



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN  
RESOLUTION 20-14  
THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN  
CIVIL DISCOURSE PLEDGE**

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Franklin is made up of individuals and businesses whose collective cultures and perspectives join to form a healthy community that prides itself on being a place that welcomes people, families and businesses from all walks of life;

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Franklin values all members of this community, including all religions, ancestries, and ethnicities, as well as people of any socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity;

**WHEREAS,** the Franklin Town Council wants to assure its residents and visitors that it is a place that celebrates diversity and inclusion and will not tolerate any discrimination prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred, bullying, or violence towards any person or business within our community;

**WHEREAS,** The Franklin Town Council recognizes that with the rapid ascent of modern technology, including all forms of social media, the internet and television, that new challenges are before all of us; and that the individual Councilors need to set a high standard for civil discourse by providing an environment of trust and honesty with residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** The Franklin Town Council encourages all residents and visitors to celebrate and practice civility, and to respect the diversity of each other's backgrounds and to learn from one another.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Town Council of the Town of Franklin that:

**Section 1.** The Franklin Town Council will lead by example in promoting civility and respect for all citizens and businesses within the Town of Franklin in utilizing any means of contact with the general public, including but not limited to in-person constituent services, on various social media channels, and while conducting formal business as outlined in the Franklin Home Rule Charter and Franklin Town Council Procedures Manual;

**Section 2.** The Franklin Town Council will have a renewed focus on following the appropriate governmental structures and processes (i.e. chain of command) when responding to citizen or employee feedback as outlined in our Town Charter, Town bylaws, Town Administrative procedures or Massachusetts General Laws, where applicable;

**Section 3.** The Franklin Town Council recognizes that individual Councilor(s)'

participation on various social media channels regarding official Town business is possibly an infraction of the State's Open Meeting Law statute;

**Section 4.** The Franklin Town Council calls upon all city departments, employees, and all who live, work, or visit Franklin to speak out against acts of bullying, discrimination, and hate violence, while also standing up for those who are targeted for such acts. The Town shall exercise all reasonable efforts to ensure that all Town bylaws and administrative policies reflect the most current federal and state laws and employees shall follow the appropriate chain of command as outlined in the most recent approved town policies;

**Section 5.** The Franklin Town Council recognizes that our community is proud to stand as a welcoming and accepting community to all and will act in appropriate ways to implement that standard across our community;

**Section 6.** The Franklin Town Council will oppose any attempts to undermine the safety, security, and rights of individual members of our community and encourages every citizen to do the same; and

**Section 7.** The Franklin Town Council emphatically rejects discrimination, harassment, bullying or any hate-based crimes and prejudice and bigotry in all forms, and takes this opportunity to reinforce our commitment to a diverse, supportive, and inclusive community.

This resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

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**DATED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**VOTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNANIMOUS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

**YES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSTAIN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ABSENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECUSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teresa M. Burr, CMC**  
**Town Clerk**

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**Glenn Jones, Clerk**  
**Franklin Town Council**