

RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, Connecticut

July 21, 2021

Establishing a Committee on Solidarity

WHEREAS, the Portland community stands strong against injustices wherever and whenever they may occur; and

WHEREAS, specific concerns by some residents regarding LGBTQ, race, and physical and mental challenges were expressed in a recent survey conducted by the Task Force on Solidarity; and

WHEREAS, there is no room for bias, racism, bigotry, prejudice or violence in our Town, State or Nation; and

WHEREAS, we stand for love and care of all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, learning disability, marital status, intellectual disability, national origin, physical disability, mental disability, race, religious creed, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation and status as a veteran; and

WHEREAS, the Portland Task Force on Solidarity was established on August 16, 2020 and has successfully accomplished all the many tasks it was assigned, and

WHEREAS, as of this date the Selectmen do hereby disband the Task Force on Solidarity because it has accomplished all of its tasks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby are establishing a **Committee on Solidarity**, consisting of 7 members and 2 alternates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Solidarity is hereby charged to work for as long as it takes, with the Board of Selectmen and all Townspeople to accomplish the following:

- Stand Portland-Strong against racism, bigotry, prejudice and violence;
- Work together with all our residents to address racism, bias, bigotry, prejudice and violence that happens here in our Town;
- Welcome all residents to voice their concerns and to come together to create positive changes in our Town;
- Stand committed to peace, justice and freedom for our citizens, here in Portland and in solidarity with all Americans;
- Assist the Town in working on a system-wide effort to find and eliminate weaknesses in our systems in order to create a more equitable path for all residents going forward;

- Commit to the protection of all current and future residents with special consideration for marginalized communities, and thereby welcome all people to our community;
- Help the Town to recruit and appoint a diverse, and inclusive workforce and volunteers to run our town;
- Together with Portland citizens, establish a vision for all municipal processes that will address, correct and prevent any past, current or future inequities for our residents;
- Report to the Board of Selectmen at least once a month on the Committee on Solidarity's findings, activities and suggestions for positive change in our community.