

**Chatham County Human Relations Commission  
Hate Crimes Resolution Proposed to the  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

**WHEREAS**, federal law 18 U.S.C. 245 makes it illegal to commit a crime when the assailant is motivated by bias based on race, religion, national origin, or color and the assailant intended to prevent the victim from exercising a federally protected right; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law 28 U.S.C. 994, also known as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, requires the United States Sentencing Commission to increase the penalties for hate crimes committed on the basis of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or gender of any person; and

**WHEREAS**, The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill that the United States Congress passed on October 22, 2009, and was signed into law on October 28, 2009, expanded the 1969 United States Federal Hate Crime Law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; and

**WHEREAS**, a hate crime, also known as a bias-motivated crime, occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of his or her actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina officials define a hate crime as a bias-related criminal offense against persons, property, or society motivated towards persons of a different race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation and involving arson, assault, murder, shooting, vandalism; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Human Relations Commission defines a hate bias motivated incident as being bias-motivated toward persons of a different race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation and involving marches, leafleting, rallies, membership solicitation, derogatory public statements, public expressions; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina law protects residents from ethnic intimidation (N.C.G. S., 14-401.14), church burning (N.C.G.S., 14-62.2), cross burning (N.C.G.S., 14-12.12), placing exhibits to intimidate others (N.C.G.S., 14-12.13), placing exhibits while wearing a mask, hood, or other disguise (N.C.G.S., 14-12.14); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008 the North Carolina Legislature upgraded existing law to include anti-noose/cross burning legislation (N.C.G.S. 14-401.14A) making it unlawful to burn a cross or hang a noose with the intent to intimidate; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, more than 87 hate bias motivated incidents and crimes were recorded by the North Carolina Human Relations Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, as Chatham County's population becomes more diverse, which adds richness and cultural depth, it can also create new tensions within such a growing community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the Chatham County Human Relations Commission acknowledge the partnership that exists between them and agree that incidences of hate bias motivated incidents and crimes in our community are not acceptable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the Chatham County Human Relations Commission have made and continue to make a concerted effort to build bridges with and among the various ethnic groups and toward the elimination of racial tension and conflict throughout Chatham County;

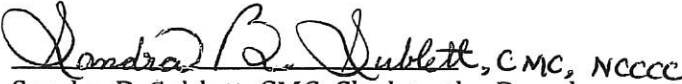
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the Chatham County Human Relations Commission** that we are committed to proclaiming by word and action that harassment, intimidation, marginalization, and violence against people based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, and veteran status shall not be tolerated or accepted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the Chatham County Human Relations Commission shall continually work to achieve the commitments set forth in this resolution in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and the North Carolina Human Relations Commission.

Adopted this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010.

  
Sally Kost, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners