

RESOLUTION
On
Inclusive Communities: A Vision For Common Ground

WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community; and

WHEREAS, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind; and

WHEREAS, the histories of our world, our nation, our state, and our community have been marred by acts which have unjustifiably excluded identifiable groups of people; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials can and should lead the way forward in making inclusiveness a priority in America's counties, cities, and towns; and

WHEREAS, human rights education is a key to changing attitudes and behavior and to promoting respect for diversity in our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Summit County adopts the following vision as a guide to policy formation and public action:

We envision a local culture that cherishes every person and family in our community and values the contributions that everyone can make. This culture welcomes all efforts to ensure health, security, empowerment, and fulfillment. We mourn past and present discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status, veteran status, political affiliation, marital status, disability, poverty, and all other classifications which have been used to oppress. And we envision a future where unique characteristics and perspectives are treasured and welcomed.

We envision a culture where appreciation of our differences is balanced with a conviction of our common ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is a culture which embraces inclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Summit County hereby reaffirms our commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community, pledges active efforts to seek to achieve that goal, and urges all residents of Summit County to join together to support this effort.