

## Unity in the Community

### **Mission and Values:**

- We acknowledge the current state of affairs, which are:
  - Pandemic and the impact on the community
    - Distance learning for all students
    - Informing the community
    - Mental / Social health of the community (Quarantine)
  - Race Relations in the Country, Paramount
  - Challenges with perception of law enforcement
    - Community policing
    - Police brutality
  - Equality and equity in our community as it relates to Systemic Racism
    - Acknowledge the existence of racism in our community
  - Racial tensions among students
    - Perceptions or misperceptions of “Race Riots”
    - Systemic racism
    - 9<sup>th</sup> grade incidents
  - Ignorance towards racism in the community
  - It’s not always about race
  
- We recognize that, as stakeholders in this community, we need collectively to do our part to:
  - Bring people together
  - Keep Paramount attractive to younger generations
  - Stay informed, be accountable, with credible facts (no misinformation)
  - Develop programs to engage community in dialogue re: culture and ethnicity
  - Support our youth and model the spirit and behaviors that we want from them
    - Educate and inform (more experienced, seasoned) adults population on current issues
  - Bring the police closer to the community in a positive light
    - i.e. more friendly and approachable
    - BBQs, more community engagement at all levels, schools
    - Inclusive
  - Get people more civically engaged in local government issues
  - Discourage topics that distract from community issues
  - Hold ourselves accountable: government, residents, community members
  - Educate, communicate, and be accountable

- We want to focus the community's discussion on (Topics):
  - 1. General discussion that Racism Exists (August 22, 2020)**
    - a. Conversation on Systemic Racism
    - b. Education of COVID-19 and public health
    - c. How we Treat Each Other
      - i. Black on Black, Brown on Brown, and Inverse

***Future Topics and Dates to be Announced Soon***

- We desire to enable voices in our community from all backgrounds to share their experiences and thoughts in a respectful manner; come in to hear and listen (whether you agree or not).
- Through series' of community dialogue, we are committed to developing and implementing reasonable, long-term solutions.

(Guiding Principles on Next Page)

# Guiding Principles

## I. We welcome:

- Open and honest discussion
- New perspectives and all viewpoints that bring different ideas, views and beliefs that relate to improvement of our community
- Respectful and open dialogue
- Solutions to current challenges
- Participation from community members with a desire to be a part of positive change
- Constructive criticism/opinions and ideas that enhance our community
- Respectful feedback – supportive or critical

## II. We advocate/support:

- Partnership and relationship with our law enforcement
- Our Young People of all races and backgrounds
- Black Lives Matter
- Front Line Workers
- Our Teachers
- Our religious leaders
- Educational Youth Programs
- Ideas that engage in building creative programs to meet the community's needs for all citizens, youth and our seniors and those of disabilities
- A positive environment that will work for people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities in our community.
- Our civic leaders and law enforcement
- Developing and building coalitions to expand community partnerships
- Transparency in all our dialogue and the respectful expressions of concerns to establish a cohesiveness that encourages unity in our community
- Positive change and solutions that enhances the development of the livelihood of our community

## III. We respect:

- Each other's voices and opinions – critical and supportive
- Civic Engagement and Leaders
- Law Enforcement
- Needs of business owners
- And appreciate the opinions of our civic Leaders, teachers, Law Enforcement, Seniors, our youth and members of our community taking ownership

## IV. We do not tolerate:

- Racism in all its forms- Black/ White; Brown/ Black

- Racial slurs or remarks in any form
- Hate Speech
- Political Grandstanding
- Personal attacks on anyone
- Individuals not adhering to the proposed agenda topics
- Heckling, profanity, swearing or threatening remarks
- Derogatory remarks toward another person or their family
- Harassment of any kind
- Bullying and/or disparaging comments of any individual
- Discussions on personal/individual issues or pet peeves

**V. We denounce:**

- Hate groups and hate speech
- Abusive Law Enforcement Officers and those that support them
- Morally bankrupt leaders
- Anyone that to use this opportunity for Unity as a platform to establish a negative arena or demean its purpose
- Anyone or group that is insincere and intent on sabotaging or undermining the credibility of leadership in any form for political or other gain

**VI. We strive to achieve:**

- Unity in our Community
- Open dialogue where everyone communicates respectfully. This build trust and solidarity
- Gaining a better understanding of race, law enforcement, community relations
- An appreciation for all people of all races and the challenges they face
- People working together to make things better for us all
- A safe environment for all Paramount Residents
- A forum for ongoing discussions of core values which will help to promote a reinvigorated city reimagined
- A sense of community involvement that builds trust and confidence in the integrity of all that desires to engage in refining the community's needs
- A collective advocacy to encourage teachers, parents and the zeal of youth to be a part of developing ideas that help to provide opportunities for cultivating cohesive growth and the development of better unity in our schools
- A rich collection of opinions and positons dedicated on implementing positive ways to further improve our community... "WHEN WE KNOW BETTER – WE DO BETTER".
- A cohesive understanding of issues/concerns voiced for a broader understanding of each other in all aspects
- Workable solutions to voiced concerns