

June 25, 2020

Roslyn Windholz, Esq.
Secretary
New York City Board of Health
rwindhol@health.nyc.gov

Re: Petition to New York City Board of Health

Dear Secretary Windholz:

Please find attached a formal Petition to the New York City Board of Health, submitted pursuant to New York City Health Code Article 9 by the undersigned, on behalf of themselves and the New York City residents served by their organizations, calling upon the Board to exercise its authority under the New York City Charter (Charter) and the City Health Code, to engage in specific rulemaking to give meaning to the June 8, 2020 statement by Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Oxiris Barbot, declaring that “racism is a public health crisis” and referencing the “trauma of state sanctioned violence” experienced by Black and Brown New York City communities.

We call upon the Board to convene an emergency meeting to consider the Petition, and at that meeting to: officially declare, pursuant to Charter § 506, that racism constitutes a “great and imminent peril to the public health;” officially declare, pursuant to City Health Code § 301(d), that racism constitutes “a public health emergency;” and, irrespective of whether the Board officially declares that racism constitutes a “great and imminent peril to the public health” or “a public health emergency” in New York City, to consider and adopt the rules detailed in the Petition, which are designed to give meaning to the June 8 Declaration and address racism and over-policing as a public health crisis.

We look forward to hearing from you on the scheduled date and time for the emergency Board of Health meeting to consider these critical and urgent proposed rules.

Yours truly,

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