

## **RESOLUTION 2020-19**

### **A Resolution Recognizing and Supporting the Goshen City Police And Commitment to the Community**

WHEREAS, law and order in any community must be a collaboration between the residents of that community and the law enforcement officers in the department that serves the community;

WHEREAS, Officers of the Goshen Police Department work to build relationships with residents of Goshen, and connect with the community of Goshen by building relationships with our youth through our schools, with their parents by participating in neighborhood associations, and with our community as a whole through a multitude of different events;

WHEREAS, the City of Goshen is recognized in a report by the Police Executive Research Forum that the culture within the Goshen Police Department is different than some other departments in that they are more focused on the development of relationships with members of the community.

WHEREAS, the City of Goshen Board of Public Works & Safety (BOW) have reviewed, updated and approved all policies in the Goshen Police department in 2019, in public meetings. Goshen Police Department Policies will be reviewed yearly by the Police Department and the BOW and revised to ensure that they are up-to-date and appropriate in our changing world;

WHEREAS, law enforcement departments across our country have come under scrutiny during 2020, due to certain law enforcement officers' use of force;

WHEREAS, the City of Goshen Board of Public Works & Safety review discipline of Goshen Police Department Officers that involve major violations of Department Policies in transparent, public hearings;

WHEREAS, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman and Chiefs Wade Branson and Jose Miller have placed high importance of diversifying our local police department so that the City's Department reflects the community, the Department has seen significant results along these lines over the last 5 years, and we will continue to work towards our goal of our department more fully representing those we serve;

WHEREAS, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, the Goshen City Council and Goshen Police Department do not stand for and will not tolerate racism, and have placed high priority on helping our community find a way to acknowledge our differences, work through our issues and build understanding and respect towards one another;

WHEREAS, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman consistently reminds the community, “Our diversity is our greatest asset and we must find more ways to celebrate it - we are stronger together than we are apart;”

WHEREAS, the Goshen City Council in 2015 passed Resolution 2015-08 acknowledging Goshen’s dark past of being a Sundown Town, by acknowledging the racist and exclusionary aspects of Goshen’s “sundown town” history, along with the pain and suffering that these practices caused; resolved to follow the example and counsel of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by examining our own hearts today, then seeking to eliminate from our thoughts, words, and actions all racism, prejudice, and discrimination—replacing those negative characteristics with the positive attributes of acceptance, harmony, and a spirit of cooperation; committed to being an uncommonly great community through our advocacy for equality and justice for all; pledged to work toward the common good in building a community where people of all races and cultural backgrounds are welcome to live and prosper; and summarized this resolution in nine words: *It happened, it was wrong, it’s a new day;*

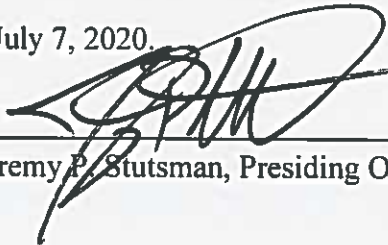
WHEREAS, Goshen City Government is committed to reviewing any complaints of racism or abusive of force accusations, and is committed to holding accountable any officers that have committed these acts and ensuring that such officers face consequences appropriate for their actions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Goshen City Council and City Administration supports the efforts of the men and women of the Goshen Police Department to stay connected to our community and to fight crime in a way that keeps our community safe yet does not place the officers or public in further danger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Goshen City Council, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, and the Goshen Police Department remain steadfast in their desire to serve this community in a way that supports inclusivity and diversity, and allows all people to live together with respect and understanding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Goshen will continue community conversations through Town Hall meetings and our Community Relations Commission, in a manner consistent with restrictions placed on gathering due to COVID-19 and when it is safe and healthy to bring people together again, to promote understanding and help identify areas we can all improve.

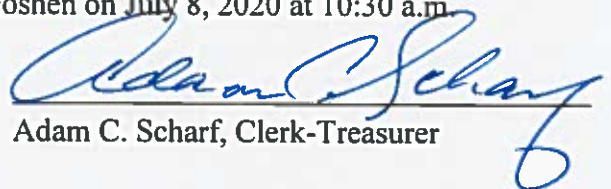
PASSED by the Goshen Common Council on July 7, 2020.

  
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Jeremy P. Stutsman, Presiding Officer

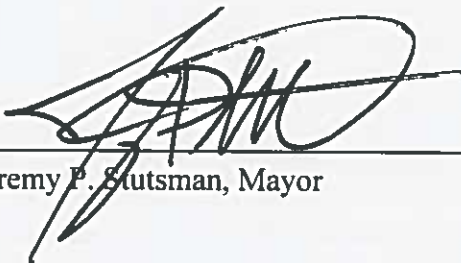
ATTEST:

  
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Adam C. Scharf, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on July 8, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

  
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Adam C. Scharf, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED and ADOPTED on July 8, 2020.

  
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Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor