



Town of Carrboro

Town Hall
301 W. Main St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

Meeting Minutes Board of Aldermen

Tuesday, August 16, 2017

7:30 PM

Board Chambers - Room 110

Present: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Alderman Sammy Slade, Alderman Damon Seils, Alderman Bethany Chaney, Alderman Jacquelyn Gist, Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell

Also Present: David Andrews, Town Manager, Nick Herman, Town Attorney

POETRY READING

Gary Phillips, the Town's Poet Laureate, read a poem by Suheir Hammad entitled "What I will."

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke in favor of the resolution and requested that the resolution be amended to include distribution to Senators Burr and Tillis:

- Braxton Foushee
- Commissioner Penny Rich
- Bob Kirschner
- Ann Humphreys
- Lucy Lewis
- Don Holmes
- Chris van Hasselt
- Yadiel Shiferaw
- Barbara Foushee

RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHARLOTTESVILLE COUNTERPROTESTORS, CONDEMNING AND CALLING FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY

A motion was made by Alderman Gist, and seconded by Alderman Haven-O'Donnell to approve the resolution below:

**RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHARLOTTESVILLE COUNTERPROTESTORS,
CONDEMNING AND CALLING FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM AND WHITE
SUPREMACY**

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2017, during a demonstration in support of white supremacy in Charlottesville, Virginia, nineteen counterprotesters were seriously injured and one, Heather Heyer, was brutally murdered in a related act of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State Troopers H.J. Cullen and Berke Bates also were killed when their helicopter crashed in the course of monitoring the events on the ground; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro and the greater Orange County community shares much in common culturally and historically with the City of Charlottesville as Southern places that continue to struggle with both visible and systemic markers of racism and white supremacy, including flags, statues, names of streets and buildings, and most importantly, disparate social, educational and economic outcomes for people of color in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro offers our deepest sympathy, compassion, and solidarity to the families of those injured and killed, those who stood up for justice that day, and the larger Charlottesville community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro cherishes these among many words of the honorable Nelson Mandela: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite;" and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro strives to be an inclusive community that champions diversity, embraces its immigrant community, respects sexual and gender identity, makes room for all faiths, pursues racial equity, and rejects hatred, violence, and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful to the Carrboro residents who demonstrated these values and placed themselves at risk by joining in the antiracist, antifascist counterdemonstrations in Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro will continue to stand with the City of Charlottesville, its residents and students in condemning the KKK, Nazi affiliates, and other white supremacists and fascists who espouse hatred, bigotry, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro recognizes that the legacies of the past are still firmly rooted in the present, and by examining, telling, and knowing history we stand the best chance for change; and

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Carrboro reaffirm our commitment to a just, equitable community free of racism, hatred and bigotry and, in doing so, we hereby:

- 1) Commit to engage diverse young people in Carrboro through the Youth Advisory Board, YouthWorx on Main, NAACP Youth Council, El Centro Hispano, and other organizations, and to enable and support youth centered anti-racism and anti-discrimination strategies, including

activities that promote positive leadership and conflict resolution skills, inclusionary decision-making, and the creation and protection of public spaces that are free from racial and other forms of intimidation;

- 2) Call on the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal the Cultural History Artifact Management and Patriotism Act of 2015 (Session Law 2015-170), so that communities throughout North Carolina may begin the work of removing Confederate monuments and other symbols of white supremacy from public spaces, including the removal of Silent Sam from the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill;
- 3) Call on the North Carolina Senate to permanently park *House Bill 330, CivPro/Qualified Immunity for Auto Accident*, which was passed by the House 67-48 on April 27, 2017, and which would provide drivers “exercising due care” immunity from civil liability for injury caused to demonstrators or protestors blocking traffic in a public street or highway;
- 4) Call on the Republican leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly to end their attempts to suppress voting rights, including voter ID measures, sham investigations of voter fraud, racially motivated gerrymandering, and other efforts designed to discourage and prevent black people from voting;
- 5) Urge that, on September 8, 2017, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina reject the recommendation of the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs that would prohibit the UNC School of Law’s Center for Civil Rights and similar institutes and centers from joining or initiating litigation, including that which would protect and ensure equal protection and justice for communities of color, religious minorities, and other North Carolinians in the face of an increasingly aggressive environment;
- 6) Express our outrage at President Donald J. Trump for his dismissal of national outrage about this tragedy, as well as U.S. Congressional leadership that enables him, for continuing to support the advancement of policies that discriminate, disenfranchise, and otherwise damage the safety, health and livelihoods of people of color, women, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, Muslims, Jews and other religious minorities; and for myriad lies, endorsements, outbursts, unethical behavior and illegal legislative tactics, all of which exemplify and embolden white supremacy, bigotry, racism, anti-semitism, and fascism and threaten both our democracy and the planet;
- 7) Encourage all residents of the Town of Carrboro to work together to fight racism, hatred, and bigotry, and to recognize, acknowledge and undo white privilege that perpetuates racist outcomes even in the absence of explicit white supremacist ideology;
- 8) Seek ways to identify and acknowledge Carrboro’s own racist and white supremacist histories, and seek to find ways to memorialize, heal, and transform from that history;
- 9) Thank the Orange County School Board for altering the system-wide dress code to prohibit “items that are reasonably expected to intimidate other students on the basis of race (for example KKK, swastika, and the Confederate Flag).”

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Chapel Hill Town Council, Hillsborough Board of Commissioners, Orange County Board of Commissioners, the Boards of Education for the Orange County Schools and the Chapel-Carrboro City Schools, N.C. Senator Valerie Foushee, N.C.

Representative Verla Insko, U.S. Senator Richard Burr, U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, and President Donald Trump.

This the 16th day of August, 2017.

The foregoing resolution, having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 16th day of August 2017.

Ayes: Mayor Lavelle, Alderman Seils, Alderman Slade, Alderman Chaney, Alderman Gist, Alderman Haven-O'Donnell

Noes: None

The Board directed staff to consider the safety of the Town and how the Town would respond to similar situations. They asked for a better understanding of weapons at public events public gatherings and legislation related to weapons. They also asked for chain of custody issued and details related to sanctuary cities. Staff will schedule a future item for the Board of Aldermen for follow-up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN SEILS, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN CHANEY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL