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Lakewood City Council
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June 15th, 2020

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio

Re: 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge

Dear Council,

The roots of racial inequities and social injustice run deep into our nation's history. The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd have sparked a call for change. To better serve our community and to ensure that all residents are represented we recognize that we should make all efforts to be fully educated on issues surrounding diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

Lakewood is a diverse, but historically white, community with predominately white leadership. We know from listening to residents, activists, researchers, and educators, that to create the universally inclusive and equitable culture that we seek in our community and the broader world that it is our responsibility to fully educate ourselves on the racial inequities in our society. It is not enough to avoid overtly racist actions. We must actively be anti-racist and intentionally socially just.

As stated in the attached resolution, we are committed to completing the YWCA's 2020 *21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge*¹ prior to the end of the year. We invite and encourage all members of council, the Mayor, the Directors and Chiefs, members of the administration, all Lakewood city employees, and residents to join us. This online, asynchronous, and non-partisan program centers around the topical issues of how racial inequities impact voting, education, criminal justice and public health.

We respectfully request immediate adoption of this resolution.

Sarah Kepple
Council At-Large

Dan O'Malley
President of Council

Meghan George
Mayor

¹ <https://www.ywcaofcleveland.org/21-day-racial-equity-challenge/>