



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

November 18, 2021

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Ben Berto, Director, Planning and Building Services

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Amending the General Plan to include equity-related text amendments specifically replacing throughout the 2010-2030 Fairfax General Plan the word "Character" with non-substantive but more specific descriptions of the intended meaning of the word

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and consider adopting a Resolution Amending the General Plan to include equity related text amendments specifically replacing the word "Character" with non-substantive but more specific descriptions of the intended meaning of the word throughout the 2010-2030 Fairfax General Plan

BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2021, the Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ) received a presentation from Shelley Hamilton proposing equity-related text amendments to the Fairfax General Plan. The RESJ, at its August 5, 2021 meeting, reached consensus to recommend the proposal to the Council. Ms. Hamilton is a Fairfax resident and former Planning Commissioner (2007–2016) who worked on the General Plan and served on the General Plan Advisory Committee.

The Town Council included this item for discussion at its October 20, 2021 special meeting, and referred it to the Planning Commission for review at its November 18 meeting, to be brought back to the Town Council at its December 1 meeting.

The Town may amend the Fairfax General Plan up to four times in one year. Amendments must be done by resolution.

DISCUSSION

The proposed resolution (Attachment A) makes text amendments to the General Plan to replace the word "character" with descriptions that are descriptive and that also provide clarification to the implementation of the General Plan. Attachment B is the General Plan with the text amendments in redline.

Attachment C contains a table prepared by Hamilton showing the searched instances of "Character" in the Fairfax General Plan and the suggested alternative language for each instance.

Attachment D contains information, explanations, recommendations, and resources compiled by Hamilton for community members and Town leaders to familiarize themselves with General Plan equity-related considerations.

All of the attached documents were prepared by Hamilton with the exception of the resolution.

Note: The General Plan version with the recommended amendments is only available to view online, in the interests resource conservation.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Planning Commission resolution
- B. General Plan with text amendments in redline (only available electronically online)
- C. Table with instances "Character" in the Fairfax General Plan
- D. Compilation of information/resources