

## ARTICLE 29 Petition: Race Amity Day Proclamation (Elliott et al)

### *CITIZENS FOR RACIAL AMITY NOW* *SEEKING TO PROMOTE RACIAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL AMITY* GreaterAmherstArea

#### **Our Mission**

Based on the spiritual principle of the oneness of humankind, we, the **Citizens for Racial Amity Now!** seek to stimulate forums and initiatives to promote racial and cross-cultural amity. Our overall mission is the cultivation of racial amity as both a means and goal.

#### **Our Beliefs**

- There is only one race – the human race. All attempts to classify groups by race are inherently flawed; as science informs us, race is a fiction.
- Yet racism is a very real phenomenon, it remains extensive within our psyches and institutions. The myth of race has generated the horrors of slavery, apartheid and the holocaust.
- An attachment to the myth of race continues to contribute to divisions within our communities; to injustices to those designated 'black' or 'non- white'; and to a sense of entitlement for those labeled 'white'.
- Moving beyond the myth of race, overcoming the malady of racism, requires a profound acceptance of the principle of the oneness of humankind.
- We seek collaboration with like- minded organizations in their initiatives and activities, while also planning to organize events and activities that promote this mission

The petition for Race Amity Day is submitted by Ray Elliott, Chair of **CITIZENS FOR RACIAL AMITY NOW**, a registered non-profit, community organization, associated with the National Center for Race Amity, <http://ncra.wheelock.edu/>

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TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

*A Proclamation*

*Whereas* the greatest asset of the Town of Amherst is its people; and

*Whereas* the Town of Amherst holds dear the motto of the United States of America, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one), recognizing the principle of the oneness of the humankind, and the rich cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of its inhabitants; and

*Whereas* civility, respect, kindness and friendship are commonly shared values of the collective citizenry of the Town of Amherst; and

*Whereas* the Town of Amherst promotes communities and neighborhoods to join in reflection on the beauty and richness of our diverse cultures and ethnicities while reaching out with a spirit of amity toward one another,

*Now*, therefore, the Town of Amherst hereby proclaims the second Sunday of June to be

*Race Amity Day*

*And* urges all the people of Amherst to recognize this event and to celebrate its annual observance.