



## City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor  
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY PASSES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MISSION STATEMENT**

BEACON, NY – The City of Beacon City Council unanimously passed a Diversity and Inclusion Mission Statement on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Kyriacou has made it a priority to foster the creation of a diversified and inclusive workforce that represents the City of Beacon.

Mayor Kyriacou said “We are working hard here at City Hall to create a workforce that represents the City we serve. In my first year in office we have taken significant steps to diversify our personnel. We hired a Human Resources professional for the first time and did so by sharing the position with the Town of Fishkill. I encourage anyone who is interested in working for Beacon to keep us in mind when they are looking to start or continue a career.”

Gina Basile, Director of Human Resources said, “The City’s new Diversity and Inclusion mission statement must always be at the forefront in all things that we do in the workplace. We must use these principles to guide our interactions with our co-workers, and when we are making decisions that affect our workforce including hiring. Beacon is a diverse community. We must do everything possible to help people feel that the City is a welcoming place to work, a place where we are united by our differences.”

#### **CITY OF BEACON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MISSION STATEMENT**

*The City of Beacon is an equal opportunity workplace – and proudly so. We do not just accept differences – we embrace, support and celebrate them – knowing that diversity improves our performance and better serves our community.*

*The City of Beacon’s mission is to represent and serve all of our residents, including providing them with high quality services at reasonable taxes and fees, along with excellent customer service. The way we accomplish this is by representing everyone, listening to all ideas, and through the hard work and dedication of our employees.*

*We want to represent everyone. To do that well, we need a workforce that is representative of the community.*

*The City of Beacon is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce. Our employees thrive when we achieve this. We aim to create a workplace that reflects and recognizes the diversity of our employees, and residents. We strive to provide services that benefit everyone in the community by including perspectives from backgrounds such as those that vary by race, ethnicity, social background, religion, gender, age, different abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, trans-gender status, veteran status, and national origin.*

*Having a diversified workforce builds a better team, enhances our skills, broadens our ideas, and is integral to effective performance.*

**About the City of Beacon:**

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition spaces in the country for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill Creek and Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

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