

# EXPLORING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RACIAL HEALING & HEALTH

*Observing the 6<sup>th</sup> National Day of Racial Healing*

*January 18, 2022*

[countyhealthrankings.org](http://countyhealthrankings.org)



Support  
provided by



Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps is a program of the  
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.



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## YOUR FACILITATORS TODAY



**Ericka Burroughs-Girardi**  
Senior Outreach Specialist  
CHR&R



**Thomas (Tommy) Jaime**  
Communications Specialist  
CHR&R

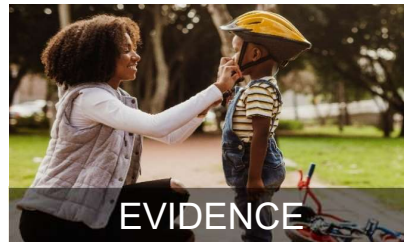


**Joanne Lee**  
Collaborative Learning Director  
Healthy Places by Design

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## GROWING COMMUNITY POWER TO IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY



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## OBSERVING NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING!



Photo credit: NPR



Photo credit: Blackpost.org

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## MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKERS



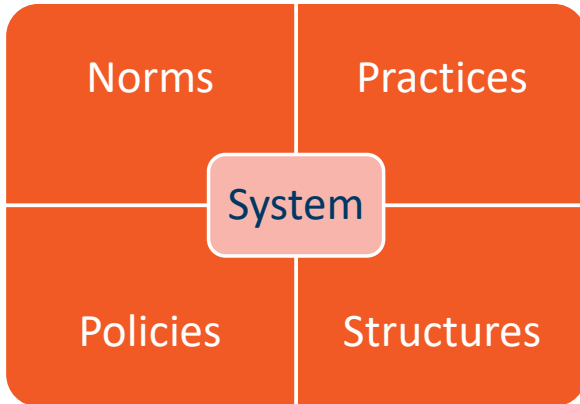
**Amber Johnson, JD**  
Equity, Inclusion and  
Racial Conciliation  
Manager  
City of Charleston, SC



**Crystal Robinson Rouse, BS, MEd**  
Chair, Youth and Education  
Subcommittee  
City of Charleston's Special  
Commission for Equity, Inclusion,  
and Racial Conciliation

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## WHAT IS RACISM?



- ▶ Can be interpersonal and structural (e.g., interacting with others negatively based on racist beliefs or institutionalized.)
- ▶ Prevents those affected by it from attaining their highest level of health, and consequently, affects the health of our entire nation.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Racism and Health*

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*Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
National Public Radio April 8, 2021*

### **CDC DIRECTOR DECLARES RACISM A 'SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT'**

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## WHY ISSUE RACISM DECLARATIONS?

- ▶ Declaring racism as a public health crisis or emergency positions communities to...



Leverage data to prompt action



Create action steps



Embed anti-racism practices

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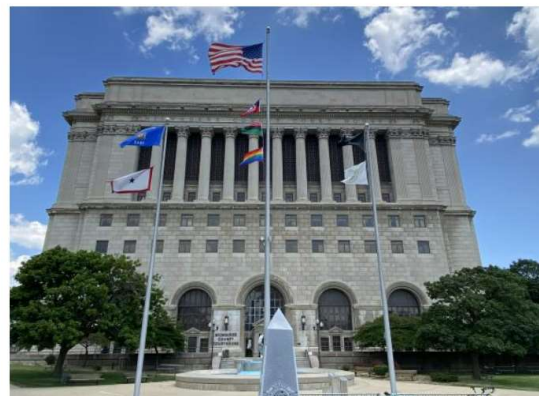
## STORY ALERT! HOW THREE JURISDICTIONS RESPOND TO RACISM

Exploring Community Actions to Respond to Racism as a Public Health Crisis

City of Minneapolis

Milwaukee County

State of Nevada



Milwaukee County Courthouse, photo provided by Isaac Rowlett

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/racism-as-a-public-health-crisis-three-responses>

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## RACIAL HEALING IS KEY TO CREATING HEALTH



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## HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH RACIAL HEALING?

