- Using the tape provided, ask each group to post their list of worst fears where they can be seen by the larger group.
- 12. Allow participants to react to what they see. How do these worst fears make them feel?
- 13. Facilitator should acknowledge that our worst fears could, indeed, become our future reality.
- 14. Critical for facilitators remind participants that while our worst fears could become our future reality, they are not our destiny. Equally possible is realizing our collective best and highest hopes for a safer and more peaceful future.
- 15. Following discussion of worst fears is a good time for a short break
- 16. Reconvene in the same small groups and, using their 2<sup>nd</sup> note card, ask participants to write their best hopes for a safer and more peaceful future.
- 17. When ready, ask participants to share with their small group what they wrote.
- Recorders should list on the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of flip chart paper exactly what participants read/ wrote on their note cards.
- Using the tape provided, ask each group to post their list of best hopes where they can be seen by the larger group.
- 20. Allow participants to react to what they see. How do these best hopes make them feel?
- 21. After sharing how the listed best and highest hopes make participants feel, ask participants to use their third card to list strategies they

believe should be considered for realizing their best hopes.

- 22. Participants should be invited to read their strategies to their small group.
- 23. Recorders should use the third piece of flip chart paper to list strategies for realizing best hopes. Remind participants that strategies and related actions for realizing best hopes are not the same as strategies or activities for **avoiding** worst fears. Encourage, if small groups, if possible, to reach consensus on strategies they include on their list.
- 24. As a closing activity, facilitators should ask participants to consider, and share with their small group, at least one action they will take to help implement one or more strategy.
- 25. Facilitators, please take photos of the lists of worst fears, best hopes, and strategies and send them to Tim Waters at

tim.waters@longmontcolorado.gov. Tim will compile the lists of fears, hopes, and strategies and produce a report he will send to facilitators and/ or their organizations to be shared with participants and posted on social media platforms.

For individuals and/or organizations willing to host and facilitate a "peace-making and safety" session, and would like to discuss and/or receive assistance in the process listed above, contact Tim Waters at <u>tim.waters@longmontcolorado.org</u> or at 303-601-0597.

#### Non-discrimination research Tolerance cultural literacy comprehension Shared values philosophy Integrit Non-violence global citizenship capacity building resilienc **Respect** justice Mutual understanding altro Freedom of expression ng Harmony gender equality Conviviality Culture Civic engagement Social cohesion Equity Solidarity Cultural diversity Reconciliation memory Intercultural dialogue Human rights Sustainable development pluralism Interdependency Sharing dignity acceptance democracy Unity

# A Call to Action: Project Peace and Safety

## **Project Focus**

Reduce risks of violence in Longmont through meaningful community engagement and moderated conversations about peace, safety, and our collective future.

#### **Underlying Assumptions**

Violence comes to communities and community members in all forms and shapes. Provocations of violent behavior are as varied as the people who engage in it. Violence as a response to whatever or whomever provokes it is increasing. As it does, it is easy to feel like the fabric of our society is unraveling.

To the degree that reducing risks of violence and evolving as a community characterized by peace and safety is possible, this invitation is extended. It is predicated on this assumption; there exists in Longmont and the surrounding area a deep reservoir of social capital that when activated can;

- influence local culture in ways that make violent responses to provocations less likely,
- generate new resources for non-violent problem solving,
- create new connections among neighbors and neighborhoods, and
- re-norm the community reflecting shared values of peace and personal as well as collective safety.

#### **Project Process & Outcome Objectives**

 Offer multiple opportunities for community members to share both their worst fears and their best/highest hopes for Longmont as a safe and peaceful place to live, work, and play. (Feb. 15 – May 26, 2023)

2. Publish "worst fears, best hopes, and recommendations for a safer and more peaceful future. 3. A safer, more peaceful, community resulting from community action on recommendations.

### **Project Description**

On February 15, 2023, Longmont area Rotary Clubs hosted an event focused on peace and peacemaking. This event was not envisioned as a standalone, "one off" event. It was an invitation to Longmont and Niwot area residents to engage with one another in facilitated conversations about what we can do together to live into a safer, more peaceful future.

In a series of community conversations, commencing on February 18<sup>th</sup> and continuing through May 26<sup>th</sup>, interested community members are encouraged to share both their worst fears and best hopes for a collective future characterized by greater peace and safety. They will also be invited to propose strategies for realizing their best hopes. The community's best hopes and strategies for realizing or achieving them will be shared with all members of the Longmont and surrounding area communities. Residents in every segment of the community will be encouraged to review the community's best hopes and strategies and determine which are most actionable and relevant to their preferred future.

### How can interested residents/ organizations participate?

This is truly a grassroots opportunity to organize and activate. For individuals and/or organizations motivated to join others in sharing worst fears, best hopes, and recommendations for realizing collective best hopes for a safer and more peaceful future, these are the activities you will need to take. The process may take up to 2 1/2 hours.

- Schedule a day and time to convene with your friends, family, neighbors, service club, congregation, professional associations, business associates, or others. Allow two- and one-half hours for your conversation.
- 2. Materials you will need include note cards, pens or pencils, flip chart paper, and tape.
- Depending on your number of participants, you will want to organize in smaller groups (maximum of 8 participants per small group).
- 4. Ask your group, or small groups, to seat themselves in a circle if possible.
- Distribute three note cards and a pen or pencil to each participant and provide (at least) three flip chart pages to each group.
- 6.Whomever is facilitating the conversation should begin by asking individuals to "ground" themselves in the process by responding to two questions; how do you feel about being involved and what are your expectations for the gathering? (allow 30 minutes for this activity)
- 7. After individuals are "grounded" in the process, ask them to write their worst fears about peace and safety in the future on their note cards. Encourage individuals to be as concise as possible.
- 8. When ready, facilitators should ask for a volunteer to record what participants read from their cards.
- 9. When each group has a recorder, each participant should read what they wrote.
- Recorders should list on a page of flip chart paper the worst fears shared by individuals <u>exactly</u> as they are written on the note cards.