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From: OLGA ZARGOS <zargos@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 5:16 PM

To: boardofselectmen <boardofselectmen@wiltonct.org>

Cc: Wilton Pride <wiltonpride@gmail.com>

Subject: Wilton Pride Proclamation and the Re-issuance of the Civility Respect and Understanding Proclamation of 2017

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Dear Board of Selectmen/Selectpersons,

My name is Olga Zargos-Traub and I reside at 50 Wicks End Lane in Wilton. I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a conflict and therefore, I send this email to be included in the public comments section regarding the Pride Proclamation.

First and foremost, I wholeheartedly support the Wilton Pride's position and hope that you seriously take into consideration how neighboring towns have addressed this issue and that you similarly adopt a specific Wilton Pride Proclamation.

With regard to the re-issuance of the Civility Respect and Understanding Proclamation of 2017 in lieu of establishing a new specific Wilton Pride Proclamation, I have the following comments:

* While I commend the painstaking efforts the Board of Selectpersons went through in 2017 to establish such a proclamation, it was done and rightly so because the rhetoric of our social and political discourse was in crisis at that time. This uncivil rhetoric was one that we had not seen and/or heard in our daily lives, socially or politically ever. It was toxic and your 2017 Proclamation was necessary to remind people how important it was to co-exist civilly in a democracy regardless of one's opinion.

* We again are in a crisis, however, this one is not only about discourse, but about rhetoric in our society that is resulting in hate crimes and murder of LGBTQ+

people, rhetoric that rejects young people and adults because of who they love and how they live. And although places like Colorado Springs are far from Wilton, CT, the anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and hate is pervasive, and you must realize that it affects families, children and adults in our small tight knit community in Wilton. As our leaders and public servants, we hope that you realize this crisis and embrace the necessity of going further than to just "strive to be civil, respectful and understanding" but rather to proclaim and acknowledge publicly the human rights of all people regardless of how they live their lives and who they love in Wilton, CT. You can no longer stay silent. A specific Wilton Pride is a necessity to our community.

Thank you for your courtesy and your service.