- ▶ CHR&R's Suite of Equity Action Learning Guides
  - Introduction to Equity
  - Understand and Identify Root Causes of Inequities
  - Develop Strategies to Promote Health & Equity
- ▶ The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE): a national network of local governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.
- ▶ W.K. Kellogg Foundation's National Day of Racial Healing website

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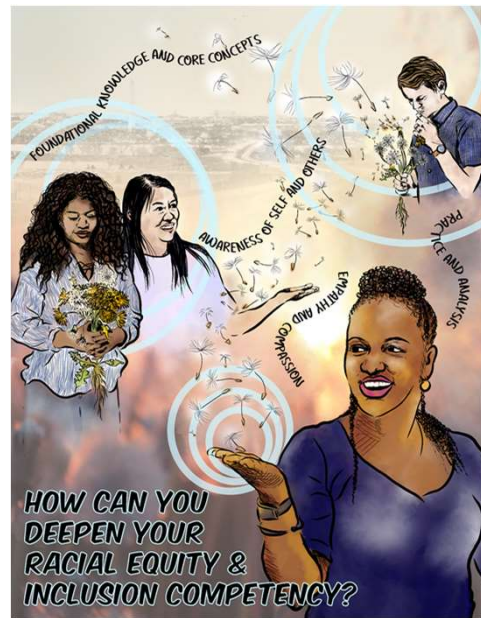
# Living Cities' Commitment

The Living Cities team is holding our commitment to doing racial equity work in a way that can transform systems.

We are asking how to best move the long-term work of closing racial gaps in income and wealth through partnership with city governments, while acknowledging and affirming the crisis that public servants have been addressing.

We are committed to our vision of a united, multi-sector movement for racial equity, while recognizing the ongoing importance of physical distancing and grieving the losses of life our society is facing.

Submitted by Hafizah Omar, Living Cities



CLOSING THE GAP NETWORK | 13

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Living Cities and the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond present a guide to reckoning with the history of race and building the skills to undo racism

## Reckoning With Race Curriculum

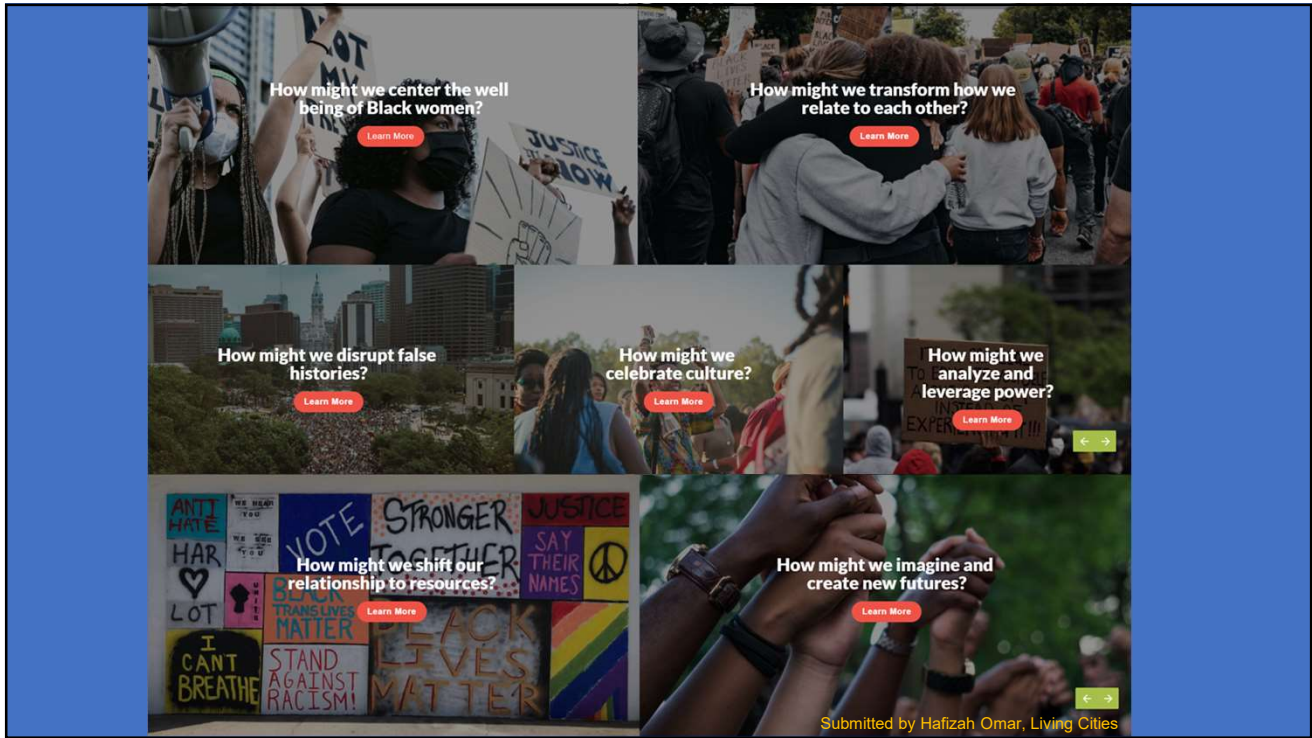
This platform is for anyone who wants to reckon with the history of race, understand your and your institution's place in it, and imagine paths toward racial equity.

[START LEARNING](#)

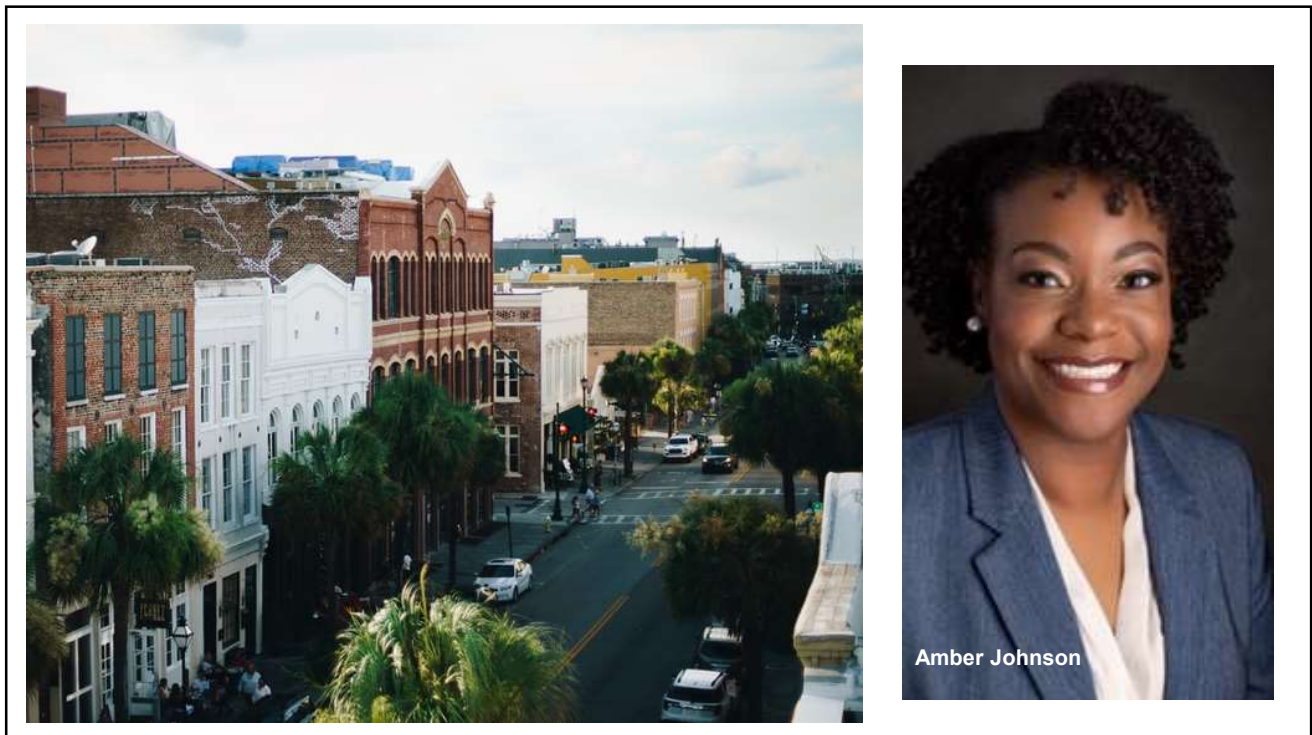
Credit to [Gumbo Media](#) for curriculum design  
Credit to [Third Space Action Lab](#) and [Black Womxn Flourish](#) for partnership on curriculum curation and delivery

