

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1968 the Village of Oak Park adopted one of the nation's first fair housing laws, and codified it as part of the Oak Park Village Code, Chapter 13, entitled Human Rights, with the aim to protect the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, gender, gender identity, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, source of income, disability, housing status, military discharge status; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 Oak Park created and enacted the first Oak Park Diversity Statement, now called the Oak Park Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement, affirmed by the Village Board to demonstrate support of the ideals embodied in the statement, which in part reads

The people of Oak Park choose this community, not just as a place to live, but as a way of life and as a place to seek shelter, refuge and acceptance. Oak Park commits itself to equity, diversity, and inclusion because these values make us a desirable and strong community for all people. Creating a mutually respectful, multicultural and equitable environment does not happen on its own; it must be intentional.

We believe in equity. By embracing equity, with an explicit but not exclusive focus on racial equity, we work to break down systems of oppression, including racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and other forms of bias and hate to achieve a society where race no longer determines one's outcomes, where everyone has what they need to thrive. This is both a process and a goal. We reject racial barriers that limit and divide us, and we reject bias towards any group of people.

WHEREAS, in order to enact the ideals written in the Oak Park Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement, we must first acknowledge the white supremacist history of not only the Oak Park community, but the nation so that we can fully understand the current racial disparities present in our village today; and

WHEREAS, the history of policing and criminalization in the United States are rooted in enforcing the enslavement of Black people, and policing became a force used to disrupt labor and civil rights uprisings in the U.S., as seen most recently by the police brutality enacted on peaceful protestors across the U.S. during the civil rights movement for Black lives.

WHEREAS, in Oak Park Black and Latinx youth have demonstrated courage and bravery in wielding their democratic right to free speech and protest, and demanding that the Village of Oak Park end the racial profiling of Black and Latinx people by Oak Park police and members of our community, breakdown the systems of oppression that create racial disparities present in Oak Park today, and create a village where everyone truly has the freedom to thrive;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees hereby declare that in order to keep every member of our community truly safe, we must reduce unnecessary and

often racially-motivated and harmful contact between Black and Latinx people and Oak Park police, and engage in efforts to defund the Oak Park Police department and redistribute those funds towards social services that build the long term health and safety of every member of our community, and therefore we resolve to the following:

1. Reducing the amount spent on policing in the Village of Oak Park by defunding the Oak Park Police department such that we reduce the number of budgeted sworn officers during the FY2021 budget cycle, and commit to further reductions in future budget cycles.
2. Using the dollars from defunding the police to create a non-police response team for mental health crises, homelessness, and domestic disturbances.
3. Rescind Village of Oak Park laws and ordinances that may be used to unfairly target Black and Latinx youth
4. Removing the building of a new police station from the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan
5. Amending Chapter 2, Article 30 of the Village code to create a truly independent, empowered, and transparent Citizen Police Oversight Commission.
6. Acknowledging the harm done by policing in Oak Park and across the nation by enacting a memorial day for victims of police violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is a first step toward repairing the harms done by the Village of Oak Park to anyone who is Black and has stepped foot in our Village, and that we must not rest or be content with the bold civil rights actions this Village enacted in the 1970s to foster diversity and inclusion in our village; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees commits to work in full support of diversity, equity and inclusion with the participation of the community as we take action to reimagine community safety so that everyone in our village has the freedom to thrive.

ADOPTED this _____ 2020 pursuant to a roll call vote as follows: