June 11, 2020

ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS
STRONGER TOGETHER

Mayor Marylou Pauly
and City of Issaquah Councilmembers
PO Box 1307
Issaquah WA 98027

Dear Mayor Pauly and members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Issaquah Highlands Council I want to share that **we believe Black lives matter**.

The mission of Highlands Council is to foster the development of a vibrant and caring community committed to service, diversity, stewardship and well-being. The Highlands Council's assurances to the community include

- providing opportunities for collaboration between public and private interests
- providing all stakeholders with a voice in community matters
- being proactive in addressing community needs
- AND valuing and promoting diversity and fostering a sense of inclusiveness in Issaquah Highlands

Highlands Council stands with the citizens of Issaquah who have experienced marginalization and discrimination. In recent days we have been made aware of overt acts of racism in our community - dog waste thrown at the door of our Chinese neighbors, violence and racial slurs used against Black community members. Highlands Council denounces these actions and is committed to work against racism and injustice not only in this moment, but ongoing, in partnership with the many Issaquah Highlands neighbors that share the same position, and with community partner organizations who have experience promoting social justice and combating racism.

This year Highlands Council will launch our first celebration of Juneteenth, Emancipation Day. Juneteenth recognizes the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. *Our efforts are small*, *but sincerely heartfelt*. We have created a webpage at IssaquahHighlands.com with a downloadable Black Lives Matter image for our community to print and place in the window of their home or place of business in solidarity. We have a link to resources about Juneteenth for citizens to learn more about this moment in our nation's history. And we have also provided a link for neighbors to share their stories, good and bad, related to race relations in Issaquah Highlands, and make suggestions about how Highlands Council can best support our neighbors and contribute to bringing social justice to the greater community of which we are a part.

We are stronger together,
Christy Garrard

2550 NE Park Drive, Issaquah WA 98029 425-507-1107

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