



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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As we've all heard, San Anselmo Mayor Brian Colbert received threatening and racially charged messages this month. Mayor Colbert has been an immensely effective Council member and Mayor of our neighboring city, and also stands as, incredibly, the first Black person to be elected to any Town Council in Marin. Threats or racial slurs are clearly and completely unacceptable.

It is time for us to look deeply, not only in Town policy but even more so as individuals, at the ways the color of one's skin so profoundly affects a person's life. For this reason the Town created and supports the Racial Equity and Social Justice committee (RESJ).

To be sure it is a big ask, for those of us who have not suffered racial injustices, to actively challenge the status quo. It is made more difficult if beginning to think about this triggers feelings of guilt, fear or defensiveness. We who are White can, and I ask that we do, work to rise above these reactions. I ask that we begin by acknowledging, even to ourselves, that indeed injustice does exist, and to seek out opportunities to notice it, to compassionately talk about it, and then to begin making what changes we can in our immediate environment to grow beyond it.

Within the RESJ as well, conversations have not been easy, but we will continue to do our very best. I also have long worked with our Climate Action Committee, on another deep, challenging and vital topic. I have come to realize more and more deeply how these two issues of our time are intimately intertwined, not only because neither can be addressed without the other, but because of their origins in the human journey.

At this point in our growth we can envision a new way, arising from much greater communication, diversity and knowledge, that offers a rich life with a far smaller footprint and a commitment to justice. Indeed we are at a crossroads between immense possibility and catastrophic collapse. If anyone can work through this time with grace, art and good will, it is Fairfax. Let us be kind to each other and meet the times.

Thank you,

Bruce Ackerman

Mayor of Fairfax

