



STAFF REPORT

Date: January 10, 2017
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Bryan Montgomery, City Manager 
SUBJECT: Letter from the City Council Affirming the Principles of You, Me, We = Oakley!

Background

At the December 13, 2016 City Council Meeting, Mayor Sue Higgins requested that a letter be prepared for the City Council to consider signing to formally reaffirm the principles outlined in the You, Me, We = Oakley! pledge. <http://www.youmeweoakley.org/sign-oakleys-welcoming-pledge>

You, Me, We = Oakley! Program (YMWO) is a grant-funded collaborative effort of the City, church congregations, local non-profits, the school districts and youth representatives. YMWO aims to create opportunities for Oakley's diverse residents to come together and better understand one another, appreciate each other's stories and recognize their common desire to build a stronger, safer and more vibrant community.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council approve and agree to sign the letter affirming the welcoming principles of You, Me, We = Oakley! and its corresponding welcoming pledge.

Attachment

1. Proposed Letter

CITY COUNCIL
Sue Higgins, *Mayor*
Randy Pope, *Vice-Mayor*
Claire Alaura
Doug Hardcastle
Kevin Romick



CITY HALL
3231 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561
925.625.7000 tel
925.625.9859 fax
www.ci.oakley.ca.us

January 11, 2017

An Open Letter to the Oakley Community:

The City of Oakley is a vibrant and diverse community, and has been recognized as a model of how people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds can live and work together in peace and harmony. The embodiment of this community mindset is found in the "Welcoming Pledge" of the You, Me, We = Oakley! Program.

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As a matter of official public policy, the City of Oakley has zero tolerance of prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred and violence. We strongly encourage anyone who has experienced an act of hate to report the incident immediately to the Oakley Police Department at 925-625-8060. We commit that all incidents will be thoroughly investigated and addressed. Additionally, we encourage all residents to adhere to the YMWO Welcoming Pledge:

1. I have a shared responsibility to treat ALL our neighbors with dignity and respect that they deserve as a member of our community.
2. I reject the use of exclusionary or de-humanizing language; this includes recognizing and understanding how stereotypes harm our community.
3. I will challenge common myths and stereotypes that only serve to divide our community.
4. I will treat others the way I would like to be treated.
5. I will try to put myself in someone else's shoes in order to understand their point of view.
6. I will develop an understanding of cultures other than my own.
7. I will not judge, nor discriminate, others without first attempting to get to know them and their story.

8. I, as a member of the Oakley community, will acknowledge that everyone has unique qualities which contribute to our community and make this the beautiful City it is today.
9. I commit to ensuring that any community activities that I am involved in will be inclusive and inviting to all community members.
10. I will make sure to keep an open mind and an open heart in order to be accepting of all who visit, live, work and play in the great City of Oakley.

Now more than ever, we must all commit to the universal "golden rule," to treat others as you would like to be treated; and, we call on our Oakley community to continue the long tradition of tolerance and respect for people of all religious and cultural backgrounds, so that all Oakley residents feel accepted and safe in our community.

Respectfully,

Sue Higgins, Mayor

Randy Pope, Vice Mayor

Claire Alaura, Councilmember

Doug Hardcastle, Councilmember

Kevin Romick, Councilmember