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Date: January 5, 2023 at 10:44:31 PM EST
To: boardofselectmen <boardofselectmen@wiltonct.org>
Cc: "Rochester, Jacqueline" <jacqueline.rochester@wiltonct.org>
Subject: Thoughts for January discussion about the Board of Selectmen CRU Proclamation

All,

I was thinking about the topic of proclamation - and thought I would send out these preliminary thoughts and not wait until our January discussion

People want a proclamation to indicate something is really important and want an official imprimatur to add something official to mark approval or distinction

If we focus on the marking of approval or distinction, there are many initiatives and activities that easily fall within the bounds of the existing CRU proclamation. What is missing is making the recognition of those activities or accomplishments special, customized, and unique.

1) I like the fact that the current CRU proclamation is "timeless" and not tied to a specific group, event, or day in the calendar. It says this is who we are and how we work. (A tweak I would like to see is that it applies to the entire town government, not just to how the BOS does its work). But, the fact that it is timeless and broad means that it can apply to how Wilton works and its culture, and can apply at all times and in support of many different groups.

2) I think (and hope) that customized and unique can be done by BOS and First Selectwoman actions, and not require a proclamation for each event or activity. I would suggest three potential actions: a) In January of every other year, after the seating of the new BOS members, the BOS has an agenda item to discuss the CRU Proclamation, how it guides BOS (and individual BOS member) actions, and to have the new BOS member(s) sign the CRU Proclamation. b) At the first meeting of each month, the First Selectwoman adds an item to the BOS agenda noting key events/holidays and specifically mention how the celebration of the event/holiday, etc. is supported by the BOS/Town of Wilton and uses the CRU Proclamation as a key component indicating the town's support/acknowledgment. c) Members of the BOS attend the events - whenever possible - and speak about the importance of the event within the context of the CRU proclamation.

My hope/expectation is that this repetitive application of the CRU Proclamation strengthens the message and "living" of Wilton's approach to enhancing our town's culture of civility, respect, and inclusion.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't have a candid discussion about what other circumstances might be appropriate for a proclamation. I just think rather than create a new proclamation for each circumstance that fits within the message of the CRU Proclamation that we drive home the point that the CRU Proclamation is a core value of our town (I would add it also applies to our branding) and that is why each special occasion needs to be noted and celebrated.

To be continued in January at our January 9th meeting.

Best,

Ross Tartell
Wilton Board of Selectmen