



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
DEI COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/14/2024

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: November 6, 2024

TO: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission

FROM: Katy Nomura, Assistant Town Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss a Potential Restrictive Covenant Redaction Project (Work Plan Item Regarding Developing a Community Learning Opportunity on Historic Inequities and Developing Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness Training Goal B, Items 3.a. and b. and Work Plan Item Regarding Annual Communications Campaign Goal D, Item 1.a).

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss a potential Restrictive Covenant Redaction Project (Work Plan Item Regarding Developing a Community Learning Opportunity on Historic Inequities and Developing Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness Training Goal B, Items 3.a. and b. and Work Plan Item Regarding Annual Communications Campaign Goal D, Item 1.a).

REMARKS:

On June 13, 2024, the DEI Commission discussed putting together the framework for a community education campaign regarding how to have restrictive covenants redacted from property title documents. This project overlaps with the Commission's work plan items regarding a community learning opportunity and also a communications campaign.

On July 11, 2024, the Commission discussed preliminary information regarding the proposed project including the Santa Clara County Restrictive Covenant Modification Program. The Commission discussed having the Housing ad hoc working group made up of Chair Yamate, Commissioner Lo, and Commissioner Kane continue to gather information.

On August 8, 2024, the DEI Commission discussed three prongs to the Commission's potential restrictive covenant redaction project:

- A recommendation to the Town Council that the Town launch a webpage to educate the Los Gatos community regarding what restrictive covenants are, how to check property records for them, and how to get them redacted through Santa Clara County;
- A recommendation that the Town Council approve a proclamation acknowledging and repudiating restrictive covenants; and

PREPARED BY: Katy Nomura
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- A recommendation to the Town Council that the Town retain copies of the restrictive covenants found in Los Gatos for historical records purposes. **To Note: The Los Gatos Library currently has historical housing files for properties in Town. If community members were to submit copies of restrictive covenants from their properties, the Library has the capability to add them to those housing files for archiving purposes.

On September 12, 2024, the DEI Commission continued its discussion and assigned the ad hoc working group to continue its work on this topic.

On October 10, 2024, Chair Yamate submitted the revised proposal for the public education effort regarding restrictive covenants in and the outline of a potential recommendation to the Town Council in Attachment 2 for the full Commission's consideration. The Commission recommended that Council consider a six-month pilot and approve a proclamation repudiating the use of racially or other discriminatory restrictive covenants.

For this item, Chair Yamate has submitted a revised public education proposal for the proposed project for the Commission's consideration (Attachment 1). The Chair requests that the Commission focus on the redline changes.

Staff looks forward to the Commission's discussion.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Revised Public Education Proposal