

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 193:
PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY PROFILING

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2015, Representatives Rodney Moore, Cecil Brockman, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, and Graig Meyer sponsored House Bill 193; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this bill is to 1) Prohibit the use of discriminatory profiling by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties; 2) Amend the types of information required to be reported by certain law enforcement agencies concerning traffic law enforcement; 3) Require certain law enforcement agencies to report certain information concerning homicides; 4) Require law enforcement officers to receive annual education and training concerning discriminatory profiling; 5) Authorize the use of Citizen Review Boards to investigate or review allegations of certain police misconduct; and 6) Require that certain training be provided to members of neighborhood crime watch programs established by counties and cities; and

WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) recognizes that discriminatory profiling is ineffective because it alienates communities from law enforcement, hinders community policing efforts, and causes law enforcement to lose credibility and trust among the people they are sworn to protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, discriminatory profiling is based on a standard of unequal protection and is a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment which states that no state may "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws;" and

WHEREAS, accurate record keeping for traffic stops and homicides will enable authorities to have a full understanding of the types of interactions law enforcement officers have with the public; and

WHEREAS, training of law enforcement officers is vital to thwart the damaging effects of discriminatory profiling; and

WHEREAS, cities will be authorized to create Citizen Review Boards by ordinance, without additional legislation, and these Citizen Review Boards will have subpoena power to investigate or review allegations of police misconduct thereby creating a more transparent and effective police force; and

WHEREAS, providing training to members of neighborhood crime watch programs will result in a better informed public concerning discriminatory profiling, crime-prevention, and collaboration with law enforcement officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Greensboro supports House Bill 193 because it recognizes the harm caused by discriminatory profiling, requires accurate record-keeping with regard traffic stops and homicides, requires additional training of law enforcement officers, gives Citizen Review Boards investigative authority over allegations of police misconduct, and provides for training for neighborhood watch programs. The City of Greensboro urges the legislators in the North Carolina General Assembly to give its full support to House Bill 193.