

Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Whereas: The Town of Fairhaven has a long history of promoting the ideals of liberty, independence, and the values of its diverse residents, encompassing individuals of varying identities; and

Whereas: Fairhaven recognizes that diversity and inclusion are integral to the very fabric of our community, uplifting all people irrespective of their race, national origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

Whereas: In response to the regrettable defacing of Roger's School with racially charged graffiti on November 10, 2023; and

Whereas: In acknowledgement of Fairhaven's commendable generosity towards unsheltered and migrant families housed at the Seaport Inn; and

Whereas: Hate crimes have more than doubled between 2014 and 2022, according to the most recent FBI data; and

Whereas: Community members have reported instances of feeling ostracized and excluded from Town operations and community life; and

Whereas: The Town of Fairhaven has taken initial steps towards fostering public dialogue by establishing the Belonging Committee in November of 2021;

Now, therefore, We, Leon E. Correy III, Charles K. Murphy Sr., Stasia Powers, Robert J. Espindola, and Keith Silvia, the Select Board of the Town of Fairhaven, solemnly condemn all forms of racism, discrimination, and intolerance within our Town. Through purposeful actions, the Select Board pledges to develop and promote initiatives among Town Departments, Boards, Committees, and residents, fostering partnerships and dialogue that uphold the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Actions to be undertaken by the Select Board include charging the Belonging Committee with the creation of substantive programs addressing issues of race and DEI. This will include assigning the Public Safety Team and the Belonging Committee to routinely discuss local hate-based incidents/crimes during Belonging Committee meetings and establishing a reporting mechanism through both the Police and Belonging Committee webpages.

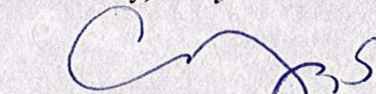
Furthermore, we declare that all appointed Boards and Committees will review their policies and procedures to ensure the implementation of additional DEI initiatives. Likewise, all Town Departments will assess their policies and procedures, ensuring the integration of additional DEI initiatives for both employees and the residents they serve.

This resolution stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to combat racism, foster inclusivity, and create an environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

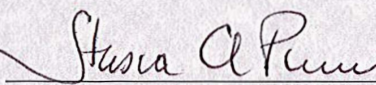
Issued this 18th day of December, 2023.



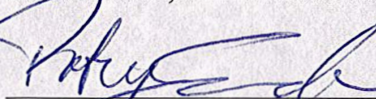
Leon Corey, Select Board Chair



Charles Murphy Sr., Select Board Member



Stasia Powers, Select Board Member



Robert Espindola, Select Board Member



Keith Silvia, Select Board Member

