

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD, CT
AS A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE TOWN, 2017**

This resolution affirms that the Town of West Hartford, its officials and government, will continue to uphold human rights and the core values of compassion, inclusivity and equity. We stand ready to protect the rights of all our residents and those who wish to call our town their home. West Hartford will not provide assistance or resources to implement programs or initiatives that discriminate on the basis of immigration status, national origin or citizenship status, race, ethnicity, religion, gender/sexual orientation or disability.

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford, Connecticut, is proud to be a community that values diversity and has long been attractive to people from a wide variety of immigrant groups; and

WHEREAS, The Town of West Hartford remains committed to maintaining its core values and dedication to refugee and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of federal immigration laws is the responsibility of federal government not local law enforcement agencies and federal law does not require local law enforcement or other local service providers to inquire into an individual's immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the threat of deportation or prosecution for no reason other than immigration status may discourage residents without legal immigration status or who have family members or friends without legal immigration status from reporting crimes or injuries, cooperating in investigations, seeking opportunities for their children living in this community or summoning help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford is committed to fulfilling the promise of the Bill of Rights for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, disability or other protected status; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN 2017 that the Town of West Hartford:

Condemns violence and hate speech, affirms the religious pluralism of the United States and expresses solidarity with Muslims and all those targeted for their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability or other protected status;

Require through a **Town Ordinance** that local officials, institutions, employees and law enforcement:

Refrain from monitoring individuals because of their political expression or from surveilling political expression or political organizations, absent reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or is likely to be committed;

Refrain from stopping individuals for investigation or investigating individuals, because of their perceived race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, or disability unless there is reasonable suspicion, relevant to the locality and timeframe, that links a person with a particular characteristic described in this subsection to a crime that has been committed or is likely to be committed in the Town of West Hartford;

Refrain from surveillance of any house of worship, absent reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed or is likely to be committed;

Refrain from monitoring or registering individuals, or assisting in such activities, or providing any resources or infrastructure to support such activities, when such monitoring or registration is based upon those individuals' religious views or identities;

Refrain from enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of federal initiatives that target particular residents on the basis of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, or disability;

Refrain from assisting in the enforcement of federal immigration issues or Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers; and

Affirm the value of providing high-quality diversity training and education, developed and implemented in partnership with representatives of diverse communities, for public school teachers, librarians and administrators and for law enforcement officers;

Support regular programs within the Town of West Hartford to strengthen relationships between the Town and its immigrant, refugee and Muslim communities; and

Establish an information and access portal to answer questions (FAQs) and direct services to immigrant, refugee and Muslim communities.