



Legislation Text

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Honoring and congratulating Dr. Sharrelle Barber for her appointment as Director of The Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements and Population Health Equity at Drexel University.

WHEREAS, Sharrelle Barber, ScD, MPH is a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber is a social epidemiologist whose research focuses on the intersection of “place, race, and health” and examines the role of structural racism in shaping racial health inequities among Blacks in the United States and Brazil; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber received a Doctor of Science degree in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a Master of Public Health from the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bennett College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber’s research and scholarly commentary has been published in leading peer reviewed journals including the American Journal of Public Health, Social Science and Medicine, Lancet Infectious Disease, and Epidemiology; and

WHEREAS, In February 2021, a profile of Dr. Barber’s research was featured in the Lancet-one of the leading medical journals in the World; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five years, Dr. Barber has served as Principal Investigator on several externally funded research projects and has secured over \$3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber has spoken nationally and internationally about the impact of racism on health inequities; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Barber served as chair of the Health Justice Advisory Committee for the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival which provided justice-centered public health expertise for the movement as it engaged in collective action and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Barber led a collaboration of researchers, graduate students, and community partners from the Village of Arts and Humanities in the project COVID in Context, a data and storytelling project that documents how structural racism has contributed to racial inequities in COVID-19 in Philadelphia and shapes the lived experiences of individuals and communities most harmed by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber has provided expert commentary on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in Black communities in the U.S. for local, national, and international media outlets including the NY Times, Smithsonian Magazine, the Philadelphia Inquirer, NPR, and Al Jazeera; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber has committed to using her scholarship to make the invisible, visible; mobilize data for action; and contribute to the transnational dialogue around racism and health inequities; and

WHEREAS, In May, Dr. Barber was appointed to be the Inaugural Director of The Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements, and Population Health Equity in Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, Ubuntu is a South African principle, meaning "I am because we are," highlighting the shared humanity and collective action necessary to create a just and equitable world; and

WHEREAS, The Ubuntu Center's mission is to unite diverse partners, generate and translate evidence, accelerate antiracism solutions, and transform the health of communities locally, nationally, and globally; and

WHEREAS, The Ubuntu Center envisions a just future, free of systems of oppression, full of new possibilities through bold collective action, and an equitable world in which all individuals and communities are healthy and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber and The Ubuntu Center will help Philadelphia address its longstanding racial inequities and create the just and healthy communities we all seek; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Sharrelle Barber for her appointment as Director of The Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements and Population Health Equity at Drexel University.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Barber, further evidencing the sincere respect of this legislative body.