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PUBLIC COMMENT
- Council/Board Chambers

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW
Payton Koehler interviewed for the Human Rights Commission.

Donna Lun interviewed for the Human Rights Commission.

Both applicants were appointed to the Human Rights Commission.

CALL TO ORDER
Chair, Commissioner Matt Flynn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA
Brown moved; Bier seconded, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:
Motion: [Unanimous]

| AYES: | Podulke, Brown, Flynn, Bier, Kiscaden, Thein, Wright |

Proclaim August as Child Support Awareness Month in Olmsted County.

REGULAR AGENDA

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS
Bier moved; Thein seconded, to Direct the Public Health Advisory Board and the Human Rights Commission to study and investigate racism and disparities in healthcare, report back to the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners with findings, and adopt supporting resolution as follows.

Resolution No. 20-153

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minorities in the United States are less likely to receive preventative medical care [The Commonwealth Fund (2018), Retrieved from
WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed widespread and fundamental disparities across the United States for both exposure and severe outcomes related to this virus associated with race; and

WHEREAS, the disparities recognized nationally are also evident in Olmsted County related to COVID-19 to the extent that residents that identify as black are more than five times more likely to acquire infection than those that identify as white. In addition, those that identify as Hispanic have more than four times the risk for exposure compared to those that identify as white; and

WHEREAS, beyond COVID-19, significant disparities in health when considering race are and have been evident in Olmsted County based on the county’s community health needs assessments; and,

WHEREAS, Olmsted County’s most recent community assessment reported that while 31.3% of residents that identify as white report financial stress while 53.9% of non-white residents are financially stressed; and,

WHEREAS, Olmsted County’s most recent community assessment identified “community inclusiveness” as the fifth most important health issue in our community; and

WHEREAS, public health can be defined as the science, practice, and art of collective efforts to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong quality of life among populations, while assuring conditions in which all people can be healthy [Washington University of St. Louis, Institute of Public Health (2020), Retrieved from <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/public-health-and-global-health-definitions/>; and

WHEREAS, “Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research,” highlighting that “a large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility” [CDC Foundation (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health>]; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association (APHA) states that “Racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now” [American Public Health Association (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity/racism-and-health>]; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked systemic racism to worse health outcomes [Institute of Medicine (2003), Retrieved from <https://www.nap.edu/read/10260/chapter/11>]; and

WHEREAS, as of August 1st, 2020 more than 80 state and local government agencies have now passed resolutions that declare racial disparities and racism as a public health crisis.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners recognizes that Inequity Associated with Race and Racism is a Public Health Issue and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners directs the Olmsted County Public Health Services Advisory Board and the Olmsted County Human Rights Commission to jointly study and investigate this issue with special emphasis on the services the
Bier moved; Thein seconded, to Approve the Olmsted County Funding Plan as outlined for use of the Coronavirus Aid, Economic Security (CARES) Act and adopt the supporting resolution as follows.

Resolution No. 20-154

WHEREAS Olmsted County received $19.1 M through the federal Coronavirus Relief Act to aid communities and local government with expenses incurred as a result of the coronavirus pandemic between March 31, 2020 and December 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS Olmsted County has incurred significant costs to protect the health and safety of all residents and to monitor and manage the pandemic through testing sites, contact tracing, provision of basic needs to vulnerable residents, and modifications to public facilities such as district courts; and

WHEREAS individuals, families, businesses, non-profits, governments, schools, and other institutions have been severely financially impacted by the restrictions placed on society as a result of the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS the Olmsted County Board endeavors to distribute funds available to those individuals, families, small businesses, and non-profits affected most severely by the pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County will allocate approximately $4.7M to fund basic needs such as food, shelter, and mental health care for vulnerable residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will reserve $500,000 for mental health needs in all K-12 school districts in Olmsted County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will allocate $4,000,000 to aid small businesses through a grant program to be administered by Rochester Area Economic Development Inc. (RAEDI).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will allocate $1,000,000 to aid not-for-profit organizations through a grant program to be administered by the Rochester Area Foundation (RAF).

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 4th day of August, 2020.
Motion: [Unanimous]

AYES: Podulke, Brown, Flynn, Bier, Kiscaden, Thein, Wright
BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADJOURN