

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND HATE SPEECH, EXPRESSING
SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS AND ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR ETHNICITY,
RACE OR RELIGION**

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles;

WHEREAS, the history of Islam in the United States began even before its founding when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where they later helped in numerous ways to build this country, including sacrificing their lives on the line in every major war from the Revolutionary War on;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 3 million Muslims living in the United States today, and approximately 20,000 living in the City of Greensboro making invaluable contributions to the economy, the social and political life, and the culture;

WHEREAS, there has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans and those perceived as Muslims;

WHEREAS, we are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color, and we are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this escalation and using it in order to gain power;

WHEREAS, in the face of extreme bigotry and violence Muslim communities and their leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote service, peace and justice, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need;

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of the people, the City Council has a responsibility not to stay silent in the face of violence and discrimination against any of our constituents or countrymen.

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

- (1) That it condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, people of color, and any ethnicity or religion; and
- (2) That it categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence; and

- (3) That it commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and
- (4) That it reaffirms the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.