

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

1st Reading: 1-17-17
2nd Reading: 1-17-17
3rd Reading: 1-17-17

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8084 FORM NO. 30045

Resolution No. 3655

Passed January 17, 2017

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENCE, HATE SPEECH, AND
DISCRIMINATION TARGETING MUSLIM PEOPLE AND
EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE MUSLIM
COMMUNITY AND ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR
ETHNICITY, RACE, OR RELIGION**

WHEREAS the City of Bowling Green, in conjunction with the local chapter of Not in Our Town, the Human Relations Commission, and Bowling Green State University, is committed to the principles of inclusivity, diversity, equality, equity, and social justice; and

WHEREAS the City of Bowling Green and its community partners have a tradition of working to bring together people of all walks of life in the community, such as by organizing the Community Interfaith Breakfast and the Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS the City of Bowling Green, through the Not In Our Town pledge, affirmed that "being silent in the face of acts of intolerance is unacceptable," and such acts, whether occurring locally or across the nation, threaten the safety and welfare of the Muslim community; and

WHEREAS the City of Bowling Green recognizes the numerous contributions that the Muslim community makes to the economy, culture, and social and political life of Bowling Green, as well as the nation; and

WHEREAS our community has experienced hate crimes, discrimination, and hate speech against Muslims with the burning of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo in Perrysburg, Ohio, on September 30, 2012, and has since stood vigilant and united to stop future demonstrations of hate toward Muslims in any form; and

WHEREAS this Council is disheartened by the recent national escalation of hateful rhetoric and action against Muslim people and those perceived to be Muslim, and we are disturbed by any elected government officials and other political entities that may escalate and exploit these behaviors for political gain and influence, and we vow to never let this happen in the city of Bowling Green; and

WHEREAS in the face of bigotry and violence, Muslim communities and their leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote peace, justice, and service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role by providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need, such as at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo and the United Muslim Association of Toledo; and

WHEREAS we, as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility to not stay silent in the face of hate, violence, and discrimination against any of our constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, OHIO, COUNTY OF WOOD, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: This Council condemns all hateful speech, violent action, and discrimination directed at Muslim people and those perceived to be Muslim anywhere in the city or outside the city.

SECTION 2: This Council categorically rejects political tactics that use fear and misinformation to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence, and commits to prevent this from happening in the City of Bowling Green.

SECTION 3: This Council commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that people subjected to hate speech, violence, or discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination.

SECTION 4: This Council 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.

SECTION 5: This Council urges the citizens of Bowling Green to increase their involvement with the Human Relations Commission, Not In Our Town, and other community organizations, programs, and events that promote these principles, including by engaging with the local Muslim community and in partnership with other faith communities, to help sustain a culture of peace and understanding in Bowling Green.

SECTION 6: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest time permitted by law.

Passed: January 17, 2017 Michael A. Aspacher
Date President of Council
MICHAEL A. ASPACHER

Attest: Kay D. Scherreik
Clerk of Council
KAY D. SCHERREIK

Approved: January 18, 2017 Richard A. Edwards
Date Mayor
RICHARD A. EDWARDS

CERTIFICATION
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Res. No. 3655 passed by the Council of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio.
Jan. 17, 2017
Kay D. Scherreik
Clerk of City Council