

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Council Referral – Community Pledge

BACKGROUND: At the Regular Meeting on November 27, 2017, Council referred this matter to CRAB. Council suggested that CRAB consider more inclusive language such as the addition of “ages and genders” to the second sentence. This recommendation came in response to requests from the community.

The Pledge was originally drafted by the City’s Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) and adopted by the City Council in 1997. Then in 2001, as part of the City’s Peace and Non-Violence initiative, CRAB recommended the Pledge be modified and a revised Pledge was adopted by the City Council in 2001.

The current Community Pledge is:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate people of many cultures, faiths, and races living together. By sharing together all are enriched.

We pledge to foster a community which is respectful, safe, and fair for all people.

DISCUSSION: CRAB considered and discussed this referral at meetings on:

- February 13, 2018
- April 12, 2018
- May 10, 2018
- June 5, 2018
- October 11, 2018

In its deliberations, CRAB sought to favorably respond to Council and the community and look for ways to make the pledge more inclusive. CRAB discussed adding language to the “cultures, faiths and races” sentence to try and broaden the scope to include ages, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, etc. At the same time, CRAB recognized, and deliberated on, the challenges with trying to develop an inclusive Pledge that contained an exhaustive list of attributes covering every current and future group. CRAB wished to strike a balance that would allow the pledge to remain

timeless for years to come. There was also discussion about adding the word accessible to the Pledge in acknowledgement that the City is for all physical abilities as well. After considerable discussion and careful deliberation, CRAB proposed edits to the Pledge that focus on diversity and inclusion for all people, without a list of “groups”.

RECOMENDATION: CRAB recommends the following modified Community Pledge be adopted by the City Council:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched.

We strive to be a respectful community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Ransom, Chair
Community Relations Advisory Board