



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation in Support of Combating Environmental Racism and Climate Injustice

WHEREAS, environmental racism refers to communities of color being disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards, and being more likely to live in areas with heavy pollution; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a global issue, and communities of color, low income communities, and immigrant communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts, such as: increased respiratory illnesses; heat related illnesses; exacerbation of other health conditions such as diabetes; and extreme weather-related events; and

WHEREAS environmental issues such as industrial pollution, poor sanitation, poor air quality, poor water quality, and lead pollution are rampant in socially and economically vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, the need for climate and environmental justice is prevalent within our global community. Due to racist practices in land development, and housing and economic disinvestments, communities of color have long been the sacrifice zones for more affluent communities. These conditions are further amplified as climate change occurs; and

WHEREAS, as the United States moves towards clean energy solutions, communities of color are being left behind to bear the higher cost of fossil fuel energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo County has a long history of fighting racist practices and social injustices.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners supports efforts in the fight for environmental justice and to mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners will educate and inform its members and the public about environmental, climate, and energy justice issues in their local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Kalamazoo County will connect communities with available resources, such as, but not limited to, emerging technologies, community solar, lead pipe replacement, weatherization assistance programs, and green infrastructure programs to minimize the impacts of climate change and environmental racism within its communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Kalamazoo County advocates for legislation that decreases and eradicates environmental harm on communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Kalamazoo, Michigan to be affixed this 21st day of May, 2024.

