



## **AGENDA ITEM COVER PAGE**

**File ID: #1023**

### **Resolution**

**Sponsored by: Vice Chair Ken Russell**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION CONDEMNING HATE SPEECH AND VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT MUSLIMS; EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS AND ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR ETHNICITY, RACE OR RELIGION; REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S COMMITMENT TO PURSUING POLICIES THAT AFFIRM CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ENSURE THAT THOSE TARGETED ON THE BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION, OR IMMIGRATION STATUS CAN TURN TO GOVERNMENT WITHOUT FEAR OF RETALIATION.



# City of Miami

## Legislation

### Resolution

**File Number: 1023**

Final Action Date:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION CONDEMNING HATE SPEECH AND VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT MUSLIMS; EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS AND ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR ETHNICITY, RACE OR RELIGION; REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S COMMITMENT TO PURSUING POLICIES THAT AFFIRM CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ENSURE THAT THOSE TARGETED ON THE BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION, OR IMMIGRATION STATUS CAN TURN TO GOVERNMENT WITHOUT FEAR OF RETALIATION.

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles; and

WHEREAS, the history of Islam in the United States began even before its founding when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where they later helped in numerous ways to build this country, including sacrificing their lives on the line in every major war from the Revolutionary War on; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States today, and the American Muslim Democratic Caucus reports that as of 2014, there are approximately 4,303 people who identify themselves as Muslims living in the City of Miami ("City") and are amongst those making invaluable contributions to the City's economy, social and political life, and culture; and

WHEREAS, there has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans and those perceived as Muslims; and

WHEREAS, Arab and Muslim Americans, and those perceived as Muslims, are frequently the targets of abusive and discriminatory police practices sanctioned by the state including surveillance in their neighborhoods and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, the City is saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color, and the City is particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this escalation and using it in order to gain power; and

WHEREAS, in the face of extreme 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 providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the City's elected officials, as representatives of the people, have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hate violence and discrimination against any of our constituents or countrymen;

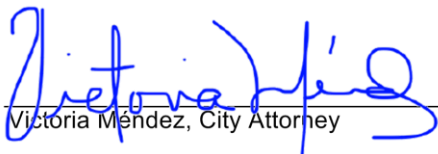
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The Miami City Commission condemns all hateful speech and violence directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants and people of color; categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence; reaffirms the value of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear; reaffirms its commitment to pursuing policies that affirms civil and human rights to all individuals, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of retaliation.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and signature of the Mayor.<sup>1</sup>

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

  
Victoria Méndez, City Attorney 10/3/2016

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<sup>1</sup> If the Mayor does not sign this Resolution, it shall become effective at the end of ten calendar days from the date it was passed and adopted. If the Mayor vetoes this Resolution, it shall become effective immediately upon override of the veto by the City Commission