

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH
COUNTY OF HORRY
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE
SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR AND THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A HATE
CRIME BILL.

WHEREAS, South Carolina is one of only two states in the United States that does not have any law on hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, H.3005, H.3014, and H.3020 are currently being considered by the House Judiciary Committee and similar bills, S.0003 and S.0296 are currently being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would establish hate crime legislation for South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, legislation would provide penalties for a person convicted of a crime with the intent to assault, intimidate, or threaten a person because of his race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or sexual orientation, gender and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, in December 2022, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released Hate Crime Statistics 2021, an annual compilation of bias-motivated incidents in the United States, and hate crimes remain a concern for communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Myrtle Beach rejects and condemns all groups and individuals whose ideologies are based on hate, violence, divisiveness, and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, we desire to promote the safe and quiet enjoyment of all residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Association of South Carolina states *Because South Carolina is one of only two states that have not enacted statewide hate crimes legislation, companies are choosing not to locate in the state or host events at municipal venues, causing cities and towns to lose valuable economic development opportunities*; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to promoting a community that is unified, where people of different races, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds resolve together to overcome the challenges of its past and become stronger and more inclusive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, that we call upon the South Carolina Governor and the General Assembly to immediately enact a hate crime law for the State of South Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be delivered to the Governor's Office, the House Judiciary Committee, and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SIGNED, SEALED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK