

**CITY OF REDMOND
RESOLUTION NO. 1534**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
REDMOND, WASHINGTON, CONDEMNING HATE BY APPWW
AND AFFIRMING REDMOND VALUES OF INCLUSION

WHEREAS On January 17, 2017, the City Council passed a resolution affirming our commitment to cultural inclusion in all city operations, recognizing that diversity of all backgrounds of people in our community makes us richer and stronger, and pledging to continue adopting policies that improve our culture of inclusion; and

Commented [CDX1]: Clause 1

WHEREAS on April 20, 2020, the Mayor and Council passed a resolution affirming our commitment to oppose hate, discrimination, bias, and bigotry; and

Commented [CDX2]: Clause 2

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond is committed to cultural inclusiveness and equal treatment of all community members, and has urged other local jurisdictions and the State of Washington to take similar action to support and advance these principles; and

Commented [CDX3]: Clause 3

WHEREAS, hate crimes have been too high nationally and locally, including anti-Muslim threats, discrimination, and attacks even in the City of Redmond, putting the safety and security of Redmond residents at risk; and

Commented [CDX4]: Clause 4

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2020, over 100 local and national organizations issued a [Public Statement](#) with supporting [documentation](#) about the anti-Muslim hate promoted by the group "Alliance for Persecuted People Worldwide" (APPWW) and its leaders; and

Commented [CDX5]: Clause 5

WHEREAS, the anti-Muslim bigotry that APPWW and/or its leaders have promoted include Islamophobic speech against a Redmond Councilmember who is Muslim, promoting the boycott of Muslim businesses, and providing a platform for those with documented anti-Muslim views to speak at their events; and

Commented [CDX6]: Clause 6

WHEREAS, such anti-Muslim views and positions do not align with the values or views of the City of Redmond, the Council or the Mayor; and

Commented [CDX7]: Clause 7

WHEREAS, over 160 individuals have signed on to condemn the hate promoted by APPWW, including elected officials such as King County Executive Dow Constantine and some of our Redmond City Councilmembers; and

Commented [CDX8]: Clause 8

WHEREAS, the group APPWW presented to the City Council on March 3, 2020 during the "Items from the Audience" portion, seeking support, sponsorship, and funding from the City of Redmond; and

Commented [CDX9]: Clause 9

WHEREAS, the Council President participated and spoke as a Redmond City Councilmember in an event APPWW held on July 12, 2020, entitled "Bridging the Racial Divide," hoping to learn from community leaders about ways to support racial justice and not intending in any way to support anti-Muslim views; and

Commented [CDX10]: Clause 10

WHEREAS, community members have called on the Mayor, Council, and City through public comment on August 4, 2020 to take action condemning the documented hate promoted by APPWW, affirming that no funds or support will be provided to such groups, and including an apology from Council President for her participation in an event by a group that promotes hate; and

Commented [CDX11]: Clause 11

WHEREAS, the Mayor affirmed during the August 4 Council meeting that no funding or support has been provided to APPWW, and that presentation from the public through "Items from the Audience" does not constitute an endorsement by the City of such views or groups; and

Commented [CDX12]: Clause 12

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council received over 300 emails from community members in one week urging the Mayor and Council to condemn the documented hate promoted by APPWW, affirm that no funds or support will be provided to such groups, and include an apology from Council President for her participation in an event by a group that promotes hate; and

Commented [CDX13]: Clause 13

WHEREAS, the comments received by the City reflect a broad mix of groups from our diverse community representing Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Dalits, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, atheists/agnostics, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities, immigrants/refugees, and more; and

Commented [CDX14]: Clause 14

WHEREAS, the Council discussed the requests from the community during a Study Session on August 11, 2020; and

Commented [CDX15]: Clause 15

WHEREAS, Council President was not present during the August 4 Council meeting but was present at the August 11 Study Session where she read a statement responding to the community concerns about APPWW and her involvement and highlighting her support for the Muslim community ([available here](#)); and

Commented [CDX16]: Clause 16

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hear the concerns of community members that the promotion of hate in our community creates an atmosphere for hate crimes and harassment to occur, putting at risk the safety and security of residents as well as our only Muslim Councilmember; and

Commented [CDX17]: Clause 17

WHEREAS, the promotion of hate and harassment has no place in the City of Redmond, which has adopted a "Welcoming City" resolution.

Commented [CDX18]: Clause 18

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Redmond is committed to building a more inclusive community. We denounce all forms of hate, bigotry and harassment based on race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or socio-economic status. This includes Islamophobia by any group or individual, including the hateful anti-Muslim rhetoric and conduct promoted by APPWW and its leaders.

2. We pledge to use City resources towards equity and inclusion, and to not engage, support, endorse, fund, or partner with organizations, groups, or individuals with a documented history of promoting hate, bigotry or harassment based on race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or socio-economic status. This includes a commitment to not fund or support groups that promote Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate speech such as APPWW.

We promote interfaith education and building understanding between our diverse community. This includes supporting initiatives and efforts that encourage learning facts about Islam/Muslims rather than myths and misconceptions, such as the national #FactsOverFear Campaign, <https://factsoverfear.org/>

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this ____ day of _____, 2020.

APPROVED:

ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.