

RESOLUTION 20-16

**SUPPORTING THE PAINTING OF TWO BLACK LIVES MATTER
STREET MURALS - ONE ON ELM STREET AND ONE AT A DOWNTOWN
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington previously expressed in Resolution 20-06, adopted on May 6, 2020, its commitment to promoting the health, safety, welfare and inclusiveness of all community residents, and acknowledged its responsibility to oppose, and aid in eradicating, systemic racism, racial bias and racial animus; and

WHEREAS, over the last several months, prompted by the killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Daniel Prude in Rochester, and by the cumulative effects of so many others before them, our country has been in turmoil, reeling from the horror of yet more of our Black and Brown family members, friends and citizens being killed brutally and unnecessarily while in government custody; and

WHEREAS, our community is far from immune to racial inequality and strife, and residents and others have been making their voices heard and demonstrating their pain and frustration at the continuing scourge of racism nationally and in our own community by marching in our streets and calling for all of us to do more; and

WHEREAS, governments may and regularly do engage in official government speech on important matters, and the City recognizes its obligation to condemn racism and inequality, and to stand in solidarity with organizations and individuals who share those sentiments; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council have proposed two street murals that would involve the painting of the words "Black Lives Matter" on the public right of way with one mural on Elm Street in Bloomington and another at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined, and the Board of Parks Commissioners endorsed the concept at their July 28, 2020 meeting, and the Bloomington Arts Commission endorsed it at their August 12, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City has funds available from the Black Y Brown Arts Festival, which was canceled due to the COVID pandemic, to pay an artist(s) to complete the mural; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington wants to reiterate its position in Resolution 20-06 that the City condemns all forms of bigotry, racism and hatred; and proudly stands for individual dignity, and against all those who would seek to propagate hate, fear and intimidation, or incite fear and violence targeting any human being; and

WHEREAS, the Council wholeheartedly endorses this use of public art to express its stated position and especially to support and honor a movement fighting to bring justice and equality to Black and Brown members of our community and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT;

The City of Bloomington endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals - one on Elm Street in front of the Banneker Center, or at such other nearby location as the City and the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council agree is appropriate, and one at a downtown location to be determined, and supports the City's use of existing funds to pay the artist(s) hired to design and paint the mural. Further, the Council calls on the Board of Public Works to permit this use of a public right of way and join in this public display of support for our Black and Brown residents who have been fighting for justice and equality for far too long.


PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 23rd day of September, 2020.


STEPHEN VOLAN, President
Bloomington Common Council

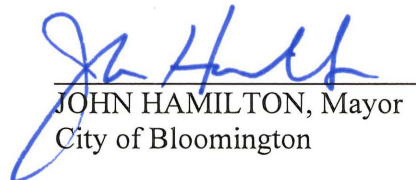
ATTEST:


NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 28th day of September, 2020.


NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 29th day of September, 2020.


JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals in the public right of way - one on Elm Street in Bloomington and one at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined, and calls on the Board of Public Works to permit this use of a public right of way for public art that supports the cause of anti-racism and promotes justice and equality for our Black and Brown residents and visitors.

Note: This resolution was revised after release in the legislative packet on September 18, 2020 and prior to introduction at the September 23, 2020 Special Session to reflect the possibility that more than one artist might be hired to complete the murals.

Distributed to Clerk, Community and Family Resources Department, Council Attorney, Legal, Mayor, Planning and Transportation Department, and Public Works