

Town of Somerset
Resolution Affirming Black Lives Matter in the Town of Somerset

Resolution No.: 12-6-21
Introduced: December 6, 2021
Adopted: December 6, 2021
Effective Date: December 6, 2021

WHEREAS, The Town of Somerset is collectively saddened and angered by the disproportionate killing of Black people by police in our country, including, in 2020, the killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, a trend which unfortunately continues; and

WHEREAS, in our own Montgomery County, County police stop Black drivers at disproportionate rates, and disproportionately arrest, and use force against Black people; and

WHEREAS, the 400-year history of racism in North America includes the Town of Somerset, where residents' homes sit on land where African Americans were enslaved and forced to work; and

WHEREAS, the unfortunate effects of racism continue to pervade our society's institutions and generate harmful disparities in criminal justice, employment, housing, education, health, and mental health; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, after the killing of George Floyd, scores of Somerset residents, along with millions of Americans, expressed shock and dismay on listservs, attended protests, posted "Black Lives Matter" signs in their yards, read and discussed books on racism, and expressed support for teenagers who posted signs urging residents to think about George Floyd's death, racism, and white privilege; and Mayor Slavin declared that it was incumbent upon elected officials to find ways to respond to this crying need for social change; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of these events, in 2021 the Town of Somerset established a Committee on Equity and Inclusion to promote awareness and action in Somerset on concerns relevant to ethnic, racial, and cultural differences, including consideration of more inclusive policies in the County and State on policing, zoning, housing, public health, education, or other local government issues as part of its role; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Somerset Town Council declares unequivocally that Black Lives Matter; denounces all manifestations of racism and discrimination, particularly against Black people; encourages continued efforts to foster understanding and harmonious relationships across differences, including racial differences, within our Town; resolves to continue to examine equity and inclusion in the Town's own business processes including policing; and affirms our continuing commitment to be vigilant, participate, and lend support to anti-racist and anti-discriminatory initiatives at the County and national levels; and

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall be filed by the Clerk-Treasurer and kept available for public inspection, including posting on the home page of the Town's website.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF SOMERSET



Matt Trollinger, Manager/Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Somerset



Stephen Surko, President
Town of Somerset

Approved:



Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor
Town of Somerset

Date: 12/7/2021