

Resolution No. 2020-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ELIZABETHTOWN IN RESPONSE TO AND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE DEMANDING RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND ACTION

WHEREAS, we are a nation in crisis – not just of a recent global pandemic, but also of a documented history of racially unjust systems and institutions that originated in slavery and continue today in our institutions, our healthcare systems, economics and business, our prisons, and our communities.

WHEREAS, national and international protests and demonstrations are demanding that elected officials take action to address the scourge of institutionalized racism and white supremacy that allowed the killing of George Floyd in police custody and Ahmaud Arbery while out on a run, among others.

WHEREAS, local organizers have stood with community members and regional organizations demanding action from their local elected officials – including this Council – to denounce white supremacy in all its forms. This action will require us to look at ourselves, including the systems we have inherited, sustained, or created, and to engage in challenging and important conversations with our community, with our regional partners, and with our police.

WHEREAS, the Elizabethtown Borough Council – the elected body entrusted with policy making and fiduciary responsibility for the Borough of Elizabethtown – should and must respond to demands from the public, join them in shared efforts to move our community forward, and set in motion a plan for meaningful dialog and action in Elizabethtown.

WHEREAS, while the Borough Council had directed the police chief to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our operations and our policing long before the current tragedies emphasized the national conversation, this resolution is intended to affirm our commitment both to continuing that work and to building a safe, equitable, and just Elizabethtown.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Elizabethtown Borough Council commits to setting a course towards listening to our residents, discussing their pain openly and honestly, and improving our approach to public safety, policing, equity, and investing in our community.

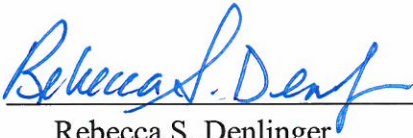
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council will make a commitment to add a section to regular public meeting agendas specifically focused on “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives” when appropriate. During this agenda item, we and the public will receive updates on various initiatives, discuss items requiring action by Council in the future, and take action on items before Council that move us closer to being a safer, more equitable, and more just Elizabethtown.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we fully support the men and women of the Elizabethtown Police Department and that we are proud of the fact that our police officers are at the forefront of working diligently to preserve and improve their relationship with the entire community, regardless of race, creed, gender or affinity. We further direct the police chief to contribute to the public safety and police reform efforts under consideration by the Pennsylvania State Legislature. While we work towards positive improvements in Elizabethtown, many reforms require action by the Commonwealth to become a reality. Just as action is being demanded of us, we demand action of our legislators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because the work of equity, racial and social justice, and safety will never be fully resolved, we pledge to work tirelessly and with full commitment, recognizing our own shortcomings and biases and to seek input from those who can guide us.

DULY ADOPTED this 18th day of June 2020, by the Borough of Elizabethtown in lawful session duly assembled.

ELIZABETHTOWN BOROUGH

ATTEST: 
Rebecca S. Denlinger
Borough Secretary

BY: 
Marc Hershey
Borough Council President

[BOROUGH SEAL]