

**RESOLUTION #21-73**  
**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENT PROTEST,**  
**INSURRECTION, HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATION**

**Whereas**, the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor supports and seeks to protect all its residents no matter their ethnicity, race, faith, sexual orientation, or gender; and

**Whereas**, as public servants, we have an even greater responsibility to speak out against discrimination and hatred; and

**Whereas**, the increase in violence and hate crimes has resulted in a rise in fear and instability within communities throughout the United States; and

**Whereas**, the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor supports and commits to calling out hate and discrimination and to helping promote our core American value that no one should be targeted or discriminated against; and

**Whereas** the United States has a troubled history of racism that includes slavery, the terror of lynch mobs, and segregation, which leaves our country with important work to accomplish;

**Whereas** peaceful protests are protected by the Constitution of the United States through an individual's First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, of peaceful assembly, and to petition the Government concerning grievances; and

**Whereas** a free society depends on the rule of law, which is the foundation for the preservation of public order, peace, and individual rights; and

**Whereas** several peaceful demonstrations throughout the United States have been exploited by violent extremists who have carried out acts of violence, insurrection on January 6, 2021, looting, destruction of business, and personal property, and loss of life, including the deliberate targeting of law enforcement officers; and

**Whereas** due to the actions of violent extremists, certain government functions have been temporarily closed, businesses have been forced to be shuttered, and livelihoods have been impacted; and

**Whereas** these acts of lawlessness take our Nation's focus away from a safe and civil dialogue on issues of importance including the peaceful exchange of power in our Nation;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor wholeheartedly condemn these acts of violence and all discrimination; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor supports the just and unbiased enforcement of the rule of law and the protection of innocent individuals against lawbreakers is an essential function of government at the local, State, and Federal levels; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor recommits to protecting all of the Township's citizens and families no matter their ethnicity, race, faith, sexual orientation, or gender; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Township of Vernon Council and Mayor is proud to stand with all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, and to stand against those who preach hate and incite violence.