WHEREAS, the Golden City Council believes every person has the freedom to feel valued and respected and anyone who threatens the freedom of one individual threatens the freedom for all of us; and

WHEREAS, the Golden City Council recognizes the history of racism in Golden, because an understanding of even the darkest parts of our past allows us to rise above intolerance and ensure we don’t repeat the same mistakes. In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan regularly held meetings on South Table Mountain, up to 10,000 KKK members attended these rallies and there were burning crosses visible from Washington Avenue. It has been estimated that a staggering 10% of Colorado’s male population were card-carrying Klan members; and

WHEREAS, the Golden City Council recognizes the racist history of our country and how it has led to many current-day disparities in education, health and safety, job attainment, income and wealth; housing and healthcare; disproportionate incarceration rates for people of color; and other systems of injustice. The City Council further recognizes the existence of white privilege, meaning the systemic advantages that white people have relative to non-white people; and

WHEREAS, health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years - we now are witnessing a coronavirus pandemic which is shining a stark light upon the long-running racial divide, COVID-19 is killing Black people at higher rates than the rate of white people and Black people are disproportionately suffering in-part due to long standing, unaddressed health disparities as well as systematic racism and other socioeconomic inequities; and

WHEREAS, racism contradicts the City of Golden’s 2030 Heart and Soul values of a city government that is responsive, approachable, good at listening, welcomes participation and involvement, is fair to all parts of the city and is accountable. The city of Golden values keeping and enhancing our sense of community pride, our diversity, inclusiveness and tolerance of others, and our community character and community events; and

WHEREAS, we value a community supported by a diversity of people, generations, activities, public spaces and amenities, enhanced by intimate and social connections and a sense of security and tradition. We are a community that encourages volunteerism, civic involvement, personal responsibility, care for others and respectful sharing of values and opinions of all ages, backgrounds and needs; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of these values the City of Golden City Council passed resolutions in 2007 and reaffirmed in 2017 committing to promoting equal opportunity, fairness, and citizen participation and engagement for all members of the community and participating in the National League of Cities Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities to support cities and towns in their commitment to these values; and

WHEREAS, the Golden City Council recognizes that racial inequities have become institutionalized in the policies and practices of many agencies, governmental and otherwise. Council recognizes the need to examine seemingly neutral policies and practices to determine whether they are contributing to inequity and, where needed, change or eliminate the policy or practice as cities have a long history of decision and policy making that have resulted in classist and racist outcomes; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2736

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOLDEN CITY COUNCIL
DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.
WHEREAS, the members of Golden City Council recognize that racism is real and as a community we have to work together to promote equity and eradicate racism - moreover this Council believes that it is now time to declare racism a public health crisis; because the disparities that we have outlined represent a public health crisis which affects us all, and we as a civil society have an obligation to raise awareness and make sure that every sector of our society work to reverse this crisis; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges every sector of our society to declare these disparities as a public health crisis and to immediately take steps to listen and educate themselves, as well as address, fund, and support areas that strategically reduce the long term impact of racism - this includes reducing and eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting people of color to increased hardships, now therefore,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN, COLORADO:

That this Council does hereby declare racism as a public health crisis and commits our attention to listening, learning, and acting to advance racial equity and improve the quality of life and health for all.

Adopted the 11th day of June, 2020.

_________________________________
Laura Weinberg
Mayor

ATTEST:

_________________________________
Monica Mendoza
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_________________________________
David S. Williamson
City Attorney