

Laura Stone

Subject: Email to Audience of Citizens 2-16-21 Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis

From: Linda Blakesley <lindablakesley@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 8:11 PM

To: Julie Blanchard <jblanchard@coventryct.org>; Lisa Catanese <lisacata@aol.com>; Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventryct.org>; Matthew O'brien Jr. <mobrienjr@coventryct.org>; Matthew OBrien <MattOBrien@coventryct.org>; Richard Williams Jr. <rwilliamsjr@coventryct.org>; Jon Hand <jhand@coventryct.org>; John Elsesser <jelsesser@coventryct.org>; Coventry Audience <Audience@coventryct.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis

Dear Council Members,

The Town of Coventry must declare racism a public health crisis. As local PowerUp Connecticut leader and founder, Keren Prescott, says, 'you cannot cure what you cannot diagnose.'

Just because we live in a majority white town, does not mean that racism is not impacting our residents. In fact, we owe it to all the children in this town who will one day be global citizens, to create equitable systems in which all children can thrive and outcomes are not determined by race. They are watching. They are learning. One day they will be making decisions in the world that impact all people including the most marginalized and disenfranchised populations.

Health inequities affect millions of black people and people of color through systemic barriers and social determinants. We are all a part of this system. If we are not doing everything we can to dismantle it, then we are upholding it and perpetuating it.

So, I ask all of you, will you uphold or break down? First thing first. Name the problem!

Racism is a public health crisis!

Please look at our neighbors in Manchester whose Board of Directors made this declaration last summer. We are late.

I anticipate that this will be addressed at the next Town Council meeting. Thank you.

Regards,

Linda Blakesley
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