

## **Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Bedford**

**WHEREAS**, in recent weeks and months, both the Nation and our community have suffered acts of antisemitism, racism, bigotry, Xenophobia, hatred and divisiveness; such acts including racial slurs, defacement of buildings with swastikas and bullying Latino students in our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump recently issued an Executive Order regarding immigration that raises questions on the coordination between federal authorities and local police departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration is considering revocation of previous executive orders including those concerning immigration, such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which creates an exception from deportation orders and helps undocumented youth brought to the US as children to obtain work permits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Bedford has been asked to consider the adoption of a statement re-affirming its policies and practices as an open and welcoming community and one which decries and denounces acts of antisemitism, racism, bigotry, Xenophobia and hatred and opposes federal policies which tend to fuel such acts; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law does not require local law enforcement or other local service providers to inquire into an individual's immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of one of our community's religious leaders "...we are living in a time of opportunity: a time where we can rise above the divisiveness and hateful rhetoric; a community where leaders can model stewardship which inspires inclusion, respect, and diversity; a mandate where each of us knows that 'to stand idly by' while hate is thrust upon our friends, our neighbors, cannot and will not stand here – not on our watch"; and

**WHEREAS**, we consider it our moral obligation and obligation as the elected representatives of the community to work with other community leaders to help "dispel the moral darkness" which has descended upon some; and

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

1. The Town of Bedford decries and denounces acts of antisemitism, racism, bigotry, Xenophobia, hatred and divisiveness (including those based on a victim's gender, gender orientation or gender identity) and will continue to work in concert with community leaders, school officials and law enforcement agencies to apprehend individuals responsible for any crimes of this nature.
2. The Town of Bedford is committed to upholding and protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender orientation, gender identity or national origin.

3. The Town of Bedford is committed to protecting the life, safety and security of all individuals regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender orientation, gender identity or national origin.
4. The Town of Bedford reaffirms that enforcement of federal immigration laws is the responsibility of the federal government and its various enforcement agencies, and not the role of the Town of Bedford.
5. The Town of Bedford carries out its public safety operations primarily through its Police Department, which among other things, presently provides:

Town of Bedford Police Department **General Orders Section 101-3**, “The Mission of the Police Department”, which reads in part:

“The principal mission of the Department is to preserve the rights of citizens and reduce fear in the community through the prevention of crime, protection of persons and property, the maintenance of order in public places, and to anticipate and respond to events that threaten public order and the protection of life and property.

It is essential that all members remember that in the execution of their duties, they act, not for themselves but, for the good of the public. They shall respect and protect the rights of individuals, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, or sexual orientation, and shall perform their services with honesty, zeal, courage, discretion, fidelity, and sound judgment.

Police Officers must seek and preserve public confidence by demonstrating impartial service to law and by offering services and trust to all members of the public.”

6. In carrying out such work, the Police Department and any other departments of the Town of Bedford will not inquire about an individual’s immigration status, especially recognizing that to do so may undermine the essential need to respond to victims reporting crimes or injuries and to encourage residents to summon help when needed.
7. The Town will coordinate with other public safety agencies, including federal law enforcement authorities, to apprehend any individual, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender orientation, gender identity, national origin or immigration status, for which probable cause exists that such individual threatens the safety of our community.
8. The Town Board will disseminate and publicize this resolution throughout the Town, including translating this resolution to Spanish and providing it to the Latino community.