



Thursday, September 8, 2022

Olmsted County Board of Commissioners  
c/o Board Chair Mark Thein  
Olmsted County Government Center  
151 4th Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904-3710

Re: Olmsted County's Human Rights Commission and Public Health Services Advisory Board support submitting the Joint Study on Racism as a Public Health Issue report and recommendations to the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners to accept.

Dear Olmsted County Commissioners,

We appreciate that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners recognized the need to study racism as a public health issue and make recommendations to address it. The impacts of systemic (structural) racism, which according to GARE (Government Alliance on Race and Ethnicity) are policies or practices that work better for white people than for people of color, often occur unintentionally or inadvertently. This has led to a history and current reality of systems that negatively impact communities of color.

The Board was innovative in its approach through assigning the effort to two county advisory groups made of community members (Resolution No. 20-153). Thank you for entrusting this meaningful work with the community, the people it will most impact. After the culmination of almost two years of research, analysis, and engagement, the volunteer subgroup finalized 42 thoughtful recommendations intended to positively impact the people the County serves every day.

We, the Olmsted County Human Rights Commission and Olmsted County Public Health Services Advisory Board, enthusiastically support the volunteer subgroup in bringing the report and recommendations to the County Board to accept and begin implementation planning. We look forward to seeing the movement of the County in this effort to address racism as a public health issue.

Respectfully,

Olmsted County Human Rights Commission



Olmsted County Public Health Services  
Advisory Board

