

THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

A PROCLAMATION REAFFIRMING WAKEFIELD'S COMMITMENT TO ACCEPTANCE AND OPENNESS AMONG ALL OUR CITIZENS

April 12, 2021

WHEREAS, the Town of Wakefield's policies, procedures, and practices are intended to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, age, religion, veteran status, uniformed military service, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, marital status, gender identity, or any other classification protected by law, and

WHEREAS, it is also the policy of the Wakefield Public Schools to prevent "harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, disability, or housing status," and

WHEREAS, Wakefield has experienced multiple incidents of hate speech and vandalism in recent years, including the recent display of a "White Lives Matter" banner by members of a nationally recognized hate organization, and

WHEREAS, these incidents have occurred against a backdrop of increasing violence against communities of color across the United States, including the recent racially-motivated shootings targeted at Asian American women in the Atlanta area, and

WHEREAS, the number of hate crimes reported in the United States in 2019 reached its highest level in more than a decade, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified racism as a "serious public health threat that directly affects the well-being of millions of Americans," and

WHEREAS, the Wakefield School Committee, Wakefield Town Council, and Wakefield Human Rights Commission, unanimously approved a resolution dated December 4, 2018 condemning racism, racially-motivated violence, anti-Semitism, and all forms of hate speech.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Wakefield, through the elected members of its Town Council reaffirms its 2018 proclamation declaring that Hate Has No Home in Wakefield. The Town Council further condemns all incidents of hate speech and racially motivated violence both in Wakefield and across the country, and declares its intention to adopt policies and practices that reaffirm Wakefield's place as a welcoming community that values diversity and inclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as duly voted by the Town Council, that this resolution be shared with school and municipal leaders in Wakefield and across our region to strengthen our collective fight against racism, hatred, institutional bias, anti-Semitism, and all forms of discrimination.

Signed, on behalf of the Town Council, by its Chair:



Ann McGonigle Santos