



Board of Health

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July 22, 2020

Amid a global pandemic, we are devastatingly reminded of the plague that impacts our Black and Brown family, friends, and neighbors, through the recent murders of Joel Avecedo, Dontre Hamilton, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and Amaud Arbery. This plague is multifactorial and includes structural racism, White supremacy, and police brutality. It did not start with the death of George Floyd. It has simmered beneath the surface for decades. The problems are so significant and entrenched that thousands across the nation have eschewed their own health and wellbeing to protest. We mourn with our Black family, friends, and neighbors the unnecessary deaths of Joel Avecedo, Dontre Hamilton, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Amaud Arbery, and the countless other lives that have been unjustly lost before them.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department and numerous other public health organizations have declared that racism is a public health crisis and it is literally killing us. We have seen the impact of decades of rampant segregation, discrimination and injustices intensify the disparities of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the Black and Brown communities of Milwaukee. Conducting business and approaching problems the same way over and over and expecting different results is the very definition of insanity. Change will not occur until we all make a concerted effort to acknowledge and address the prejudice and intolerance engrained in our government, corporations, legislation, and everyday life. Transformation will not occur in the health and safety of our community until we are willing to invest at least as much money and emphasis into public health and the welfare of our communities as we currently do our police departments. One priority item would be intentional in funding anti-racism work in the city of Milwaukee.

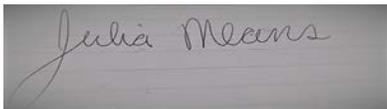
As a member of the City of Milwaukee Board of Health we are willing to do our part to work toward the health and well being of all Milwaukee residents, so we urge other officials to do the same. We need a community, a city, where we all can thrive. #AllBlacklivesmatter

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership as we work together to move Milwaukee forward.

Sincerely,

Marylyn Ranta, MD, Board President

Caroline Gomez-Tom, MSW, Board Vice-President



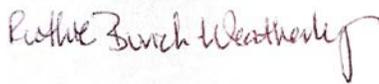
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Alderwomen Chantia Lewis



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