.

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

Income inequality impacts everyone, but racial and ethnic minorities make up a disproportionate portion of those living in poverty within Pima County. The poverty rates in Pima County for 2018 were 38.5 percent for Native Americans, 28.1 percent for African Americans, 23.6 percent for Hispanics, and 15.1 percent for Whites. Data also shows that in Pima County, African Americans and Native Americans have elevated rates of premature death and higher child and infant mortality rates than Hispanics, Asians, and Whites.

In our collective work as community and public servants we have learned that systemic discrimination and poverty are real, and negatively impact the social factors that determine a person's health. These factors also affect access to safe, attainable housing, better jobs, quality education, environmental justice, affordable healthcare and overall wellness.

We applaud you for taking this step as there is no better time than now for us to look at and improve the institutions and structures that govern daily life.

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

Lydia A. Aranda, M.A.  
President, CPLC Southern Arizona

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