

Statement in Support for the WG Anti-Racist Resolution

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When it was first suggested at a Racial and Social Equity Committee (RASEC) meeting that we draft a Town anti-racist statement, I thought it was a good idea, but that actions should be prioritised over words to promote equity and diversity in the Town.

What action could RASEC really take to heal the institutional racism of the world reflected in WG's history and some of the current practices? How can WG, which clearly values community, include the racial and cultural diversity that surrounds us?

Then the statement evolved into a Resolution which included acknowledgment of racist policies and practices, an apology, and a clear commitment to examine policies, practices & behaviours that perpetuate racism, as well as support for neighbouring communities, especially Emory Grove.

I realized that the Resolution is in itself the most fundamental action upon which others are built. I strongly support an Anti-Racist Resolution for Washington Grove.

RASEC is planning a forum on March 25th which will examine discriminatory housing policies and how those policies impact families and communities today.

The forum will feature a panel discussion with experts on housing policy and a screening of the documentary *Segregated by Design*. The film creators quote Jay-Z in their film description. I believe his words summarize why the Resolution is necessary:

*You can't have a solution until you start dealing with the problem.
What you reveal, you heal.*