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Subject: Banners on Town Hall

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Hello Select Board,

I'm writing to ask you not to change the Banner and Sign policy to prohibit all displays on Town Hall. I have two reasons for this. The first is that when the America Backs the Blue rally was held in September of 2020, in addition to the large turnout of counter protesters, one of the most heartening things was looking past the Back the Blue supporters and seeing the Black Lives Matter banner on Town Hall. I felt this was a clear non-verbal sign of where our town stood. It's very difficult to interpret your later decision to take the banner down, not put it back up despite Town Meeting's resolution, and now this potential rule change as anything but a retreat or reconsideration. Or maybe it was my mistake to begin with.

My second reason is both more and less political. I think that if you're in town politics deep enough to have run for and won a seat on the Select Board, then you should *really be in town politics!* Avoiding controversy by creating a rule that you can then point at as a reason for avoiding controversy just feels weak. I think you're better than that!

Thanks for your service and I hope you do reconsider this change although I recognize that I am late to the game here,

Ezra Fischer
32 Thorndike Street
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4