

Draft Amended Resolve #6-16/17

[Additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~]

**RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND HATE SPEECH, EXPRESSING
SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS AND ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR
ETHNICITY, RACE OR RELIGION**

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, including hundreds of our neighbors living in the City of South Portland, making invaluable contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our 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, we are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against our fellow residents who are Muslim, those perceived to be Muslim, asylum seekers, and immigrants, both nationally and locally, and we are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this escalation and exploiting people's fear of random acts of violence and terrorism in order to gain power; and

WHEREAS, in the face of extreme bigotry and violence, followers of Islam and their leaders are using the language and teachings of their faith to promote peace and justice and service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential role in society providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need and;

WHEREAS, we, as elected 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; including

foreign-born residents of South Portland who represent approximately 7% of the City of South Portland's population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine:

- 1) Condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, asylum seekers, and immigrants,
- 2) Categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence;
- 3) Reaffirms the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of an American culture influenced by multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear, ~~and~~;
- 4) Commits to upholding a policy that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to the government without fear of recrimination.;
- 5) Commits to promote strategies ensuring the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers to the City;
- 6) Commits to continue its non-biased policing/non-biased profiling policies and practices;
- 7) Commits to continue its practice of collaborating with federal, state and other local authorities to protect public safety;
- 8) Commits to not seeking delegated authority for federal immigration law enforcement under Section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act;
- 9) Commits to not using City resources to assist or cooperate with any surveillance program based solely on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or national origin; and
- 10) Commits to not using City resources to create a federal registry based solely on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.