

To: Mayor John Compton  
Town Council Members:  
Dave Cosson  
Christine Dibble  
Sylvie Favret  
Barbara Raimondo  
Eva Patrone  
Robert Gilmore

Date: April 2, 2023

I am writing to express my concern regarding this last paragraph of Rev. Warner's March 24th, 2023 letter to the Mayor and Town Council:

"What will be completely unreconcilable, however, is if the Town of Washington Grove, having had this opportunity to invest in its future by acknowledging its well and self-documented past racism, and by claiming an antiracist future for itself, records a vote not to do so. It will, then, both have intentionally claimed its racist past as its current practice, and proclaimed to its neighbors that racism continues to be a foundational principal of its communal existence."

Rev. Warner is saying that if we vote not to pass this resolution, then the town has 'intentionally claimed its racist past as its current practice, and proclaimed to its neighbors that racism continues to be a foundational principle of its communal existence.'

In short, if we vote against the resolution, we are intentionally proclaiming ourselves as racist in both the present and the future.

I find this deeply troubling: the statement is sweeping, all or nothing

rhetoric, an ultimatum, and a thinly veiled threat.

Is Rev. Warner saying that if we do not pass this resolution, he will inform the Emory Grove community, of which he is a leader, that Washington Grove intentionally is and will continue to be racist?

How does that lead to peaceful dialog and reconciliation between our two communities? I fear it will lead to the opposite of peaceful discussion. It is because I fear violent repercussions that I am sending this letter anonymously.

I urge the Town Council to seek clarification from Rev. Warner and also not to submit to this demand. If we do submit, what is next? A threat of a lawsuit? A demand for reparations?