



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5703
June 9, 2020
Special Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5703: Renewed Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Proclamation No. 252	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Proclaim the City Council's continuing commitment to be an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias against individuals because of race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion, and urge all members and residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Kirsten Taylor, Sr. Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Benson Wong Dave Rosenbaum Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 252 – Renewed Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

The inhumane treatment and tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota provides yet another example of the work remaining to be done across the country in the area of combating racism. While the City recognizes that this tragedy highlights law enforcement, we also recognize that such issues go far beyond the criminal justice system.

In light of the recent protests, the City Council joins with those who wish to make meaningful changes, and to proclaim a renewed commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in Mercer island. Conduct that inflicts emotional, mental or physical harm against individuals because of their race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or religion, has no place in our community and country. The Council recognizes that a more diverse community makes Mercer Island a stronger and healthier community.

While Mercer Island recently was named the “Fourth Safest City in Washington State” by SafeWise, and while we appreciate all the continued efforts of the Police and Fire personnel to keep the City safe, the Council and City are committed to ensuring that all members of the community feel this safety in equal measure.

The Council also acknowledges the anger and frustration that many feel over recent incidents and support the rights of citizens for peaceful protest as a means of advocating for change. Council, staff and law enforcement personnel in particular are committed to law enforcement practices and regular training that respect the life and rights of every individual. We are committed to exploring additional ways to make Mercer Island a more diverse and inclusive environment in which everyone feels welcome and respected.

The City of Mercer Island Proclamation joins many neighboring cities in rejecting racially-based bias, harassment, and hate crimes, avows that the City will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, and denounces all COVID-19 related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race (the FBI recently reported a surge nationally in hate crimes against Asian Americans and over 30% of Americans state in a recent poll that they have witnessed some form of COVID-19 related bias against Asians).

Community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes are encouraged to call 911 in emergency circumstances, and/or to report the incident to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (Toll-free 1-800-233-3247) or the King County Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500.

RECOMMENDATION

Proclaim the City Council’s continuing commitment to be an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias against individuals because of race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion, and urge all members and residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.