

**TOWN OF CHEVERLY**  
**RESOLUTION NO.: R-07-20**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES**

The Town of Cheverly acknowledges the Town's historical participation in institutionalized and systemic racism and recognizes the persistence of symbols of white supremacy used by the town, such as the image of an antebellum plantation – Mount Hope – as the now-removed town seal, and a history of segregationist laws.

The Town of Cheverly acknowledges that racist practices and policies continued long after Emancipation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, relegating Black people to second class citizenship and creating wide disparities of well-being and opportunity among Black people in Cheverly and throughout the United States.

The Town of Cheverly concedes the “white flight” that took place after the Civil Rights Movement and the subsequent increase in purchases of homes by Black families, which created pockets of segregation such as the Old Fourth Ward.

The Town of Cheverly acknowledges there have been allegations that the town has engaged in racist practices as late as the year of 2020 by its own policing power and sheer reality of systemic racism.

The Town of Cheverly recognizes it has been comprised of nearly 60% Black people and has never had town leadership that reflects its residents. Most notably, - having only one Black Chief of Police and hiring the town's first Black town administrator in 2019.

The Town of Cheverly recognizes it is comprised of 60% Black people and has never had a Black Mayor or more than two people of color on Town Council until 2017.

The Town of Cheverly condemns the death of George Floyd and the countless others that have died before and after the tragic loss of his life. We acknowledge the brutality, the racism, and the systemic injustices that have led to historic tragedies. .

**WHEREAS**, the enormous consequence of systemic racism is that opportunities for employment, housing, safety, wealth, education, health, and other conditions of humanity along with the American pursuit of happiness have been denied or diminished for Black people; and

**WHEREAS**, the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Daniel Prude, and many others whose names did not make national news have galvanized our community to march and speak out against hundreds of years of systemic racism; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of government to serve and protect residents and uphold civil rights; Mayor and Council must work to ensure that the rights of all people are upheld and respected.

**WHEREAS**, statements are important, but actions are critical.

**WHEREAS**, how we move forward will prove the earnestness in showing that every visitor, resident, employee, and stakeholder is inherently of equal value regardless of race, ethnicity, or skin color.

**WHEREAS**, Mayor and Council is committed to listening, learning, and collaborating with our community to seek the change that we desperately need; we must identify clear actions going forward.

**WHEREAS**, Mayor and Council acknowledge and apologize for our town's history of oppression, particularly with regards to the Old Fourth Ward community.

**WHEREAS**, Mayor and Council acknowledge that little to no action has been taken to address businesses in our community that have engaged in racist practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Cheverly must explicitly, deliberately, intentionally, and conscientiously seek out and confront systemic racism; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, Mayor and Council actively seek opportunities for accountability and truth-telling about past injustice, and explicitly seek opportunities for restorative justice; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Cheverly will examine our history and all current policies and programs for evidence of disparate impact based on race and ethnicity, and will do so regularly moving forward; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Cheverly will regularly engage with business owners, town and community organizations, to request their adherence to nondiscrimination and anti-racist practices; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Cheverly will review the names of monuments, trails, buildings, structures, and entities to ensure the names of white supremacists are removed and the aforementioned are renamed, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Cheverly will form an independent police complaints board comprised of Town residents; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Cheverly has made, and will continue to focus, investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion. These include ongoing implicit bias training for police, staff, and members of the community, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Cheverly Police Department policy will require annual de-escalation training to avoid physical confrontation; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Cheverly Police Department will review BOLOS, police data, fact sheets, or any community communications so that it does not include racist tropes or microaggressions and focuses solely on information needed to protect or inform the community, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, while all Cheverly Police Department officers wear body cameras, officers will also be required to activate their cameras manually when interacting with the public in situations where the camera is not automatically activated. Body camera footage is stored for no less than legally or logistically feasible and the community shall be given access of footage upon a lawful request pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act whenever practicable and not part of a criminal investigation; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, Cheverly Police Department Officers will be required to acknowledge a duty to intervene if they observe another officer acting unlawfully or racially or ethnically biased, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that we will determine if any of the actions of Mayor and Council, deliberate or unintended, create barriers to equal participation and opportunity for Black members of our community; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, Mayor and Council will actively involve and learn from Black people so that we can collectively create policies and practices eliminating barriers to participation, equality, and opportunity; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, Mayor and Council unequivocally affirm that Black Lives Matter.

**ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Cheverly, Maryland at a regular public meeting on December 10, 2020.

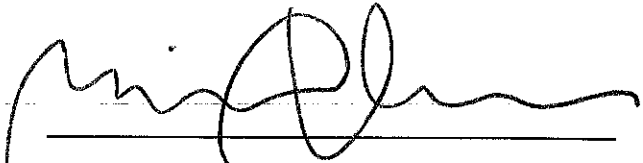
Adopted: Unanimously


Attest:

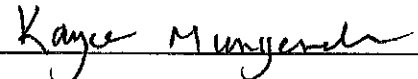
  
Town Clerk

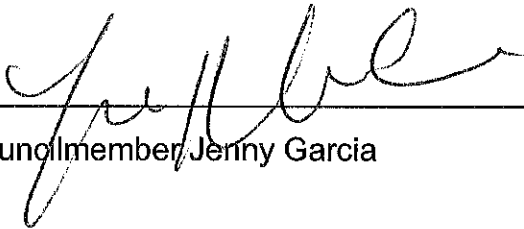
  
Mayor Laila Riaz

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Eric Radloff

  
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Councilmember Micah Watson

  
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Councilmember Nicole Bryner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Kayce Munyeneh

  
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Councilmember Jenny Garcia

  
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Councilmember Amy Fry

**ADOPTED by Mayor and Council of the Town of Cheverly, Maryland, and effective immediately.**