



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

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Item 10(a)

Date: October 15, 2025

16-10-2025

Moved by *Katie Shrygg*
Seconded by *Cynthia Kuhn*

WHEREAS, democracy is strengthened when all individuals can participate fully, safely, and without discrimination, contributing to the well-being of their communities;

AND WHEREAS, democratic discourse and respectful debate are under pressure across all levels of government, including municipal councils in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, elected officials are increasingly facing harassment, threats, intimidation, and unsafe work environments, which undermine personal safety, deter civic participation, and erode public confidence in democratic institutions;

AND WHEREAS, social media platforms, while enabling legitimate discourse, have also amplified abusive, discriminatory, or threatening behaviour for many, often disproportionately affecting marginalized populations, discouraging many from seeking or remaining in public office;

AND WHEREAS, freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy and must be safeguarded, even as we combat unlawful harassment, violence, and hate;

AND WHEREAS, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified troubling trends in declining voter turnout and a reduction in candidate participation at the municipal level;

AND WHEREAS, grassroots and national initiatives such as Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.) campaign and the Parliamentary Civility Pledge led by the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians, demonstrate a growing commitment to fostering respectful, safe, and inclusive environments in political life;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of Zorra Township:

1. Supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge to:
 - Treat all persons with dignity and respect in public, private, and online spaces;
 - Reject and call out harassment, threats, unlawful discrimination, and personal abuse;
 - Focus public debate on policies and ideas, rather than personal attacks or identity-based commentary;
 - Build a culture of safety and inclusion, ensuring that individuals of all genders, identities, backgrounds, races, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities feel empowered to run for and serve in public office;

- Call on relevant authorities to investigate and respond to threats or harassment directed at elected officials, in accordance with applicable laws;
- Model accountability and integrity by holding ourselves and one another to clear, transparent, and legally grounded standards of conduct;
- Defend freedom of expression while actively opposing abuse and intimidation in all forms;

2. Encourages elected officials, political organizations, municipalities, and members of the public to sign and support the Elect Respect pledge by visiting: electrespect.ca; and,

3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), all municipalities in Ontario, Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.), and Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians

Carried

Defeated

Recorded Vote

Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Ryan		
Councillor Stewart		
Councillor Grigg		
Councillor Mitchell		
Councillor Finch		



Mayor