



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 4, 2017

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

SUBJECT: Receive presentation from 'Elevate the Discussion' and adopt a resolution to take the pledge to engage in thoughtful, respectful dialogue

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation and adopt a resolution to take the pledge as a Council to elevate the discussion.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Goddard requested this item be added to the agenda.

'Elevate the Discussion' describes itself as "a group of Marin County residents who believe that the path to healthy and vibrant communities and solution-oriented, constructive problem-solving about challenging issues requires a commitment to thoughtful, respectful dialogue among individuals with diverse opinions."

The group's website outlines their ideas and provides resources, as well as the opportunity to sign on to take the following the pledge:

"I pledge to discuss challenging community issues with thoughtfulness, to treat people whose opinions differ from mine with respect, and to focus on ideas, policies and solutions. I will encourage others to do the same. I will speak up and publicly object when I hear name-calling, stereotypes, disparaging comments and slurs. I will do this because our community's health and social well-being is important to me and I know that we cannot effectively deal with challenging problems without these commitments."

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENT

Resolution

RESOLUTION 17-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
TO ELEVATE THE DISCUSSION

WHEREAS, the path to healthy and vibrant communities and solution-oriented, constructive problem-solving about challenging issues requires a commitment to thoughtful, respectful dialogue among individuals with diverse opinions; and

WHEREAS, the way in which conflict is managed can either be destructive or can build a healthier, more resilient future;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, that the Town Council unanimously pledges to discuss challenging community issues with thoughtfulness, to treat people whose opinions differ from ours with respect, and to focus on ideas, policies and solutions. We will encourage others to do the same. We will speak up and publicly object when we hear name-calling, stereotypes, disparaging comments and slurs. We will do this because our community's health and social well-being are important to us and we know that we cannot effectively deal with challenging problems without these commitments.

The foregoing Resolution was duly introduced and adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 4th day of October 2017 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

JOHN REED, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk