



# RESOLUTION

**Whereas,** institutional and systemic racism have been around for generations, the Williamson County Commissioners Court strongly condemns the actions that have resulted in serious mental, emotional, economic, and physical harm and in, some cases, horrific deaths over multiple decades; and

**Whereas,** a reviewer of the data can find discrimination revealed in most aspects of life faced by people of color. For instance, children of racial and ethnic minorities are expelled from school at much higher rates than white children, and lenders are found to continue the practice of redlining for extending credit to people of color. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown a harsh spotlight on the effects of being on the front lines while having limited to no medical access for people of color in the United States. There are many other examples of long and systemic disparities stemming from discrimination faced by people of color in their everyday lives; and

**Whereas,** we acknowledge that thoughtful, direct action requires a bold first step on a journey that will lead the way to a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable society as Williamson County advances in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and helps bend the arc of the moral universe towards Justice and Equity;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Williamson County Commissioners Court charter a permanent Human Rights Commission which meets monthly and that it will examine the following five life subject areas- **Economy, Education, Health, Housing, and Justice**- and acts as an advisory body to the Williamson County Commissioners Court on all matters involving racial, religious, sexual, or ethnic discrimination and discriminatory policies;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each Court Member appoint 3 people at the Commissioners Court Session on September 29, 2020;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that terms shall be:

- Two years in length, running October 1 – September 30
- Staggered terms determined by lot or drawing at the first meeting of the commission

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members