

Resolution in Honor of James M. White, Jr., Director of Public Health

WHEREAS the flourishing of a community depends on the health of its members and as Director of Public Health, James M. White, Jr. was entrusted with the mission of the Natick Board of Health:

“To protect and promote the health, the environment and the well-being of the Town of Natick residents and visitors.”

WHEREAS after 41 years of outstanding service to Natick, especially to the vulnerable, the children, the elderly and those who live with disabilities, Mr. White is retiring having postponed said retirement to serve during the pandemic.

WHEREAS Mr. White, a dedicated member of our community, was a graduate of Natick Public Schools, served as a youth basketball coach for decades, and eventually as the Director of Public Health working directly with the Natick School District to advise, support and help create the safest environment possible for our students, faculty and staff.

WHEREAS Mr. White demonstrated his commitment to preventing and reducing substance use disorder and promoting mental well-being by chairing Natick Together for Youth and Natick 180. He also served as the vice-chair of the Natick Opioid Task Force and was instrumental in positioning Natick as a leader in Massachusetts by establishing one of the first municipal public health programs to provide community members with overdose prevention training and the opioid overdose reversal medication Narcan in order to save lives.

WHEREAS in March of 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic began, Mr. White became an essential part of the district’s crisis team responding collaboratively with his expertise and with careful attention to the COVID-19 public health crisis helping to determine how to reopen our schools in a responsible manner and how to implement what best served the well-being of our students, faculty and staff through the duration of his tenure.

WHEREAS Mr. White together with his colleagues encouraged the movement towards health equity by supporting a statement in the summer of 2020 on behalf of the Board of Health titled “Racism as a Public Health Crisis.”

BE IT RESOLVED that we the members of the Natick School Committee honor Mr. White for his good and faithful service to our district which helped keep our children and employees safe. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement and pledge to continue to promote the healthy practices we learned from him. Well done, Mr. White, well done.