

Barry, Wendi - Borough Clerk

From: BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE E-GOV WEBSITE <noreplies@egovlink.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Barry, Wendi - Borough Clerk
Subject: Submission: Council & Mayor (Entire Governing Body) (re: jeffrey feinberg)

This automated message was sent by the Borough of New Providence E-Gov web site. Do not reply to this message. Contact Cindy Reis for inquiries regarding this email.

A Borough of New Providence Action Line issue was submitted on 7/22/2020 3:36 PM.

Click the following link to view this Action Line Request:

ACTION LINE REQUEST DETAILS

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/22/2020 3:36 PM

TRACKING NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CATEGORY ID: 13649

CATEGORY TITLE: Council & Mayor (Entire Governing Body)

SUGGESTION/ISSUE: ...

Message:

Letter to NP Council regarding proposed resolution declaring systemic racism.

ACTION LINE REQUESTER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: jeffrey feinberg

BUSINESS:

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

PHONE:

FAX:

ADDRESS: 179 division avenue

summit [mailing address] NJ

07901

I've been following this very heated issue on the New Providence Community Facebook page from a small group of people who are demanding that the Council draft and pass a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter and essentially declaring that New Providence is a systemically racist community. I am deeply troubled by their position. I've lived in NP for almost thirty years. In that time, I have never seen any racism exhibited towards any group of people. Nor have my children seen any racism exhibited towards any schoolmates throughout their years in the school system. The only racism at issue here is this small but vocal group who want the town to officially declare, in essence, that all white people are racists whether they know it or not. In this country, we judge people on what they do, not on how they were born. As Martin Luther King Jr. so beautifully stated: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." This group is demanding that the NP Council judge a great number of us simply by "the color of our skin".

This group is tragically unaware that they are asking the council to pass a resolution filled with items that the council has no legal or statutory authority to declare. For example, the Council has no authority to declare a national health crisis. Worse though, a resolution close to what these people are demanding is very divisive and in itself inherently racist. The claim of "systemic racism" has no basis in fact; the statistics don't support the claim and no proof is ever offered. Systemic racism really has no meaning that can be specified and tested in the way that one tests hypotheses. It is absent factual support.

Asking a governmental body to declare all its "non-colored" citizens as perpetual racists is offensive beyond description and something the council should reject out of hand. As we have seen elsewhere in other cities, these demands are likely to not stop here. There will inevitably be a push for defunding or downsizing of our police force and a push to dramatically alter the school curriculum to one that further advances their political narrative. New Providence is an open and welcoming community with a very diverse population. The residents of this town should be judged by their character and their actions. I hope, for the good of the community, that the council will not allow themselves to be bullied.