

A RESOLUTION  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

WHEREAS, in December of 2016 this Council issued a resolution in support of mutual respect and unity. That resolution plainly acknowledged that our city's strength is found in the character of its people, and that we have always solved problems by bringing together different people with different opinions and ideas. The resolution ended with a clear commitment to stand against "...any and all acts, by any person or persons, that are intended to demean, devalue or intimidate others because of their race, ethnicity, nation of origin, religion, gender, sexual identity, disability, or political views...we will remain united, as a council and as a community, to safeguard the rights and privileges of everyone in our city"; and

WHEREAS, in the years since that resolution, many of us have learned what some of us knew all along about the prevalence of racism in our country. Racism exists in every community in the United States. It exists in Saratoga Springs. It is only by the unequivocal recognition of that fact that we may begin to address the problem together; and

WHEREAS, we already know that it is wrong to say and do racist things, but we have learned that even those of us who are not deliberate racists can accept and tolerate the racist practices of others because we do not want to get involved, or for the sake of our own comfort. We have learned that we may sometimes benefit from injustice, even though we never intended to. We have learned that white privilege is not an insult, but a challenge. We acknowledge systemic racism is embedded in our institutions and must be challenged and eliminated. And we have learned that we can and must do better.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. This Council will exercise its authority as fully as possible to promote racial equity and fairness in our city, and to eliminate discriminatory systems and practices.
2. We will act to develop and cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture that recognizes the strengths that come from giving everyone the opportunity to contribute, participate, grow and succeed.
3. We will strive as a government to do what is right and just for all people and to make our schools, our community, our country, and our world a better place.

DATED:

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK