

March 1st, 2021

“The raising of the Black Lives Matter Flag today symbolizes Williston’s recognition of the historical and present - day racism that exists within our community. A committed group of Williston residents advocated for the raising of the Black Lives Matter Flag to remind us all of our responsibility as humans, as friends, as family, as neighbors, co-workers, peers and guest’s to rise above the status quo and take a stand against racism.

Today marks a significant day in Williston’s history – today is the day we officially recognize and take ownership of the truth that racism has and does exist in our community. Today is the day that we officially recognize our commitment as a town to work together, to take responsibility for the harms our actions have caused and begin the efforts of making long overdue repair.

May the flag act as both a reminder and an invitation for us all to accept these truths, to work harder, to dig deeper, to learn, to grow, reflect and to expand. May the flag be a reminder of the obligations, we as white people, have to our BIPOC neighbors and serve as an invitation to live with greater integrity – standing up for what is right, what is fair, for what is just.

I invite us all to ask ourselves how we are more alike than not, to ask how we see ourselves in another, and to ask where we can learn, grow and expand as individuals, and as a community so that we can one day stand in unity without divide.

I share in deep gratitude and appreciation for those who are committed to addressing racism and advancing the work of the racial equity partnership that is being formed. I know and trust that we can and will make a difference in these efforts together."

-- Cristalee McSweeney, Executive Director of the Williston Community Justice Center