

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 16, 2020

**Action Agenda
Item No.** 7-b

SUBJECT: Discussion on a Potential Community Forum Regarding Policing and Racial Justice and Equity in Orange County

DEPARTMENT: Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENT(S):
Potential Resolution

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Commissioner Mark Dorosin, (919) 245-2130
Commissioner Mark Marcoplos, (919) 245-2130

PURPOSE: To discuss a potential community forum regarding policing and racial justice and equity in Orange County and a resolution calling for such a forum.

BACKGROUND: Commissioners Mark Dorosin and Mark Marcoplos recently shared the attached resolution with other Board members and suggested the Board might want to discuss this topic and potential consideration of the attached resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact associated with this item.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT: There is no Orange County Social Justice Goal impact associated with discussing this item. The resolution addresses multiple Orange County Social Justice Goals, as would the potential community forum.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no Orange County Environmental Responsibility Goal impact associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board discuss a potential community forum regarding policing and racial justice and equity in Orange County and the resolution calling for such a forum.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF POLICING AND RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN ORANGE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the residents of Orange County, North Carolina are committed to discussing and addressing issue of structural racism, inclusion, racial equity, and the continuing legacy of racial segregation and discrimination in this community; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted “A Resolution denouncing the murder of George Floyd and addressing the health director’s declaration of structural racism as a “public health crisis” in Orange County” and committed to working to dismantling structural racism; and

WHEREAS across the nation local governments and the communities they represent are engaging in a wide-ranging review of police policies and practices in light of these tragic events, and

WHEREAS Orange County places a high priority on community engagement, participation, and transparency; and

WHEREAS unlike municipalities in our state, which directly control their police departments, the Sheriff is an independently elected official under the North Carolina Constitution and the Sheriff’s Office is an independent county agency, but by this resolution seeks it’s partnership in addressing these issues.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners will conduct a community public forum to discuss issues of policing and racial justice and equity in Orange County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners will request that the Sheriff and the Sheriff’s Office be a full and equal partner with the BOCC in planning, organizing, and leading the forum.

This the 16th Day of June, 2020.

Penny Rich, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners