

RESOLUTION RE: AD HOC COUNCIL TO COMBAT RACISM AND BIAS

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King Jr. profoundly stated “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice”; and

WHEREAS, Justice can be achieved with the assistance of many people bending the arc of the moral universe who have a genuine desire to live in a society that respects and seeks to include all inhabitants through understanding and education about our similarities and differences; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Samwick and the Board of Trustees seek to combat racism and bias and their deleterious effects on society, including the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others, and local incidents of racism and bias, including disparaging comments made at a public Village Board meeting in March 2020, hate symbols that were found on School District property, a number of micro-aggressions as well as other unfortunate incidents, are among many events that provide the impetus for us all to aspire for social justice in Scarsdale, this nation and around the world, and

WHEREAS, Mayor Samwick and the Board of Trustees strive for a more equitable and just society whereby all humankind is treated with respect and dignity and all Scarsdale residents feel that they are welcomed and belong to this community, and

WHEREAS, Mayor Samwick and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Scarsdale is aware that nurturing an equitable, diverse and inclusive community has to be achieved through deeds that not only encourage, but require an antiracist and antibias citizenry and community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mayor Samwick and the Village Board of Trustees, hereby, formally establishes the Ad Hoc Council to Combat Racism and Bias; with the following residents, school district officials, community leaders and village staff appointed as members:

Jennifer Fischman, Chair of the Advisory Council on Human Relations,
Wildwood Road

Christopher Jackson

Chandra Nottage, Lockwood Road

Piero Olcese, Brown Road

Kelly Shang, Sherbrooke Road

Karen Smith, Windmill Circle

Purnima Srivastava, Myrtle Dale Road

Lisa Tan, Webster Road

Karen Ceske, Board of Education
Edgar McIntosh, School District

Jay Genova, Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling

Robert Cole, Deputy Village Manager, Staff Member
Ingrid M. Richards, Assistant Village Manager, Staff Member

and; be it further

RESOLVED, that Village Board Trustee Rochelle Waldman shall serve as the liaison to the Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mayor Marc Samwick shall serve in an ex-officio capacity to the Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ad Hoc Council to Combat Racism and Bias is charged to address the following:

1. provide a safe place to convene community conversations about racism and bias;
2. identify events, episodes where racism, bias and discrimination exist and are encountered in the Scarsdale community;
3. educate the community about issues related to racism and bias, thereby ensuring that the community is cognizant of behaviors that may be racist and bias. This may be achieved through inviting leaders in the industry to convey useful information to the community and inviting local public officials to discuss policies and practices that demonstrate a diverse and inclusive environment;
4. explore and assist with the coordination of multi-cultural events to better educate and connect the residents toward creating and fostering a more empathetic community;
5. develop a report that documents the events, episodes where bias, racism and discrimination exist in the community and provide an actionable strategic plan that will ameliorate conscious and unconscious bias, racism and discrimination within the Scarsdale community.

Submitted by: Mayor Marc Samwick
Date: July 7, 2020
For: July 14, 2020