

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CENTER MONTH

WHEREAS, the Dispute Settlement Center was established as a community mediation center in September, 1978 to provide mediation services for residents of Orange County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, its stated mission is “to promote and bring about the peaceful settlement of disputes and to prevent the escalation of conflict through mediation, conciliation, facilitation, and training;” and

WHEREAS, the Dispute Settlement Center was the first community mediation center in North Carolina, and assisted in the formation of others around the state; it now serves over 3000 people through mediation, training, facilitation, and restorative practices for youth services; and

WHEREAS, the Dispute Settlement Center is a statewide leader in the provision of these services, and its influence is now recognized nationally; it has earned accolades such as the North Carolina Crime and Justice Award for Outstanding Criminal Justice Program, the Bridges Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Banquet Committee, the NC Bar Association’s Dispute Resolution Section Peace Award, and the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service; and

WHEREAS, its influence has grown to reach an international audience; in 1996, it was the subject of a study by German academic, Christoph Besemer, in his book *Mediation in Practice: Experiences from the USA*; members have travelled to Austria, Bulgaria and Germany to conduct training and offer presentations; youth from Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia have received training at the Center; and

WHEREAS, the Dispute Settlement Center is an essential partner for our courts, schools, and government units, and a resource for our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro joins the Dispute Settlement Center in celebrating its 40th year of operation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, we, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, do hereby proclaim November as “DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CENTER MONTH” in the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina. We encourage residents to learn about mediation, conflict management, facilitation, restorative justice and other ways of effectively and peacefully resolving disputes between people.

This, the 12th day of November, 2019.