

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

Bainbridge Island Welcoming and Inclusive City Resolution

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, affirming that Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that respects the fundamental human dignity of all people.

WHEREAS, all people — including persons of all races, creeds, colors, national origins, sexes, sexual orientations, sexual identities, sexual expressions, mental abilities, and physical abilities — are respected and valued members of our community, and are vital to our shared health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming community where diverse people, families, and institutions thrive; and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island's inclusive culture and values enhance our cultural fabric, economic growth, and overall wellbeing for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, we remember our history, including the oppression of indigenous peoples and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and we vow as a community: Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let It Not Happen Again; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island was the first community in the United States during World War II where, under a dark cloud of racial prejudice, fear, and uncertainty, and a shameful lack of political leadership, Japanese Americans were wrongly exiled from the West Coast; yet the majority of the members of our community believed in fundamental constitutional rights and protections, stood by their friends and neighbors, and refused to succumb to bigotry and hatred; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island is committed to continuing to build an inclusive and safe community, where all persons are fully accepted, integrated, and protected; and

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between our native-born and foreign-born community members are crucial in encouraging and preserving Bainbridge Island's welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island encourages our businesses, civic groups, schools, government agencies, and other community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, beyond this resolution, to make Bainbridge Island a welcoming place for new residents from other countries, and an inclusive community for all people;

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island is a place of sanctuary for targeted communities and persecuted peoples; a City that opposes hate and bias and acts of intolerance committed against our

neighbors; and a City that vows to cultivate and support a culture of compassion, kindness, and protection; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

The City of Bainbridge Island is a Welcoming and Inclusive City that embraces all residents and visitors regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, sexual identity, sexual expression, mental ability, and physical ability; a City that strives for unity and harmony in our community; and a City that respects the essential human dignity of all people.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of February, 2017.

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of February, 2017.

By: _____
Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

By: _____
Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: February 3, 2017
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: February ____, 2017
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