

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING 2015 NONDISCRIMINATION ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro welcomes all people and recognizes the importance of diversity and the need to establish meaningful non-discrimination policies and laws to ensure that all people feel welcome here;

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City of Greensboro initiated an effort in North Carolina to contribute to the broader goal stated above by passing certain non-discrimination provisions that were later nullified by a State statute which has now sunset and is of no current legal effect;

WHEREAS, at the Greensboro City Council's January 6, 2015 meeting, three ordinance amendments were proposed to amend Greensboro Code of City Ordinances Chapters 2 on Administration, 12 on Human Rights, and 21 on Personnel;

WHEREAS, all three amendments were intended to expand protections to the LGBTQ community by "prohibit[ing] discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in addition to the already protected categories of race, sex, gender, color, ethnicity, religion disability, familial status, or political affiliation";

WHEREAS, all three of the proposed ordinance amendments were passed and the language in the Greensboro Code of City Ordinances amended to include the above language in Chapters 2 and 21;

WHEREAS, the amendment to Chapter 12 on Human Rights involved changes to code sections that addressed fair housing and, therefore, the City Council was advised that the changes could be approved by Council, submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") for approval, and then included in Chapter 12 of the City Code once HUD approval was granted. The ordinance amendment passed with that understanding and the City Attorney's Office was authorized to pursue HUD approval;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2016, the North Carolina General Assembly passed and then Governor Pat McCrory signed into law what has come to be known as "House Bill 2" or "HB2" which, among other things, nullified local government ordinances around the state, including the ones described above, that would have expanded protections for the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, roughly one year later, the General Assembly passed what has come to be known as the "compromise bill" or House Bill 142 which, among other things, established a sunset for the limitations placed upon local government ordinances around the state that would have expanded protections for the LGBTQ community;

WHEREAS, throughout this period the Greensboro Code of City Ordinances retained the enacted language providing the expanded protections described above in Chapters 2 and 21, however, they continued to be nullified by HB2 until the nullification provision sunset on December 1, 2020; and

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

That the language adopted in Chapters 2 and 21 on January 6 2015 to provide expanded protections to the LGBTQ community be now fully enforced hence forth and further that the City Attorney is hereby authorized to pursue HUD approval of any amendment to language in Chapter 12 of the Greensboro Code of City Ordinances and upon such approval said language shall be included in Chapter 12 of the Greensboro Code of City Ordinances and made effective per the amendment.