

# **TOWN OF FAIRFAX HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, The United Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), spearheaded by Eleanor Roosevelt through her work as the first U.S. delegate on the UN Commission on Human Rights, was the first international proclamation of the inherent dignity and equal rights of all people; and

**WHEREAS**, Eleanor Roosevelt stated that human rights begin in "... small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." And,

**WHEREAS**, The fundamental assertion of the UDHR is that an individual's mind and conscience are sacred and unfringeable possessions, that pressure from any state, church, or other group aimed at coercing consent is unacceptable, and that the individual's freedom of conscience reigns supreme; and

**WHEREAS**, The UDHR recognizes the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world; and,

**WHEREAS**, Nelson Mandela stated on the 60th anniversary of the UDHR, "It is the foundation stone of all international human rights law and still holds enormous ethical value for all of us wherever in the world we happen to live;"

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED** by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, that **December 10, 2016**, is **Human Rights Day** in the Town of Fairfax,

**AND BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that all residents of our community are urged to observe the protection of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirm our commitment to promoting social progress that will advance better standards and quality of life for all.

Renée Goddard  
Mayor of Fairfax

AGENDA ITEM # 2