

RESOLUTION 20-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX AFFIRMING THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER AND COMMITTING TO TURN OUR INTENTIONS INTO ACTIONS

WHEREAS, The Fairfax Town Council recognizes and stands as allies with protestors across the Country, protests catalyzed by the killing of George Floyd. The police killing of Mr. Floyd, and other similarly horrifying incidents including Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and countless others, present blatant examples of violent police attacks upon, and oppression of black people, that should shock the conscience of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the rights of all citizens to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and to petition the government for the redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax believes firmly in the rights and dignity of all people regardless of race, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status; and the current mass, peaceful protests clearly exercise those rights; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax aspires to be a place for all people to find their voice, to imagine their potential and to transcend any limits society imposes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax has a responsibility to affirm this in a time when much of what is happening across the nation calls it into question; and

WHEREAS, it is important to call out specifically that Black Lives Matter in Fairfax, and that every BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) is valued and cherished as part of our community; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to study and acknowledge our history as a racist nation, and recognize that we live in a predominately white community and look through a lens of white privilege; and

WHEREAS, looking back to the beginning of this Town in 1931, little has changed in terms of the diversity of the population; and

WHEREAS, we cannot deny that the legacy of oppression remains for many BIPOC in this Country, even in well-intentioned towns such as Fairfax; and

WHEREAS, it isn't enough to have good intentions right now;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax affirms that Black lives matter in the Town of Fairfax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a first step, we hereby form the Fairfax Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee to turn our intentions into actions by

1. Providing opportunities for our community to come together to open our hearts and minds to hear each other's stories and listen to demands for change
2. Reviewing policies that reinforce discrimination, identifying innovative strategies, setting benchmarks, and ensuring that Fairfax is an inclusive and welcoming community for people of all racial, socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations. This includes all those who live, work, attend school, and visit Fairfax.
3. Examining Town policies to move Fairfax forward to become an antiracist community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Town will host a Special Town Council listening Session in order to hear from the community and determine next steps to establish a working group to study existing policy and discuss public safety models and community priorities.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 1st day of July 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Renee Goddard, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk