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**MAYOR SCHOLL MEMO**

**TOPIC: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

**DATE: 8-5-2020**

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**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

The City of St. Helens is committed to the principals of fairness, dignity, and acceptance of all community members.

This was affirmed by Resolution No. 1842 on April 3, 2019. As a City Council, we committed to promoting a peaceful discourse and rejecting the politics of division and isolation that fan anger and hate against a person or group. In this time of upheaval and uncertainty, we recognize that we have more work to do.

We embrace the diversity of our community and welcome people of all backgrounds regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or other individual identities. We strive for equity, to ensure that everyone has access to the same opportunities. We acknowledge that everyone does not start out from an equal place and that we can take steps to address unequal access. Our actions will be inclusive, meaning that people with different identities are valued, invited, and welcomed to participate.

The City of St. Helens recognizes that people of color and other communities have been historically marginalized – both intentionally and unintentionally – by the institutions that govern our lives and are organized to protect health, safety, and well-being.

We commit to enhanced training for staff, Council, and volunteers. We commit to evaluating the current structure and function of our City government and taking local action that promotes equity. The City of St. Helens works for the benefit of all.

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**Vision:** To provide quality, effective and efficient service to our community.

**Mission:**

- Develop and preserve the highest possible quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment within a sound economic framework.
- Provide leadership which is open and responsive to the needs of the community and works for the benefit of all.

City of St. Helens  
**RESOLUTION NO. 1842**

**A RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE INNATE DIGNITY  
OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF ST. HELENS**

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of St. Helens live in a multicultural community of people from many places across the country and across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and staff are committed to recognizing the dignity of all its residents and the diverse contributions of both immigrants and native-born; and

**WHEREAS**, the politics of division, isolation, and hate have no place in our community; as the City Council and staff of the City of St. Helens, we recognize that all people are deserving of assurance of the basic principles of equity and human rights guaranteed to all persons by our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ST. HELENS RESOLVES** that the City Council and staff of the City of St. Helens stand with our community in supporting the principles of fairness, dignity, and acceptance, and that these core principles commit us to promoting a peaceful discourse with all members of our community, and that we reject the politics of division and isolation that fan anger and hate against any person or group.

**Approved and adopted** by the City Council on April 3, 2019, by the following vote:

Ayes: Locke, Carlson, Topaz, Morten, Scholl

Nays: None

  
Rick Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kathy Payne, City Recorder