

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING BLOOMFIELD, CT AS WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE - 2017

This resolution affirms that the Town of Bloomfield, its officials and government, will continue to uphold the values that led to our 1970 designation as an All-American City, and that we stand ready to protect the rights of all our residents and those who wish to call our town their home. Bloomfield will not provide assistance or resources to implement programs or initiatives that discriminate on the basis of immigration status, national origin or citizenship status, race, ethnicity, religion, gender/sexual orientation or disability.

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut, is proud to be a community that values diversity and has long been attractive to people from a wide variety of immigrant groups; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Bloomfield remains committed to maintaining its core values and dedication to refugee and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, some have called for the surveillance of individuals because of their religion; and the monitoring of mosques and barring of Muslim visitors to the United States; and

WHEREAS, these views violate the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion, the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments' guarantees of equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, monitoring and intimidation of religious and political views is contrary to the First Amendment's guarantee of freedoms of religion, expression and association; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric and policy proposals have given rise to an increase in bullying and hate crimes, some of which affect minors; and

WHEREAS, some have targeted and disparaged individuals because of their national origin in order to justify deporting immigrants and blocking asylum for refugees fleeing war, terrorism and other humanitarian crises; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, movements for racial and cultural justice have called attention to discriminatory practices in the United States in which people of color, immigrants and refugees are unduly stopped, harassed, brutalized and even killed; and

WHEREAS, discriminatory policies violate the Fourth Amendment's prohibitions on unreasonable search and seizure and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments' guarantee of Equal Protection under the law; and

WHEREAS federal law does not require local law enforcement or other local service providers to inquire into an individual's immigration status; and

WHEREAS, it is particularly essential to the mission of the Town's emergency services departments that victims report crimes or injuries, cooperate fully in investigations and summon help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the threat of deportation or prosecution for no reason other than immigration status may discourage residents without legal immigration status or who have family members or friends without legal immigration status from reporting crimes or injuries, cooperating in investigations, seeking opportunities for their children living in this community or summoning help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bloomfield is committed to fulfilling the promise of the Bill of Rights for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, disability or other protected status;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN 2017 that the Town of Bloomfield:

- 1) Condemns violence and hate speech, affirms the religious pluralism of the United States and expresses solidarity with Muslims and all those targeted for their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability or other protected status;
- 2) Condemns any efforts to subdue or prevent the robust political expression which is vital to a healthy democracy in the Town of Bloomfield;
- 3) Affirms the value of the beauty of a society composed of multiple cultures and identities and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear;
- 4) Confirms that law enforcement and intelligence agency practices or national security measures that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, disability or other protected status, or that target individuals for exercising First Amendment rights, violate the First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and that such practices and measures are antithetical to the values of the Town of Bloomfield and moreover compromise the effectiveness of law enforcement and social services agencies;
- 5) Require that local officials, institutions, employees and law enforcement:
 - Continue to refrain from monitoring individuals because of their political expression or from surveilling political expression or political organizations, absent reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or is likely to be committed;
 - Continue to refrain from stopping individuals for investigation or investigating individuals, because of their perceived race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, or disability unless there is reasonable suspicion, relevant to the locality and timeframe, that links a person with a particular characteristic described in this subsection to a crime that has been committed or is likely to be committed in the Town of Bloomfield or a surrounding community;
 - Continue to refrain from surveillance of **any** house of worship, absent reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or is likely to be committed;
 - Continue to refrain from monitoring or assisting in such activities, or providing any resources or infrastructure to support such activities, when such monitoring is based upon those individuals' religious views or identities;
 - Continue to refrain from enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of federal initiatives that target particular residents solely on the basis of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, or disability;
 - Continue to refrain from assisting in the enforcement of federal immigration issues or immigration and customs enforcement detainers, absent reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or is likely to be committed; and
- 6) Authorizes the Community Awareness Task Force within the Town of Bloomfield to build relationships between the Town and its Muslim community.