

RESOLUTION HONORING THE WORK OF FAITHACTION INTERNATIONAL
HOUSE, AND AFFIRMING GREENSBORO BECOMING A “STRANGER TO
NEIGHBOR” CITY

WHEREAS, Guilford County has experienced an over 1,000% increase in its immigrant population over the last 20 years, and new ethnic, cultural and religious diversity; bringing economic, social/cultural, and artistic gifts, while facing challenges and barriers integrating into our community;

WHEREAS, FaithAction International House was founded 18 years ago by a diverse group of community, immigrant and faith leaders, with the support of elected officials, working together to “solve the puzzle of diversity” in the midst of major demographic shifts in Greensboro;

WHEREAS, since this time FaithAction has provided hope and dignity to over 30,000 of our newest immigrant neighbors through daily legal, food, health, employment, English/computer classes, and basic needs assistance in partnership with dozens of community partners, cultural organizations, and diverse faith communities;

WHEREAS, FaithAction has also provided weekly immigration and diversity trainings and presentations to city and county institutions, schools and congregations, as well as regular multicultural and interfaith events that have educated and connected tens of thousands more in Greensboro and throughout the state of North Carolina across lines of difference;

WHEREAS, based on the accumulative knowledge and impact of this work, FaithAction has developed a “Stranger to Neighbor” model, which seeks to build bridges of greater trust and understanding between our newest immigrant and refugee neighbors and our diverse city institutions and related sectors through four interrelated steps: *education, exchange, action, and telling the story*;

WHEREAS, this model has led to a recent partnership between several faith communities, immigrant leaders, and the Greensboro Police Department to create a “FaithAction” identification card for immigrants in our community without access to government issued forms of ID, creating a safer, more united community for all;

WHEREAS, this model has also led to the creation of a new health center in partnership with volunteer physicians, the Congregational Nurses and Social Work Intern Program, UNCG, and several local faith communities, to create life saving services for our newest neighbors, while lessening the strain on our local health sector;

WHEREAS, this life affirming work has been accomplished with innovative community partnerships, despite limited resources, and up until now has not depended upon any financial resources from the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

- 1) The City Council hereby recognizes, on behalf of all residents of Greensboro, the work and impact of FaithAction International House over the past 18 years in providing hope and dignity to our newest neighbors, while creating a healthier, safer, more welcoming and united city.
- 2) The City Council hereby endorses and recommends the FaithAction developed, Stranger to Neighbor model as an effective tool to build bridges of trust and understanding between city institutions and our newest neighbors, leading to a better city for all Greensboro residents, and affirms that Greensboro officially becomes the nation's first "Stranger to Neighbor City."
- 3) The City Council hereby commits to continuing to work with FaithAction, and its many partners, to lift up the many gifts and leadership new immigrants and refugees bring to our community, as well as find solutions to the complex challenges and barriers many immigrants face integrating into a new life in our community.