

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING  
ANY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO  
SEEK TO DIVIDE OUR COMMUNITY AND INCITE HATRED**

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston has historically struggled with challenging issues of race, equality, and prejudice because of the failure to recognize that all of our citizens have a right to equal access and opportunity; and,

WHEREAS, as a City Council, we have attempted to acknowledge and confront these issues by, among other ways, adopting a resolution apologizing for the City's role in the institution of slavery; engaging in an independent audit examining racial practices of our police department; addressing affordable housing needs; charging a commission to commemorate the City's 350<sup>th</sup> history while honestly examining its past; removing the John C. Calhoun statue; and authorizing a commission to review past and present City practices and to recommend structural changes correcting such actions to reverse vestiges of Jim Crow era policies; and,

WHEREAS, while there is more to be done, we are making progress toward securing social justice for all of our citizens, even as our city struggles with the challenges to our health and safety and the economy from the pandemic and the social unrest that occurred this past year; and,

WHEREAS, recently there has arisen in the United States a growing number of groups and individuals who threaten our democracy and social justice by seeking to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, divide our community, and incite hatred; and,

WHEREAS, City Council rejects and condemns all such groups and individuals whose ideologies are based on hate, violence, divisiveness, and intolerance; and,

WHEREAS, as members of City Council we took to an oath "... to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to law, the purposes for which..." we have been elected. Our collective responsibilities include promoting the peace and prosperity of our community, exercising good judgement and promoting good will, and seeking to ensure the prosperity of all of our citizens and respect for one another's diversity; and,

WHEREAS, we are committed to promoting a community that is unified, where people of different races, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds resolve together to overcome the challenges of its past and become stronger and more inclusive and we call upon the South Carolina General Assembly to immediately enact a hate crimes law for the State of South Carolina.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHARLESTON, IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THAT** any groups and individuals whose ideologies are based on hate, violence, discord and intolerance are rejected and condemned, and while such groups and individuals may be present in our community, they will not interfere with City Council’s efforts to address, engage and lead the citizens of the City of Charleston on issues related to racial diversity, equity and inclusion and to promote a deeper shared understanding of our community that is more inclusive; and further, we call upon the South Carolina General Assembly to immediately enact a hate crimes law for the State of South Carolina.

. RESOLVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January 2021, in City Council Chambers.

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John J. Tecklenburg  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Cook  
Clerk of Council