

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: September 5, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Paul Benoit, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Reaffirming Piedmont's Commitment to Inclusivity and Opposing Actions of Hate Groups

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a resolution reaffirming Piedmont's commitment to inclusivity and opposing actions of hate groups.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of August 21, 2017, Council requested that staff draft a resolution stating the City's opposition to acts of hate and violence for presentation at a future Council meeting. The resolution before the Council this evening takes the following actions:

- 1) Reaffirms its commitment to be an inclusive, respectful, and just city that is proud of its mosaic of people of diverse cultures, faiths, beliefs, and identities.
- 2) Commits the City to making Piedmont an inviting, equitable, just, and safe community for everyone and to celebrate both our individuality and commonality.
- 3) Condemns, in the strongest possible language, the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by hate groups.

By: John O. Tulloch, City Clerk

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles; and

WHEREAS, while the United States Constitution guarantees the right to free speech, which is a bedrock value underpinning our system of government, some groups have chosen to use their free speech rights to promote agendas that are in irreconcilable conflict with our nation's foundational principles of liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the message of these groups, including racial and social intolerance has led to senseless acts of violence that terrorize members of ethnic and religious minority communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of our nation's history, acts of hate and violence have been used to intimidate and repress individuals solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the tragic events that took place on August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia prove that acts of hate and violence remain very real threats to social and political progress; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2016, the City of Piedmont and the Piedmont Unified School District jointly made clear our firm, united stand to promote acceptance and kindness, stand up to bigotry, hatred, intolerance, and violence as well as our joint stand in support of our diverse community, honoring and protecting every resident regardless of race, creed, color, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, orientation, or identity; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting of March 6, 2017, the Piedmont City Council unanimously affirmed the action of the Alameda County Mayors' Conference, condemning all hateful speech and violent action that targets people due to their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability or national origin and categorically rejecting political tactics that use fear to tear apart families, manipulate voters or to gain power or influence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Piedmont does hereby resolve, declare, determine, and order as follows:

1. The City of Piedmont strongly and unequivocally reaffirms its commitment to be an inclusive, respectful, and just city that is proud of its mosaic of people of diverse cultures, faiths, beliefs, and identities.
2. The City Council of the City of Piedmont is committed to making Piedmont an inviting, equitable, just, and safe community for everyone and to celebrate both our individuality and commonality.
3. The City of Piedmont condemns, in the strongest possible language, the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by hate groups.

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