

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING WHITE NATIONALISM AND EXTREMIST GROUPS

WHEREAS The Town Council of the Town of South Berwick Maine is proud to support policies and efforts that uphold our commitment to protect an individual's ability to experience a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community in South Berwick;

WHEREAS In alignment with the Town Council's goal of creating a safe and welcoming community, we value human rights, respect, inclusivity, and equity and recognize that we derive strength from our diversity;

WHEREAS White nationalism is defined as the promotion of the idea 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 across the country;

WHEREAS We recognize that there has been a rise of white nationalist and white supremacist groups in the United States, most recently in our neighboring towns, and that the national political dialogue reflects this racial tension;

WHEREAS Our community is committed to a just and inclusive Republic. White nationalism places the interests of white people over those of other racial groups and is an ideology focused on maintaining white political, economic, and demographic dominance, and it is at odds with our vision for South Berwick;

WHEREAS Free speech is a core principle of our American Republic and the democratic institutions that underpin its existence. The agenda of white nationalist groups seek to destabilize the American Republic, use fear through threats and physical violence as a control tactic, divide our community, and promote and ignite social animosities;

WHEREAS Marginalized communities have experienced generational oppression and traumas related to the decisions made by people and governments both in the past and present. White supremacy groups have a history of advocating for the marginalization of communities of color through government policies;

WHEREAS The trauma inflicted on Black people, people of color, Muslim and Jewish people, religious minorities, the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized groups by white supremacists results in generational and psychological harm affecting health, education, economic and social outcomes;

WHEREAS The Town of South Berwick has a history and commitment of celebrating and supporting people of all races, national origins, immigration and refugee statuses, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, and economic status;

WHEREAS The Town of South Berwick is committed to building trust amongst all its residents, along with its Sister City, Tuskegee, Alabama, including continued work and collaboration to ensure inclusion and welcome diversity:

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Maine, as follows:

The Town Council is committed to making South Berwick a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for everyone. We condemn hate, xenophobia, racism, white supremacy, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, sexism and other forms of bigotry;

The Town Council is committed to standing in solidarity with the people of South Berwick in opposing white supremacy and creating a community where all people can safely, freely and fully engage in our democracy. We will not tolerate hate in any form and will pursue policies to ensure civil and human rights to all individuals;

This Resolution is effective immediately upon its passage by the Town Council

Approved: (Date)

Mallory Cook
Chair, Town Council

Jack Kareckas
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

John James
Member, Town Council

Jeffrey Minihan
Member, Town Council

Jessica Cyr
Member, Town Council

Adopted by unanimous vote (4-0) of the Council on 7/26/2022
(John James not present)