

CITY OF TAMARAC, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NO. R-2020 -

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAMARAC, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING WHITE SUPREMACY, BIAS AND HATE IN ALL OF ITS FORMS; COMMITTING TO ENSURING CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AFFORDED TO ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE CITY OF TAMARAC; AND REAFFIRMING TAMARAC'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE, RESPECT, INCLUSIVITY, AND EQUITY FOR ALL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there has been a rise of white supremacy across the United States and the globe, much of which has been emboldened by the words and actions of the current presidential administration and those targeting our communities through social media; and,

WHEREAS, white supremacy is an ideology focused on maintaining white political and economic, as well as demographic, dominance; it is at odds with our commitment to inclusion and multiracial democracy in Tamarac; and,

WHEREAS, the United States and the Florida State Constitution provides that every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, however they are responsible for the abuse of that liberty; and,

WHEREAS, free speech is a core principle of American democracy, but does not excuse the unconscionable agenda of hate groups that seek to destabilize American democracy, use fear as a control tactic, divide our community, and promote and ignite social animosities; and,

WHEREAS, our history serves a critical role in our understanding of discrimination, it is thereby incumbent upon us to acknowledge our history, so we do not repeat it; and,

WHEREAS, White supremacy and White nationalism are contrary to the ideals of the United States of America, which was established according to the principle stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, a principle that was updated in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, to include all people; and,

WHEREAS, while our country has often fallen short of these ideals, patriotic Americans have sought to form a more perfect Union by rejecting White nationalism and

White supremacy, embracing inclusive patriotism, and welcoming immigrants from across the globe who have continuously enriched our Nation; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, as of 2016, there have been 37 post-election hate incidents in the State of Florida and 867 throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2019, United States Representative Steve King was quoted as asking, “White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?”; and,

WHEREAS, a 2006 Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) assessment defined a White supremacist as follows: “White supremacists believe that the white race is superior to all other races and was created to rule them. They view nonwhites as subhuman and usually refer to them in derogatory terms”; and,

WHEREAS, the same 2006 FBI intelligence assessment defined a White nationalist as follows: “To be a white nationalist is to be pro-white. The domestic white nationalist movement seeks to promote, honor, and defend the white race. They believe the white race is under attack from Jewish interests that dominate the government (referred to as the Zionist Occupied Government, or ZOG), the media, banking, and entertainment industries and act to the detriment of the white race. White nationalists view multiculturalism, diversity, and illegal immigration as direct assaults on the white race and race-mixing as akin to white genocide. They hope to appeal to mainstream whites, believing that the majority of white people do not understand the imminent or long-term threat to their race. Many contend that a race war, often referred to as RAHOWA, or Racial Holy War, is a certainty”; and,

WHEREAS, according to FBI statistics, hate crimes nationwide increased in 2015, 2016, and 2017, the three most recent years for which data is available; and,

WHEREAS, the perpetrator of the shooting that killed 9 African-American worshippers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015, was motivated by White supremacy and White nationalism to carry out this act of terrorism, and stated that he would “be rescued by white nationalists after they took over the government”; and,

WHEREAS, the perpetrator of the shooting that killed 11 Jewish worshippers at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018, accused Jews of “waging a propaganda war against Western civilization” and “committing genocide” against Whites by promoting immigration and refugee resettlement, and accused the President of being “a globalist, not a nationalist” because of the “infestation” of Jews; and,

WHEREAS, Public Law 115–58, a joint resolution signed into law on September 14, 2017, rejects “white nationalism, white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups”; and,

WHEREAS, The New York Times has cited Eric Kaufmann, a professor at Birkbeck University in London who studies how ethnicity intersects with politics, as providing the following definition of white nationalism: the belief that national identity should be built around white ethnicity, and that white people should therefore maintain both a demographic majority and dominance of the nation's culture and public life; and,

WHEREAS, the disparities due to redlining, segregation of black communities, and historical bias in government services, including policing, are part of our collective history; and,

WHEREAS, the trauma inflicted on people of color by white supremacists and alt-right hate groups results in post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological harm affecting educational, economic, and social outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, Florida's history includes deep racial disparities and massacres from Rosewood to Groveland; and,

WHEREAS, Tamarac is proud to be an inclusive city for all; and,

WHEREAS, our values are rooted in peace, respect, inclusivity, and equity, and we derive our strength from our diversity; we commit to ensuring the inequities of the past are never a part of our future; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tamarac condemns xenophobia, racism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, ableism, sexism, and all other forms of bigotry; proudly stands for individual dignity and security and in unity against all those who would seek to propagate hate, fear, intimidation and incite fear and violence targeting any human being; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tamarac celebrates and embraces the diversity of our community, which includes people of all races, national origins, immigration or refugee statuses, heritages, cultures, religions, sexes, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, and economic statuses; and,

WHEREAS, like white supremacy, white nationalism places the interests of white people over those of other racial groups, and is an ideology focused on maintaining white political and economic, as well as demographic, dominance and it is at odds with our commitment to inclusion and multiracial democracy in Tamarac, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tamarac is proud to stand united against those who may propagate hate and incite fear and violence in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Tamarac will not tolerate hate in any form and reaffirms its commitment to continue the undoing and eradicating the effects of past systemically racist practices in the United States by fostering peace, diversity, respect, inclusivity and equity in City Government and all organizations contracted or affiliated with the City of Tamarac.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Tamarac once again rejects White nationalism and White supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States.

SECTION 1: The foregoing whereas clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

SECTION 2: All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3: If any clause, section, other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

MICHELLE J. GOMEZ
MAYOR

ATTEST:

JENNIFER JOHNSON CMC
CITY CLERK

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have approved this RESOLUTION as to form.

SAMUEL S. GOREN
CITY ATTORNEY