

RESOLUTION

Year - 2020 Number _____

A Resolution emphasizing the opposition of racism at high school athletic events.

Whereas, the Portsmouth City Council understands that race and racism is a structural problem, and not merely an individual mindset or behavior. Racism is a toxic threat to a democracy; and

Whereas, the need to address race and racism as a structural issue requires a focus on social institutions, which includes education. Within education, athletics plays a vital role in the experiences of many students and families; and

Whereas, student athletes at Portsmouth High School have been subjected to vile and disgusting racist statements and behaviors during athletic events for decades. No student at Portsmouth High School, or any high school in the State of Ohio, should be subjected to racist statements and behaviors. We request that the Ohio High School Athletic Association develop statewide policies that will adequately and immediately address this issue; and

Whereas, we believe the policies adopted by FIFA to address racism in international soccer can be used as guidelines to develop policies in Ohio. Referees should be provided with the ability to force a forfeiture of a team due to racist statements and behaviors. Furthermore, the occurrence of racism at high school athletic events should initiate educational programs at the schools associated with the behavior in order to prevent future occurrences; and

Whereas, the aim of this resolution is to cease racist behavior and statements at current and future athletic events. We invite all schools in Ohio to be part of this initiative, regardless of past incidents, and we also invite all political representatives in the state of Ohio to support this initiative. The City of Portsmouth is willing to host a conference for educators, athletic directors, political representatives and students in order to initiate the development and application of the policy changes required. Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio:

SECTION I. That the City of Portsmouth hereby emphasizes the opposition of racism at high school athletic events.

SECTION II. That this Resolution was passed and all actions and deliberations of the Council relating thereto were conducted in meetings open to the public pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION III. This Resolution directing administrative action as provided for in Section 12 of the Charter of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, shall be in force and effect from and after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor