

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA RULE 6A-1.094124(3) (b) "REQUIRED INSTRUCTION PLANNING AND REPORTING," WHICH DESCRIBES CRITICAL RACE THEORY AS AN "EXAMPLE OF THEORIES THAT DISTORT HISTORICAL EVENTS AND ARE INCONSISTENT WITH STATE BOARD APPROVED STANDARDS" AND SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT "INSTRUCTION MAY NOT UTILIZE MATERIAL FROM THE 1619 PROJECT"; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS, FLORIDA EDUCATION COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORCORAN, STATE SENATOR ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ AND TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES "JIM" MOONEY, JR.; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Key West adopted "One Human Family" as its official philosophy more than 20 years ago, to signify the City's embrace of diversity, inclusion and equality, and the residents of Key West continue to strive to be a shining example of that simple philosophy in our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that racism is a social construct, and that it is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds it shameful that the Florida Department of Education, with the support and approval of Governor Ron DeSantis, has determined that teachers should be prevented from teaching topics which fall under the broad category of Critical Race Theory, and to single out and prohibit (censor) the use of one specific multi-media project (the "1619 Project") in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, as written, the regulations that the Florida State Board of Education approved on June 10, 2021 constrain educators and students from considering many basic topics associated with longstanding issues of racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that repeal of Rule 6A-1.094124(3)(b), as passed by the Florida Department of Education - State Board of Education on June 10, 2021 would protect the health, welfare and safety of residents of the City of Key West and the State of Florida; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission urges the Florida Department of Education - State Board of Education to immediately repeal the amendments to Rule 6A-1.094124(3) (b) as passed on June 10, 2021, most specifically text which describes Critical Race Theory as an "example of theories that distort historical events and are inconsistent with state board approved standards" and further states "Instruction may not utilize material from the 1619 Project".

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and State Representative James "Jim" Mooney, Jr.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2021.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2021.

Mayor Teri Johnston	_____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Gregory Davila	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK