

## OFFICE of the FIRST SELECTMAN

# *Proclamation*

### Removal of the Racism Public Health Crisis issued on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**WHEREAS**, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the First Selectman of Colchester issued a proclamation that unfairly and falsely came to "assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our town" without facts or data to back said assertion;

**WHEREAS**, through proclamation insinuated that the town of Colchester is a racist community or one where racism has been allowed to cultivate to the point where it is deemed a public health crisis - this without facts or data to back said assertion;

**WHEREAS**, on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion findings were presented to the Board of Selectmen and concluded that institutionalized racism does not exist in Colchester;

**WHEREAS**, state data on Colchester hate crimes has shown that there have been zero hate crimes in the last five years or as long as the state has cataloged hate crimes;

**WHEREAS**, proclamations intended to label and divide will be strongly condemned;

**WHEREAS**, Colchester has a long history of accepting people of all backgrounds including (but not limited to): race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality;

**WHEREAS**, the newly elected Bisbikos Administration believes racism has no place in Colchester;

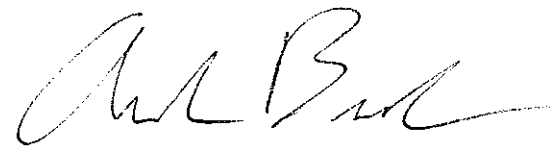
**WHEREAS**, the newly elected Bisbikos Administration will support diversity and inclusion through (but not limited to): a review of HR policies and practices at town hall, reaching out to diverse communities, ensuring that all our employees go through sensitivity training, and meeting our state goals on affordable housing;

**WHEREAS**, our community lives by the immortal words of Martin Luther King Jr. where we “judge a man not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character.” This quote is extended to all backgrounds including (but not limited to): race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on behalf of the town of Colchester, Colchester be it resolved, I do commit to

- 1) Eliminate the Racism Public Health Crisis Proclamation that was officially issued on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by the previous administration;
- 2) Place this Proclamation, issued on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in its place.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Bisbikos', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Andreas Bisbikos**  
**First Selectman**