

APRIL 19, 2016, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF GREENWOOD'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND HOSPITALITY

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recently adopted House Bill 1523, referred to as the Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act, which purports to provide State legal protection for certain discriminatory acts of religious or moral conviction that otherwise could be construed as discriminatory against certain individuals and groups; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1523 broadly allows for State-sanctioned discrimination against certain individuals and groups as long as the discriminatory acts are based on undefined sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood understands that the Constitution of the United States of America prohibits governments from making laws “respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” guarantees to all persons “the equal protection of the laws” and does not allow discrimination in any form against any person; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood believes in the essential worth and dignity of every human being, promotes fair and impartial treatment of all citizens, and encourages kindness, compassion, inclusion, understanding, and cooperation among all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood is widely known for its rich cultural diversity and hospitality to all people and welcomes all citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood does not sanction or tolerate discrimination against its citizens or visitors and seeks to preserve and protect the rights of all individuals and groups regardless of religion or identity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood is open for business and tourism, including commercial and residential development, to all law-abiding individuals and groups regardless of religion or identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, that the findings, conclusions and statements of fact contained in the preamble are hereby adopted, ratified and incorporated herein and that the Greenwood City Council and Mayor Carolyn McAdams do hereby pledge to continue promoting

an environment in which diversity is welcomed, embraced, and valued and in which the individual rights of all its citizens, visitors, and businesses are protected.

The above and foregoing resolution having been first reduced to writing was considered section by section and then as a whole, having been introduced by Councilperson

_____, was duly seconded for adoption by Councilperson

_____, and upon a vote being called, received the following vote:

COUNCIL PERSON	YEA	NAY
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Johnny Jennings		
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Lisa Cookston		
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Ronnie Stevenson		
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Charles E. McCoy, Sr.		
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Andrew Powell		
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David Jordan		
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Carl Palmer		
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The President of the Council then declared the motion passed and adopted this the 19th day of April, 2016.

APPROVED BY:

RONNIE STEVENSON, PRESIDENT
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CAROLYN MCADAMS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CINDERELLA MORRIS, CITY
COUNCIL CLERK