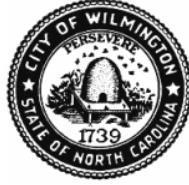


Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 8/18/2020

Resolution in Support of the City of Wilmington’s “Rise Together” Initiative to Improve Understanding, Equity, and Civic Inclusion for All Our Neighbors

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is a diverse community with a long history of challenges related to race; and,

WHEREAS, institutions and events like slavery, the 1898 Wilmington Massacre, racial segregation, and the Wilmington Ten prosecutions cast a long shadow in our City’s history; and,

WHEREAS, the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission’s Report Findings published May 31, 2006, observed that the racial violence of November 10, 1898, precipitated an armed overthrow of the legitimately elected municipal government; and,

WHEREAS, the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission’s Report found that the organizers of the overthrow took part in a documented conspiracy; the leaders, who were members of the Democratic white elite in Wilmington and New Hanover County, achieved their political goals through violence and intimidation; and,

WHEREAS, the residual challenges stemming from episodes of such great magnitude as these are still felt today in ways that go both noticed and unnoticed by many in our community; and,

WHEREAS, generations in our City have confronted these challenges, they still represent an ongoing mission for Wilmington to live up to its full potential as a place where citizens from every corner and walk of life share in the same opportunity for prosperity, participation, and quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, we strive to be an exceptional city where every citizen enjoys an equitable opportunity to flourish regardless of color, class, creed, or physical ability, this speaks to a broader concern for equity, diversity and full inclusion in civic life; and,

WHEREAS, in our port city home, we understand that a rising tide lifts all boats, we will rise together as we focus attention on including all of our neighbors in the City’s vision for the future; and,

WHEREAS, to better understand the City's progress in responding to challenges of equity and civic inclusion, and to facilitate an actionable plan for our ongoing response to these challenges.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Mayor and City Council seek to nurture a better understanding of the ongoing challenges of equity, diversity and civic inclusion, the City's progress in responding to these challenges, and to facilitate an actionable plan for our ongoing response to these challenges; and

THAT, to accomplish this, city staff are directed to develop a report that addresses the following:

The City's efforts to address challenges related to equity, diversity and civic inclusion, including policy changes, investments, community partnerships, and community engagement;

Identify challenges not currently being addressed, including areas where disparity in conditions exists and opportunities for growth and improvement in our response efforts;

Identify community stakeholders that have a primary or secondary role in addressing situations where disparity in conditions exists;

Identify opportunities to increase awareness and understanding of these challenges, especially in the context of service delivery; and,

Develop options, recommendations, and identify resources required to accomplish measurable improvements to challenges related to equity, diversity and civic inclusion for citizens regardless of race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, physical ability, or other relevant factors, for the council's consideration; and,

THAT, the Mayor and City Council resolve to respond to this report and its options and recommendations with necessary and prudent actions to continue our City's important work of responding to deep-seated challenges of equity, diversity and civic inclusion, and to rise together as we work together as neighbors to ensure that all those who call Wilmington home have equitable opportunities for prosperity, participation, and quality of life.

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2020

Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

City Attorney