

## Pledge to Reduce Racial Polarization in my Neighborhood and Community

I will not engage in racial polarization and will intervene when others do.

I will identify and implement specific actions to improve race relations in my neighborhood and community.

I will reach out to neighbors, friends or colleagues of a different race and have honest conversations about race based on our personal experiences.

I will publicize my pledge to my network of family, friends and colleagues and bring it to the attention of organizations of which I am a part.

I want to live in a community where people

- accept all cultural, religious and racial heritages rather than fighting them,
- use language that unites rather than divides.
- reach out to neighbors rather than avoid those who are different.
- learn about others who appear different rather than believe and accept stereotypes.
- organize, educate and encourage others to eliminate all forms of racism rather than just live with it.
- object to racial jokes rather than listen to or laugh at them.
- speak out against racism rather than passively observe it.
- refuse to use any form of racially derogatory language rather than accept it as part of my vocabulary.

William L Pickett    Henrietta NY    July 3, 2020

[wpickett41@gmail.com](mailto:wpickett41@gmail.com)    585-732-1832

---

This an adaptation of a pledge developed by the Urban League of Rochester NY in 1992.