

# RESOLUTION NO. 16-237

## CITY OF PEORIA

Peoria, Illinois July 26, 2016

### **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL STATING THAT THE CITY OF PEORIA STANDS WITH MUSLIM NEIGHBORS AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA**

**WHEREAS**, throughout its long history, the City of Peoria has been built on the strengths of its ethnic, racial and religious diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, at the "Peoria for Peace" event, Caterpillar Chairman and CEO Doug Oberhelman stated, "There's no room inside Caterpillar for intolerance. There should be no room for intolerance in Peoria either. We are all better than that"; and

**WHEREAS**, in those same remarks, Mr. Oberhelman stated, "It's our job to lead here and demonstrate that discrimination doesn't make us powerful. It makes us weak. It isolates us. Left to fester or spread, it could turn this wide-open prairie of opportunity into a narrow, island of hate;" and

**WHEREAS**, there are unfortunate, prejudicial and unjust actions throughout history that show the harmful and consequential results of blaming an entire group of people based on their gender, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation or gender identity for the actions of a small segment of that population; and

**WHEREAS**, due to recent terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad, fear of Muslims has increased; and

**WHEREAS**, based on 2010 data of the Association of Religious Data Archives, there are an estimated 20,000 Muslims living in Peoria County; and

**WHEREAS**, Muslims are integral members of our community, from the children attending Peoria's schools to the adults represented in all walks of life and professions including city employees, store clerks, laborers, small business owners, physicians, medical technicians, college professors, engineers, accountants, and artists; and

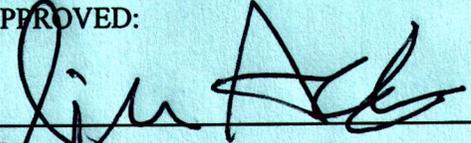
**WHEREAS**, the Peoria City Council has been on record since at least 1998 of condemning all discrimination against any segment of our population and in fact has passed multiple resolutions including "Discrimination - It Doesn't Play in Peoria."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Peoria hereby declares that fear will not divide us; that we recognize that the threats of Islamaphobia are real and represent a threat of our American values, religious freedom and cultural diversity; and that we as a community stand with our neighbors against all its manifestations; and

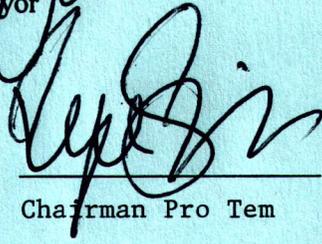
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that discrimination and stereotyping of any kind against any group will not be accepted in our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of Peoria request that the City Clerk forward copies of this Resolution to all federal, state, county and locally elected officials.

APPROVED:

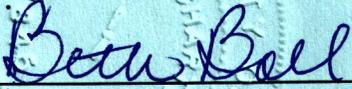
  
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Mayor

  
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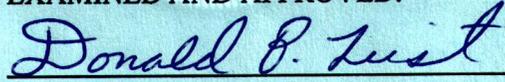
Chairman Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Corporation Counsel

