



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 18, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director  
*Parks and Community Services Department*

Mark Manuel, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator  
*Parks and Community Services Department*  
*Planning and Community Development Department*

Subject: YWCA Stand Against Racism 2016

The City of Bellevue supports the ongoing efforts of the YWCA to Stand Against Racism. The Stand Against Racism is a campaign of YWCA, USA to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities. To bring attention to antiracist efforts, groups around the nation, are joining the YWCA in proclaiming April 29 as Stand Against Racism Day.

The city's vision statement starts with, "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength." which reflects our commitment to stand against racism. Bellevue is focused on building a city that values equity, access, inclusion and opportunity while increasing our collective cultural competency. We stand in partnership with the YWCA.

Stand Against Racism grew from the inspired local actions of the YWCAs of Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey in 2007. It quickly spread across the country with over 300,000 participants taking a Stand each year on the last Friday in April. Each year, Stand Against Racism grows in its size and influence. In 2015, over 750 locations hosted Stand Against Racism events across 44 states. Numerous topics were covered including racial profiling, equity and economic empowerment, and issues specific to women of color.

The YWCA's has a long and extensive history fighting racism. YWCA staff work to ensure that programmatic and advocacy work reflects the needs of all the women served. Providing quality and accessible child care, school age programs and, wellness & prevention work supports efforts to reduce the achievement gap and health disparities that are a result of racism. Our work on advocacy and get-out-the-vote efforts are national efforts. There is also a strong commitment to increase diversity and leadership among the YWCA staff and board.

The YWCA addresses a need for continued dialogue and calling out racism through our mission and strategic plan. By honoring our history and striving to break down racial and economic barriers, we take a Stand Against Racism. We invite Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join in taking a stand against racism.

Attachment: Proclamation

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