WHEREAS, Olmsted County takes pride in being a great place to live, learn, work, and play; and

Olmsted County government has a vision of being “A dynamic, world-class County delivering excellence every day” and is committed to a mission of “Providing the foundation of a vibrant community”; and

County leaders and staff are committed to providing excellent services for every resident of Olmsted County; and

All individuals and families have the right to opportunities that help ensure their health, safety, and ability to contribute to their community and to the success of future generations; and

Olmsted County has and will continue to experience significant population growth, and increasing racial and ethnic diversity; and

Olmsted County embraces its growing diverse population and recognizes diversity as a tremendous economic and community asset; and

An extensive body of research has established that a community’s access to an interconnected web of opportunities shapes the quality of life for all; and

We believe in creating Health Equity, Social Equity, and Racial Equity as guiding priorities and values:

By Health Equity we mean everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

We utilize the term Social Equity to acknowledge the intersection and compounding effects of key societal issues such as poverty, language, disability, etc., with race and ethnicity.

We define Racial Equity as the development of policies, practices and strategic investments to reverse racial disparity trends, eliminate institutional racism, and ensure that outcomes and opportunities for all people are no longer predictable by race.

It is essential to understand, identify, and address institutional and systemic barriers which may impede access to opportunities for achieving individual, family, and community health, safety, and well-being; and

To truly create opportunity for all, we must work to understand and improve public services through a racial, social, and health equity lens from the very core of the organization outward, focusing intentionally and deliberately towards sustainable structural changes; and

A growing number of local jurisdictions across the United States are adopting intentional equity strategies and see equity as an opportunity to enhance our ability to provide high quality services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

The time is now to embrace diversity as an asset and commit to just and fair inclusion into One Olmsted, a community in which everyone - individuals, children, youth, elders, and families representing every facet of human difference - can participate and prosper.

One Olmsted can only be realized with intentional health, social, and racial equity policies at its core for all publicly delivered services. A health, social, and racial equity lens provides both the direction and means to eliminate disparities, and work together to build a vibrant and opportunity-rich society for all.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota on this 4th day of April, 2017. Resolution17-30, Kenneth Brown, Chairperson.