

Comment on the Racial Equity Resolution

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Dear Mayor and Town Council,

I would like to extend the Town's acknowledgements of historical injustices to include those peoples on whose land we now live.

The practice of acknowledging the indigenous peoples and the forceful displacement of them from the land on which we now conduct our lives is becoming a common practice for individuals, organizations, companies, and governments at the beginning of meetings.

I propose the RASEC Resolution that is being considered be amended to include language establishing a practice at the beginning of every official Town meeting that a 'land acknowledgement statement' be said, similar to that used by the Montgomery County's Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee that is copied below.

"The [Town of Washington Grove] acknowledges that we live and work upon the stolen lands of the Piscataway (puh·SKA·tuh·way) Conoy Tribal Nation. We affirm the need to share that history of the rightful past, present, and future inhabitants of the land. This would include the Accohannock (ah-cohan-nock) Indian Tribe; the Assateague (as-uh-teeg) Peoples Tribe; the Nause-Waiwash (nah-soo WAY-wash) Band of Indians; the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy and Sub-Tribes and the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; the Pocomoke (pow-kuh-mowk) Indian Nation; and the Youghiogheny (yok-uh-gey-nee) River Band of Shawnee Indians. We acknowledge the thousands of tribal members in our community that are displaced from their own homelands and have moved to Montgomery County.

I leave it to the creative and capable minds of the Mayor and Town Council to find language that will incorporate the intent of my proposal by amending the Resolution to acknowledge this aspect of historical racial injustices.

Yours respectfully,
Tom Land