Submitted by Hafizah Omar, Living Cities

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The city has supported civil rights and social justice initiatives including:

- **Public Accommodations Ordinance** providing equal enjoyment and privileges to public accommodations.
- **Fair Housing Practices Ordinance** making discrimination in housing illegal.
- Establishing the **Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Office**.
- Partnering with Charleston County School District and education-focused organizations and programs **to improve the quality of education** in our schools.
- Supporting efforts of religious institutions including **the community of the Mother Emanuel AME church** following the tragedy of June 2015.
- **The Charleston Illumination Project** as a response to the murders at Mother Emanuel AME Church to shine a light on the need to improve relationships between citizens and police.
- **City of Charleston Police Audit** to allow the Charleston Police Department to hire an external company to examine CPD's policies and procedures in several areas.
- **Slavery Apology Resolution of 2018** to apologize for the City of Charleston's role in regulating, supporting, and fostering the institution of slavery. Also, an expression of gratitude for the significant contributions made to our community by talented and skilled African Americans.
- Created the city's **Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation office**.



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## Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation Manager

### Primary Responsibilities

- Development of organizational strategy and goals to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Lead Racial Equity Core Team
- Provide leadership on formulating policies, benefits, and practices
- Manage Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation

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## KEY PARTNERS

- College of Charleston
- Living Cities Closing the Gaps
- Government Alliance on Race and Equity
- National League of Cities
- Community Organizations represented on SCEIRC

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## The Equity Commission

- City's Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation Manager; city staff; councilmembers. The Equity Commission was charged with making the City's Apology for Slavery a commitment to revealing and dismantling systemic racism through policy-level change.
- 90 days to map out a vision of achieving racial equity in the community with the mission of eliminating institutionalized racism in the city.
- Diverse group of community stakeholders, subject-matter experts, and volunteers and was structured into seven subcommittees:

Housing and Mobility	Youth and Education
History and Culture	Economic Empowerment
Health Disparities and Environmental Justice	Criminal Justice
Internal Review	

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON EQUITY,  
INCLUSION, AND RACIAL CONCILIATION  
CITY OF CHARLESTON



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## Challenges

### The Complexity of Racial Issues:

- Discussions on social issues and particularly the issue of race and advancing racial equity is uncomfortable.

### City Council:

- The process of bringing the full 545-page report to City Council
- As elected officials, the election cycle challenge, and fears of how they vote on this social issue of race.



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Hope is essential to any political struggle for radical change when the overall social climate promotes disillusionment and despair.

— Bell Hooks —

1952 - 2021

AZ QUOTES

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Crystal Robinson  
Rouse

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## HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT RACIAL HEALING

Ask	Speak	Hold
...questions for clarification.	....your truth while being confident that your viewpoint and lived experience is valuable.	....your elected officials accountable.

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## POLL

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- ▶ Do you feel that you could adapt the strategies shared today to use within your community?
  - Yes
  - No
- ▶ Please share in the chat any challenges you anticipate adapting the strategies in your community.

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**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Click the link to answer a few questions about today's webinar

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## REIMAGING A PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM TO BUILD AN EQUITABLE TOMORROW

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**Georges Benjamin, MD**  
Executive Director  
American Public Health  
Association



**Nastassia Walsh, MA**  
Associate Program Director  
Community Health and Justice  
National Association of Counties



**Ankit Sanghavi, BDS, MPH**  
Executive Director  
Texas Health Institute

February 15, 2022

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## JOIN US FOR MORE DISCUSSION – TODAY!

- ▶ **When:** Immediately following the webinar
- ▶ **What:** Interactive learning experience, opportunity to share ideas and ask questions
- ▶ **How:** Videoconference and/or phone via Zoom
- ▶ **Why:** Deepen the webinar learning, allow further exploration



*Post-Webinar Discussion Group*

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## THANKS TO LIVING CITIES

- ▶ CHR&R thanks Hafizah Omar for submitting the slides and information related to Living Cities shared in today's webinar.
- ▶ To learn more about Living Cities and their work, checkout [LivingCities.org](http://LivingCities.org)



**Hafizah Omar,**  
Assistant Director  
Living Cities

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**THANK YOU!**

Visit us at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

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