

BOROUGH OF CARLISLE

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-2021-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CARLISLE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING THE CARLISLE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Racial inequity and systemic racism exist and are problems in the Borough of Carlisle;

WHEREAS, United States Census Bureau statistics for the Borough of Carlisle show significant racial disparities in poverty rates, household incomes, and levels of educational attainment;

WHEREAS, In the Borough of Carlisle, racial disparities pervade the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, Through passage of Resolution 11-04-2020-01, the Carlisle Borough Council acknowledged the Borough of Carlisle's history of racial inequity and committed to the community town hall on racism held on January 16, 2021;

WHEREAS, Over one hundred individuals attended the town hall to share their stories, ask questions, highlight issues of racial inequity, and make recommendations, which included proposing that the Borough of Carlisle establish a truth and reconciliation commission to delve into causes of racial inequity, hold public hearings, and listen to the stories of people affected by systemic racism;

WHEREAS, The Carlisle Borough Council acknowledges the existence of painful, systemic, persistent, and varied forms of racial inequity in the Borough of Carlisle;

WHEREAS, The Carlisle Borough Council acknowledges that the land upon which the Borough of Carlisle sits is the traditional and unceded territory of the Susquehannock and other Indigenous people, who stewarded the land for generations and were forcibly removed through physical violence, fraudulent purchases, and broken treaties;

WHEREAS, The Carlisle Borough Council acknowledges that the Borough of Carlisle must look comprehensively at its past if it is to make progress toward overcoming the issues of racial inequity and systemic racism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Carlisle Borough Council establish the Carlisle Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TRC shall be comprised of seven members, appointed by the Carlisle Borough Council, who shall include, but not be limited to, individuals representing communities that have been and are marginalized and oppressed by systemic racism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the majority of members of the TRC shall be residents of the Borough of Carlisle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a member of the Carlisle Borough Council and a representative of Borough staff shall serve as liaisons to the TRC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Following their appointment, members of the TRC shall serve until December 31, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all TRC meetings shall be public and shall be conducted under the requirements of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act (65 Pa. C.S. § 701 et seq.).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TRC shall hold its first meeting within 30 days of the appointment of all members and, upon holding its first meeting, shall select from its membership a chair to lead the commission and preside over all commission meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TRC shall, within 60 days of its first meeting, submit to the Carlisle Borough Council its proposed mission statement, bylaws, and action plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That within 30 days of the TRC submitting its proposed mission statement, bylaws, and action plan to the Carlisle Borough Council, the Carlisle Borough Council and the TRC shall hold a joint public hearing to receive public comment on, review, discuss, and consider changes to the TRC's mission statement, bylaws, and action plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TRC's work shall be consistent with the goal of improving racial justice and racial equity, within the scope and jurisdiction of the Carlisle Borough Council, which may include:

- (1) examining and documenting policies, practices, and actions by the Borough of Carlisle and the Carlisle Borough Council that have contributed to racial inequity and systemic racism;
- (2) providing opportunities for individuals impacted and traumatized by systemic racism to share their stories and experiences, relating to policies, practices, and actions by the Borough of Carlisle and the Carlisle Borough Council;
- (3) facilitating conversations among and between community members from various backgrounds;
- (4) collaborating with existing businesses, institutions, nonprofits, agencies, boards, and commissions; and
- (5) identifying, analyzing, and recommending to the Carlisle Borough Council institutional and policy reforms meant to mend the wounds caused by and combat systemic racism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the TRC shall exist until December 31, 2022, and, by July 1, 2022, shall make a recommendation to the Carlisle Borough Council on whether and in what form the commission's work should continue.

Signed this 11th Day of March, 2021

Mayor Tim Scott _____

Deputy Mayor Sean Shultz _____

Councilor Sean Crampsie _____

Councilor Deb Fulham-Winston _____

Councilor Joel Hicks _____

Councilor Brenda Landis _____

Councilor Jeff Stuby _____