

RESOLUTION 242-2014

AMEND TOWN OF WOODSTOCK EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Offered by Supervisor Wilber, seconded by Councilman McKenna:

WHEREAS, many employment applications, including the Town of Woodstock's, include the questions "have you ever been convicted of and/or pled guilty to a felony?" and "have you been convicted of and/or guilty to a misdemeanor with the past five years;" and

Whereas, such questions often discourage rehabilitated individuals from seeking employment for fear that answering honestly will preclude the possibility of even being interviewed; and

WHEREAS, removing the questions from the employment application would not preclude the employer from asking in a job interview the questions above cited, nor would removing the question preclude the employer from conducting a background check on the individual; and

Whereas, when someone in the past has been convicted or pled guilty to a felony or misdemeanor, they should have the opportunity to demonstrate to the employer, once given the chance in an interview, that they are and have been law-abiding and deserve consideration, if qualified, for the employment opportunity; and

Whereas, the United States as a result of its "War on Drugs" has one of the highest rates and levels of felony and misdemeanor convictions; and

Whereas, these convictions are often for non-violent crimes; and

Whereas, returning persons convicted of felonies and misdemeanors to the workforce is an effective measure to prevent recidivism; and

Whereas, removing the questions cited above does not compromise the health, safety and welfare of the People of Woodstock; therefore be it

Resolved, the Town of Woodstock remove from its employment application the questions cited above.

All voted 5-0: Supervisor Wilber - aye
Councilman Panza- aye
Councilman Wenk - aye
Councilwoman Magarelli - aye
Councilman McKenna - aye