



Established 1771

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- COUNTY MANAGER
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P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200 • Fax: (919) 542-8272

**Resolution Honoring Chatham County's
2008 North Carolina Human Relations Commission (NCHRC)
Award Winners**

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize certain individuals and organizations for their achievements as leaders in the human relations field; and

WHEREAS, among the six 2008 recipients of the NCHRC Human Relations Awards, three are from Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, one of the three recipients, Pastor Javier Benitez who won the **Faith Based/Religious Leadership Award** and who built Roca Fuerte Church, the only Latino church in Pittsboro; who gives aid to the poor, sponsors programs for the recovery of people addicted to alcohol, encourages young people to resist gang activity, and opens the doors of his church to people of all backgrounds for the purpose of uniting the races; and who exemplifies positive attitudes toward improving human relations; and


WHEREAS, another of the three recipients, Ventura Ruiz who won the **State Educator Award** and who is a Chatham County Schools' employee; who promotes and exemplifies positive attitudes throughout the school district toward improving human relations; who assists immigrants enrolling their children in the school district; who goes a step beyond to help immigrant families successfully acclimate into a new culture; and who shows by example how people coming to this country can indeed live the American dream; and


WHEREAS, the third recipient, the Chatham County Government's Health Department Change Team, winner of the **Commission/Organization Award**, has worked for many years with a groundbreaking initiative to eliminate racism in their department and throughout the community, to teach people about the history of structural racism, to engage employees of the Health Department in finding solutions to health disparities caused by racism, and to provide training, orientation, and workshops about inequities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners commends Pastor Javier Benitez, Ventura Ruiz, and the Chatham County Health Department Change Team for their outstanding accomplishments and enthusiastically endorses the recognition by the North Carolina Human Relations Commission (NCHRC) of these three extraordinary recipients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to each award recipient as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this 18th day of August.


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


 George Lucier, Chairman