June 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Norco Community:

One thing that the first half of 2020 has taught us is that community is more important than ever, and as we’ve stayed close to home in recent months, we’ve recognized that our strength is derived from our commonalities and our differences. Because Norco is surprisingly diverse, our residents have had widely divergent reactions to the outpouring of grief, anger and demand for change that has recently swept the nation. While individuals in our community are entitled to their reactions, the City of Norco, as an organization, is unified in its commitment to inclusion, equality and justice.

Norco was founded the same year President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in the spirit of that landmark legislation we must attain equality and justice today. This should inspire us all to work together to create an inclusive community that is committed to confronting discrimination, injustice and violence.

While many cities, like Norco, suffer from some unfavorable perceptions, the City of Norco strives to earn a reputation as a community that universally embraces equality and justice. The City of Norco and the members of the Norco City Council do not and will not tolerate acts of racism, oppression, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or violence toward another individual. We all come from different backgrounds and our world views were shaped by different life experiences, but as a City Council we are united in our commitment to uphold these values and hear the voices of those who feel they are not represented or protected.

As its first contract city, the City of Norco is honored to be protected by the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department. We have never doubted that the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department maintains respect for all members of our diverse community, and we remain confident in that agency’s commitment and ability to serve and protect the rights of all residents equally.

The City of Norco is also proud of its culturally diverse workforce, a collection of skilled professionals who strongly believe, as does the Norco City Council, in the promise of inclusion. That workforce previously launched a continuous commitment to public outreach by bringing City Hall into our neighborhoods to provide information on programs and services, engage in community conversations, register residents to vote and encourage residents to serve on City boards and commissions—the very kinds of activities that result in positive change.

Norco is a vibrant community where residents love to live, businesses are proud to operate and visitors are welcome. While we are proud of the progress we have made in Norco, we are by no means suggesting our work is done. Therefore, we are intent on improving ourselves, educating ourselves and listening to residents, especially those who believe they have been left out of the conversation or decision-making process.

As a local government organization, the City of Norco will continue to serve, assist and protect all residents equally. Additionally, the Norco City Council is committed to building a community of inclusiveness through our actions, our words, our activities, and our policies, and we will continue to influence positive change for the good of our community.

As your elected City Council Members, we will continue to educate ourselves, our families, friends and neighbors while remaining accessible to our community to listen, collaborate and discuss how we can do better. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to ensure equal protection and justice for all members of our community.

Sincerely,

BERWIN HANNA  KEVIN BASH  ROBIN GRUNDMEYER  TED HOFFMAN  GREG NEWTON
Mayor  Mayor Pro Tem  Council Member  Council Member  Council Member

www.norco.ca.us  •  2870 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860  •  (951) 735-3900