

Resolution No. 200-2026

By Council Members: Griffin, Bishop, Conwell, Davis, Gray, Harsh, Howse-Jones, Hudson, Jones, Kazy, Polensek, Santana, Shah, Slife and Starr

An emergency resolution condemning President Donald Trump and his Administration for the racist video portraying former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama as apes that was posted to President Trump's Truth Social account.

WHEREAS, a vile video portraying former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama as apes was posted to President Donald Trump's Truth Social account on Thursday, February 6, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the racist trope of declaring African Americans as subhuman dates to the 1800s and represents the type of hateful thinking that helped justify slavery, the eugenics movement, and the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, this video is the latest example of President Trump's long history of racist behavior, including alleged housing discrimination dating to the 1970s, the demonization of young black men as dangerous thugs, and his acceptance, defense, and pardoning of white supremacists; and

WHEREAS, this video demeans President Obama's legacy and vilifies an entire race; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration left the video up for twelve hours before taking it down; and

WHEREAS, the outrage sparked by the video post has come from both major political parties; and

WHEREAS, in response to criticism of the video, the Trump Administration's response was to claim that the criticism was "fake outrage," defend the post, and attempt to shift the blame to a White House staff member; and

WHEREAS, President Trump claimed that he "didn't make a mistake" regarding the video and has failed to apologize; and

WHEREAS, President Trump also kicked off Black History Month 2026 by launching an initiative to remove or alter exhibits and signage related to slavery at several U.S. national parks; and

WHEREAS, signaling that the highest office in the land condones racism puts African Americans and other minority groups at risk; and

WHEREAS, Americans should expect their Presidents to lead the country forward and not pull the country back into the cesspool of its racist past; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council condemns President Donald Trump and his Administration for the racist video portraying former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama as apes that was posted to President Trump's Truth Social account.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted February 9, 2026.

Effective February 18, 2026.