

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-227**

**WHEREAS**, enshrined in every fiber of our country from the Declaration of Independence to the present is the principal that every man, woman and child is endowed by their Creator with the inalienable right to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness; and

**WHEREAS**, hatred, discrimination, and violence is incompatible with this promise, our national character, and the character and community of the Township of Cranford; and

**WHEREAS**, this promise is far too often honored in the breach, when at times like the present we are confronted as both a nation and a community with the reality that too many Americans – our friends, neighbors, and colleagues – are confronted daily with hatred, discrimination and violence based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, these unprovoked and intentional acts of hatred and violence represent a blatant disregard for the dignity and sanctity of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 6 of the New Jersey Constitution guarantee citizens of this country and state the inalienable right to freely speak, write, debate, discuss and publish ideas, opinions, and sentiments on all subjects without government abridgement, interference or censorship; and

**WHEREAS**, the inalienable right to freedom of speech is not unlimited and carries with it the responsibility to exercise that right in ways compatible with the first principal of this Nation and this Community, that every man, woman and child, is entitled to be free from discrimination, hatred, and violence based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford is aware of the pernicious effect social media platforms can play in facilitating discrimination, hate-speech, and racism, individually and in groups organized around divisive commentary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee condemns, in the strongest terms, hatred, violence, and rhetoric that constitutes race, ethnic, religious, gender, or sexual orientation discrimination as incompatible with the values of the Cranford community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford's social media policy for municipal employees prohibits, consistent with the First Amendment, municipal employee use of social media to engage in and support unlawful discrimination, hatred and violence based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, New Jersey that the Township Committee opposes and

condemns the hatred, violence, and rhetoric that constitutes racism, ethnic, religious, or sexual orientation discrimination as incompatible with the values of the Cranford community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee disavows and condemns the use of the Township of Cranford's name, and any association with Cranford, by individuals and social media groups, including the Facebook Group Cranford Uncensored, that target and harass individuals based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held June 9, 2020.

Date:

---

Patricia Donahue, RMC  
Township Clerk

Recorded Vote:

Patrick F. Giblin  
Kathleen Prunty  
Thomas Hannen, Jr.  
Jean-Albert Maisonneuve  
Mary O'Connor