

Resolution in Support of Athens Immigrant, Undocumented, and Latinx Community

Whereas, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia embraces and celebrates our diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and ethnicities, and the Athens-Clarke County community benefits from the hard work, cultural offerings, and tax dollars of the immigrants who call Athens, Georgia home; and

Whereas, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia appreciates the many cultural, educational, and economic contributions the Latinx community continues to give; and

Whereas, one in ten Georgia residents is an immigrant and more than 375,000 undocumented residents live in Georgia; and

Whereas, white nationalists and xenophobes have been emboldened by some politicians and members of the media, and we recognize that our entire community, not just people of color and immigrants, is harmed by the existence of white supremacy in our community going unchallenged; and

Whereas, our immigrant and undocumented neighbors, especially those of Latinx heritage, face daily fears and threats from individuals and institutions such as ICE and we have witnessed these fears and threats become realities in the tragedies of the El Paso shooting, the family separations and incarceration at the southern border, and the mass arrests in Mississippi; and

Whereas, for the Athens community to be whole, it is necessary that families and loved ones remain together and that all people, including those without documentation, feel welcome and comfortable interacting with local law enforcement, their local government, and all services provided by such; and

Whereas, we unflinchingly defend the human rights of all people, including citizens, noncitizens, and those without documentation, and recognize that we cannot be witness to the violation of constitutional rights given to all people, repeatedly reaffirmed in cases such as *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* and *Plyler v. Doe*.


Therefore let it be resolved by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia that:

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government is welcoming to people from all lands and backgrounds and strives to foster a community where individuals and families of all statuses feel safe, are able to prosper, and can breathe free; and

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government denounces white supremacy and recognizes the role that some government institutions have played in creating it and commits itself to working to reverse the damage that has resulted to black, brown, and all other minority communities.

So resolved this 20th day of August, 2019.

APPROVED  _____
Kelly Girtz, Mayor

ATTEST  _____
Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission