

From: B <bonoa1990@gmail.com>
To: DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 11:06:50 -0400
Subject: Comments about BLM Town Hall sign for Select Board Meeting

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Dear Ms. Mahon,

My name is Anne-Marie Bono and I have been a resident of Arlington for the past four years. I am writing to request that the Arlington Select Board reverses their decision made on September 14th to remove the Black Lives Matter banner from Arlington Town Hall.

Removing the Black Lives Matter sign from Town Hall will send a message to Arlington's Black residents that they are not seen, heard, and supported by Arlington's leaders. It indicates that Arlington's highest officials believe that enough time has passed that the issues of race in America should not be a priority, when they always should be a priority. Removing the sign implies that Arlington's town government sides with white supremacists and excuses police brutality and systemic racism. I do not wish to live in a community that does not do everything that it can to protect and support its most vulnerable members--starting with something as simple as keeping a sign up at Town Hall.

This year, it was so heartening to see Arlington residents come together to support Black Lives Matter through the nightly demonstrations in Arlington center. Keeping the Black Lives Matter sign up at Town Hall will continue to reinforce this support, and send the message that Black Lives Matter all of the time--not just when racial issues are the top news story.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish for my comments to be attached to the meeting minutes.

Sincerely,
Anne-Marie Bono