

**Resolution No.**

**RES-2020-81**

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM - HISTORY/COMMENTARY	
<b>ITEM TITLE:</b> A Resolution Celebrating the Diversity of Our Community and Affirming the Village's Commitment to Diversity, Equality, Equity, and Inclusion for All	<b>AGENDA DATE:</b> 10/15/2020
<b>ITEM REVIEW</b>	
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Mayor &amp; Village Board</b>
<b>THROUGH:</b>	<b>Al Stonitsch, Village Administrator</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Peggy Halik, Assistant Village Administrator</b>
<b>INITIATOR:</b>	<b>Al Stonitsch, Village Administrator</b>

**PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED:**

Mayor Cunningham is requesting Village Board consideration of a proposed Resolution, which celebrates diversity in the Village, and supports equality, equity, inclusion, and respect for all in the Village of Woodridge.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

As part of the Village Board's discussions on pursuing potential diversity initiatives at the July 30, 2020 Specially Called Meeting, and again at the follow up October 1, 2020 Study Session, the Mayor and Board discussed and considered the importance of the Village making a public statement that demonstrates the value the Village places on diversity, and to affirm the Village's commitment to equality, inclusion, and respect for all in the Village of Woodridge.

As part of its policy deliberations on this matter, the Mayor and Board discussed the potential creation of a Village Human Relations Board that would become permanently established by Village Code; or in the alternative, the establishment of an informal advisory committee on diversity. The consensus of the Village Board at the October 1, 2020 Study Session was to create an ad-hoc Village advisory committee that would be comprised of members from the Woodridge community that would have a Village staff liaison that would be assigned to support the Committee's efforts. The Board discussed the need to further define the exact mission or purpose of the advisory committee before it is officially established, and to also define a general period of time that it would be in existence to achieve the Village Board's defined objectives. The Village Board also asked staff for further clarification on the type of resources or operating budget would be needed to support the Committee's initiatives. The Board directed staff that following the adoption of the proposed Resolution that staff would bring back at a later date the proposed goals and objectives of the ad hoc committee, and proposed budget, for further Village Board discussion and review.

**BUDGET:**

n/a

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Mayor Cunningham is recommending Village Board approval of a proposed Resolution, which celebrates diversity in the Village, and supports equality, equity, inclusion, and respect for all in the Village of Woodridge.

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**ACTION PROPOSED:**

Approval of the Resolution

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**A Resolution Celebrating the Diversity of Our Community and Affirming the Village's  
Commitment to Diversity, Equality, Equity, and Inclusion for All**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Woodridge (the "Village") is a home rule municipality in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970;

**WHEREAS**, the Village has the authority to adopt resolutions and to promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs that protect the public health, safety and well-being of our citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Village Board believes that all individuals living in, working in, owning a business, or visiting the Village should be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness;

**WHEREAS**, the Village is committed to continuing to build an inclusive and safe community, where all persons are welcome, accepted, and protected;

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board, recognizes that what makes the Village unique and special is a forward-thinking environment that invites healthy community engagement and acceptance of all people;

**WHEREAS**, the Village's continued efforts to promote understanding and collaboration between all of our residents are crucial in encouraging and preserving Woodridge's welcoming environment;

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that diversity is one of our Village's strengths, and is our future, and this diversity encompasses people of color, people with disabilities, older persons, LGBTQ, people of different faiths, nationalities, beliefs and cultural views and more;

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Woodridge is committed to acting with equality, inclusion, and respect for all in our decision-making processes with the goal of continuing to build an inclusive and equitable community for all;

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**WHEREAS**, the Village Board recognizes the importance of continuing to build upon our diverse, inclusive, and equitable community in order to ensure a vibrant, prosperous, and healthy Woodridge for generations to come.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Woodridge, DuPage, Will and Cook Counties, Illinois, a home rule municipality in the exercise of its home rule powers, that, in accordance with the fundamental principles set forth in our country's Declaration of Independence, which asserts as a fundamental basis that all people are created equal and are endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:

**SECTION 1:** The Village hereby rejects prejudice and injustices of any kind based on race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin.

**SECTION 2:** The Village Board hereby condemns the actions, speech, and attitudes of those who promote hate or intolerance of any kind.

**SECTION 3:** The Village strives to value all citizens, and be a welcoming place to all people, that vows to cultivate and support a culture of compassion, kindness, and protection;

**SECTION 4:** The Village Board hereby declares and reaffirms its commitment, in collaboration with all residents, to pursue policies and take action to ensure civil and human rights to all individuals;

**SECTION 5:** The Village Board encourages our fellow residents, businesses, civic groups, and sister agencies to do all in their power and spheres of influence to ensure that all are welcome and included;

**SECTION 6:** The Village Board is committed to evaluating, developing and instituting model programs, policies, and/or practices in furtherance of its commitment to prioritizing Village diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives;

**SECTION 7:** The Village Board supports Village memberships in organizations or associations to help the Village address issues of equality, equity, and inclusion for all, and to gain access to important resources and expertise; and

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**SECTION 8:** The Village Board furthermore supports the creation of an ad hoc human relations advisory committee of the Village whose purpose would include, but not be limited to, (i) helping deepen our Village's understanding of diversity, equality, equity, and inclusion, and (ii) facilitating meaningful community connections, conversations, and dialogue around diversity,

**PASSED** this 15th day of October, 2020.

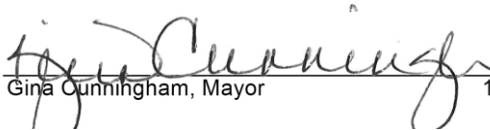
**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Mike Krucek, Trustee

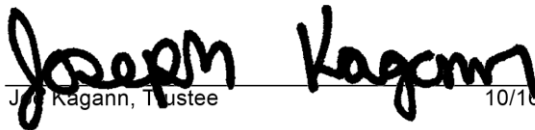
**SECONDER:** Kay Page, Trustee

**AYES:** Abbott, Blair, Martinez, Krucek, Page, Hendricks

**APPROVED** this 15th day of October, 2020.

  
Gina Cunningham, Mayor 10/16/2020

**ATTEST:**

  
Joseph Kagann, Trustee 10/16/2020

Filed in the Office of the Village Clerk and published in pamphlet form by authority of the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Woodridge, DuPage, Will, and Cook Counties, Illinois, this 15th day of October, 2020.