

I have reviewed the draft resolution acknowledging Washington Grove's role in institutional racism. The resolution is well-researched and sourced, drawing on the work of recognized historians on local, regional, and national levels, to substantiate a well-documented history of racist practices and policies.

Washington Grove is a special place. The vigilance of town residents has preserved the architectural character and natural environment of the town. An active citizenry has fostered a certain sense of community. This resolution makes a strong case for the need to expand that definition of community.

It is my hope that by denouncing discriminatory practices of the past, this resolution will help set the stage for a new era of inclusivity in the Grove. Indeed, the special character of the Grove with its cultural traditions including community service, music, and conservation, can be greatly enriched, and expanded through diversity, equity and inclusion of people within the town and surrounding neighborhoods.

I commend the Racial and Social Equity Committee for this work toward advancing racial equity for future generations.

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