



WARREN TOWN COUNCIL

514 MAIN STREET
WARREN, RHODE ISLAND 02885
PHONE: 245-7340 FAX: 245-7421

TOWN OF WARREN

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Resolved,

WHEREAS, The Town of Warren recognizes racism as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, racism is defined as: “the marginalization and/or oppression of people of color based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges white people.”; and

WHEREAS, racism shows up in all aspects of our lives and society: in interpersonal communication, through discriminatory policies and practices, in biased language, and in our laws and institutions; and

WHEREAS, many unarmed Black lives have been lost due to police brutality and systemic racism, including: George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Dion Johnson, Tony McDade, Tamir Rice, Laquan McDonald, John Crawford, Freddie Gray, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Terence Crutcher, Antwon Rose, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, Deborah Danner, Atatiana Jefferson, Breonna Taylor; and

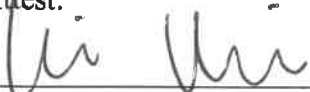
WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter is an activist movement which began as a hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) in July 2013, when white civilian George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African American teenager killed in Florida. The Black Lives Matter movement became more widely acknowledged and highlighted after two 2014 high-profile deaths of unarmed African American men (Eric Garner in Staten Island, NY and Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO). Neither of the police officers involved in their deaths were formally charged with a crime; and

WHEREAS, black women and girls are also the target of racism, violence and murder, which has sparked the “Say Her Name” movement; and

WHEREAS, The Pyramid of Hate illustrates how the levels of biased attitudes and behaviors grow in complexity from the bottom to top. Like a pyramid, the upper levels are supported by the lower levels and it becomes increasingly difficult to challenge and dismantle as behaviors escalate. Bias at each level negatively impacts individuals, institutions and society. When bias goes unchecked, it becomes “normalized” and contributes to a pattern of accepting discrimination, hate and injustice in society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Warren hereby pledges to strive to uphold the principles of equity and justice through its actions, budgets, policies and procedures. Further, it is recognized that this is a time to listen and to learn with a goal of a more complete understanding of the needs of the community and to create space for new voices to be heard. The Town of Warren, through its Town Council, commits to being anti-racist, and offers its support to those who would expose bias and injustice with the goal of a better tomorrow; including but not limited to the Black Lives Matter movement and the Say Her Name movement.

Attest:



Keri M. Cronin, Town Council President
John W. Hanley, Vice President
Joseph A. DePasquale, Councilman
Steven P. Calenda, Councilman
P. Brandt Hecker, Councilman

June 9, 2020

Date