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1. William Bear
2. Shoreline
3. (o) Briarcrest
4. flyingbear2@gmail.com
5. 11/16/2020
6. Resolution 467
7. United Shoreline Organized Against Racism is in support of Resolution 467 declaring the City of Shoreline's commitment to building an anti-racist community. In this time of the pandemic, it is obvious that whenever anyone of us is hurt, we all suffer. June 26th over 4,000 of us gathered at Cromwell Park and marched to City Hall to protest the murder of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis. Systemic and institutional racism is the cause of death, ill health and harm to the Black, Indigenous and People of Color in our City of Shoreline. I would like to believe that all of us in Shoreline could be motivated by the unfairness and injustice of racism to end it forever. But that takes work. It takes sacrifice. Some people, like Edwin Pratt died fighting to end racism in our City.

In the Briarcrest neighborhood the demographics are changing. The neighborhood used to be predominately white, older empty nesters. Now I see many families with young children. And those families are more diverse in income, race and ethnicity than the neighborhood I moved into 20 years ago. So when a harm is done to someone because of their race, it is very likely that person is my neighbor, my customer, my employee or my manager, my co-worker, my friend or my family member. We all pay emotionally and financially when people close to us are harmed. The pandemic has made that obvious, if we didn't already see it.

One area where the City has already done some work is creating opportunities for police and the Latinx community to get to know each other in a relaxed social setting. This could be expanded to other groups in the BIPOC community. There are other interest groups that such as cars, cooking, mothers with young children, musicians and gardening that could be developed to be inter racial and intercultural. A City employee whose job it was to facilitate these groups would help. There could be an ombudsman with an 800 number, who is not a city employee. They could take calls anonymously to report problems that may or may not rise to the level of a hate crime, but need to be dealt with rather than ignored. Community dinners have been a place of bringing diverse residents of the community to share a meal.

The City used to have a part time social worker. Shoreline could create that position again. As a community there is a large concern for how the homeless and the mentally ill interact with the police.
We could hire more mental health workers to support the RADAR program.

Every two years the City of Shoreline does a Resident Satisfaction Survey. The questions tend to focus on issues the City government can do something about. Absent in the survey are education issues since the Shoreline School District and the Shoreline City Government are separate entities. The survey does ask the income, ethnicity and home ownership questions. The purpose of the survey is to identify things the elected officials and City staff can do something about. For example changing budgeting priorities and staff resource priorities to address areas of citizen dissatisfaction. The premise is the City elected officials and the City employees are in the best position to make things better. What if the most valuable resource is neither of these. Sometimes citizens just because we are neighbors are able to do things for each other that neither legislation nor paid staff can accomplish.

What if the biggest problem older folks experience is isolation? What if the biggest problem young people experience is not knowing if their life matters to anyone outside their family? These two concerns are not exclusive to the BIPOC community but they are definitely there also. What if fear of others who are of a different demographic group (individual racism) is the only thing stopping mentoring relationships that would help teens and seniors.

A resident survey with a different intent might ask what demographic groups are dissatisfied with what particular aspects of our lives in Shoreline? If that information was available A profound change in the quality of life occurs when diverse demographic groups begin to work together to solve these problems. The fact of working together developing relationships is as much the solution as whatever action they may take.

Do we need better jobs for BIPOC residents of Shoreline? Do we need different pathways to jobs then we now have. Are there ways to help apartment renters to become home owners. Do some students need some supportive mentors, tutors and coaches? Some citizens can meet some of those needs. This Resolution to make Shoreline and Anti-Racist Community sets up the expectation that our City of Shoreline, staff, elected officials , residents and neighbors will work together to make it a reality.
8. (o) Support

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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