

FW: Public Comment: Proposed Resolution "Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past"

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Sent from Outlook

From: Strother, Emma <emmastrother@hks.harvard.edu>

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:54 AM

To: washgrove@comcast.net

Subject: Public Comment: Proposed Resolution "Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past"

To the Washington Grove Town Council,

I have reviewed the Town Council's proposed resolution "Acknowledging Washington Grove's Racially Exclusionary Past." I am writing in support of the resolution.

Washington Grove holds a special place in my heart. It is my family's home, and where I was raised. The most important values I hold -- to care for one another, respect the land, and live in community -- I learned because I grew up in Washington Grove. The town has a deep impact on its residents, especially our young people.

As a child in the Grove, I was not just raised by my family in a neighborhood. I was also raised by the town. The way Washington Grove is -- as a town, a culture, and a community -- shaped how I saw the world. And I am not alone. Countless Grove kids have gone on to live in other places with the expectation that you know your neighbors, and been surprised to realize this is not everyone's experience.

This is why the proposed resolution is so important to me. It models the values of honesty, inclusivity, and openness to change. Acknowledging the past is a crucial step towards a Washington Grove where all are welcome. All Grovers, especially the next generation, will benefit from this intentional effort.

Sincerely,
Emma Strother

Emma Strother

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Pronouns: she/hers