

RESOLUTION NO. _____

CITY OF PEORIA

Peoria, Illinois _____ 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 strength of its ethnic, racial, and religious diversity; and

WHEREAS, Muslims are integral members of our community, beginning with children attending Peoria's schools and adults represented in all professions including city employees, store clerks, laborers, small business owners, physicians, medical technicians, college professors, engineers, accountants, artists, and business leaders; 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, since the Paris terrorist attacks in November 2015, the San Bernardino terrorist attacks in California in December 2015, and the Orlando terrorist attack in June 2016, fear of Muslims has increased nationwide; and

WHEREAS, there are prejudicial and unjust actions from our nation's history, such as the placement of Japanese residents in internment camps during WWII, that show the harmful and consequential results of blaming an entire group of people based on their race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender for the actions of a small segment of that population; and

WHEREAS, in his May 16, 2016 remarks 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."

WHEREAS, in those same remarks Mr. Oberhelman stated, "It's our job to leave 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."

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 posed by Islamophobia to our American values of religious freedom and cultural diversity are threats against our very way of life in both the City of Peoria and the United States; and that we as a community stand firmly with our Muslim neighbors against Islamophobia in all its manifestations; and

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

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

Corporation Counsel