

RESOLUTION
TOWN OF LEDYARD POSITION STATEMENT AND
COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard recognizes their role to promote equity and the importance to implement policies and practices to ensure equitable services to all ~~of its~~ citizens;

WHEREAS: Local government and school districts impact the daily life of its citizens in multiple ways; through its police and fire protection, schools, parks and playgrounds, free public library and access to technology including computers, the internet, audio books, and other sensory learning tools, zoning and code enforcement, fair housing practices, trash pick-up, street maintenance, snow removal, food pantry, and more.

WHEREAS: The ~~2020~~-establishment of the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion *in 2020 demonstrate supports* the town's ~~interest~~-*commitment* to *advancing address* equity, and ~~facilitates~~-*fostering inclusive community engagement. Through initiatives open conversations resulting in programs* such as the Black History Essay & Poster Contest for all Ledyard students, including homeschooled, and magnet school students, Woman of the Year Award and ~~other initiatives such as the~~ Ledyard Academy, *the committee has promoted civic participation*, increased transparency ~~on how their~~ *in* local government works; and *improved public awareness of how residents can access the town* programs and services ~~provided by the town~~;

WHEREAS: The Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion identified the inequity in public health between citizens who have access to primary healthcare and those who do not, inspiring volunteers to mobilize and launch a “*Ledyard Primary Care for All Americans PILOT Program*”; and the Town Council’s adoption of a “*Resolution Supporting Primary Care For All Americans*”;

WHEREAS: In recognizing the importance to address race and equity gaps the Town Council adopted a “*Resolution Regarding the Town’s Position Against Use of Racist And Discriminatory Language And Behavior*” in 2022; and adopted a “*Town Council Position Statement Regarding Board of Education Plans, Policies, Programs*” in 2021. With the adoption of this Resolution the Ledyard Town Council restates these positions.

WHEREAS: The Ledyard Town Council adopted ~~succcess~~-*strategic* goals intended to guide decision-making, strengthen long-term fiscal and capital planning to ensure responsible use of taxpayer resources; improve communication and community engagement, *advance* green and clean energy initiatives, *promote* waste management composting programs, and ~~to~~-continue *building to build* on ~~our process which initially the work~~ begun in 2020 to achieve a Sustainable CT Certification by implementing initiatives to ensure equity and fairness for all our citizens;

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard has implemented a number of *sustainability* programs, ~~which~~ including ~~ed~~-a streetlight assessment that resulted in the purchase of the streetlights from Eversource and converting them to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs saving both energy

and taxpayer dollars; constructed the Multi-Use Pathway from Ledyard High School to Ledyard Center to expand safe, connected, active transportation for all pedestrians and bicyclists; ~~extending~~ *extension of* the sewer line providing infrastructure for both affordable housing and business development; improvements to the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry ~~providing to support~~ an equitable community food action plan to ensure that all community members can access sustainable, nutritious food; improvements to the Town Green providing handicap access to one of the best Farmers' Markets in the State for residents to purchase fresh produce from local farmers and featuring ~~many~~ community organizations ~~providing~~ *offering* information to residents regarding fuel assistance, mental health services, public safety services, and many other commodities and programs. ~~regionalization of shared services with the Town of Preston by providing Emergency Dispatch Communication Services, Tax Assessor Services, Public Works Mechanic Services, and the shared purchase of a streetsweeper to maintain the required MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit Certifications~~

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard continuously works to identify and implement solutions to *accessibility and transparency* challenges, utilizing ~~es~~ the latest technologies for their workforce and citizens and providing access to their local government through its meeting portal, as well as live and on-demand meeting videos; installing a handicap-accessible circulation desk in the Library, *providing a* handicap-accessible counter in the Town Clerk's Office, and *ensuring* ~~providing~~ handicap access to the second level *of with* ~~Lift in~~ the Town Hall *with a lift*; ~~and more~~;

WHEREAS: The Town of Ledyard is committed to assess progress and inequities in providing services to their citizens and looks for options to accommodate those needs, understanding that it was not enough to assume that an initiative is providing its intended outcome;

WHEREAS: Diverse viewpoints, *shaped by* the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and experiences, *help* ~~the~~ community *members communicate effectively with others of various backgrounds across different backgrounds, foster mutual respect and teamwork, strengthen our the community, and is vital for contribute to* the Town's success.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Each and every day, the Town of Ledyard strives to be a welcoming and inclusive equity-minded, anti-racist community and workplace, where everyone regardless of ethnic heritage, religion, economic background, identity or ability feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute; a real sense of belonging; and a community they call Home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The diverse population of the Town of Ledyard is one of its greatest assets, as we learn from each other and work together to lift up our neighbors in need.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Gary A. St. Vil, Chairman

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History: In working to obtain points toward achieving a Bronze Level Sustainable CT Certification, Ledyard's Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee asked the Town Council to adopt an "Equity Statement".