

RESOLUTION NO. 682

A RESOLUTION ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Whereas, The City of Roeland Park acknowledges and deplors the history of systemic racism in the United States and in our metropolitan area, and recognizes that the majority of our population benefits from white privilege, and

Whereas, Roeland Park believes that black lives matter, recognizes its vibrant Hispanic heritage, welcomes immigrants of color, and respects the knowledge, experience, and traditions of all who live, work, study, or pray in our city or otherwise visit Roeland Park

Whereas, Roeland Park seeks to empower and will actively listen to the voices from diverse cultures, religions, backgrounds, orientations, abilities and viewpoints; and

Whereas, Roeland Park strongly condemns any and all racist acts and extends our deepest empathy to the families and friends of victims of racist violence, and condemns any attacks or harassment of or intimidation of individuals that are based on race, ethnicity, immigration or refugee status, religion, sexual orientation, or other social identities

Whereas, Roeland Park strongly condemns any racist acts of oppression in all forms, including institutionalized racism which has targeted communities of color for far too long, and

Whereas, Roeland Park has initiated an ad-hoc police policy review committee which includes use of force policies and officers are trained on de-escalation techniques to minimize the risk of lethal interactions between enforcement officers and civilians and continual efforts, including review of police interaction statistics, are made to improve the levels of service our Police Department provides to our community, and

Whereas, Roeland Park is committed to continue developing economic and workforce opportunities, and

Whereas, Roeland Park knows that we must all commit to being human rights champions, fight racism, and stand up as allies, and

Whereas, Roeland Park seeks to be intentional and action-oriented in its commitments; and

Whereas, Roeland Park supports the work of our city government, our police department, and our schools to make them more diverse, equitable and inclusive in our joint commitments to seek further policy and administrative measures in support of this goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT ON THIS DAY, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS:

1. Hereby establishes an ad-hoc police policy review committee, which will include citizen participation, to include a review the use of force within our police department and recommend specific policy or changes as appropriate.
2. Hereby establishes the Racial Equity and Diversity Ad-Hoc Committee to examine, educate, and improve racial and diversity outcomes within the city of Roeland Park. Among other tasks, this Committee will provide specific action items to the Governing Body in furtherance of these goals.

PASSED by the City Council this 3rd day of August, 2020.

APPROVED by the Mayor.

Mike Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven E. Mauer, City Attorney