

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS GUIDING PRINCIPLES (2009-11-23/R-11)

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill is a leader among American cities in advancing human rights and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill promotes an engaged citizenry that cares for the human rights and dignity of others; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Chapel Hill have petitioned the Council to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 and signed and agreed to by all countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, having been promulgated in 1948, Chapel Hill acknowledges that certain principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be updated as follows:

- a. The preamble, in paragraph two, should make reference to “humankind” rather than “mankind”;
- b. Article 2 should also contain the statuses of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression;
- c. Article 10 should acknowledge the rights of all persons to enter into civil marriage with their partner of choice, regardless of gender;
- d. Article 16(1) should make reference to “people” rather than “men and women.” It should add “ethnicity” to the limitation clause.
- e. Article 16(3) makes reference to “family.” It should be noted that the definition of “family” has evolved greatly since 1948. Historically it was known as “the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children,” while today it further includes “any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family.”
- f. Article 25(2) should be revised to include “fatherhood” and should delete the reference to “born in or out of wedlock.”
 1. Throughout the document, any reference to “his,” “him” or “himself” should be stated “them” or “themselves” in order to be gender inclusive. and
 2. WHEREAS, the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (*with clarification above*) will guide the spirit of the laws, practices, and policies carried out with and on behalf of the residents of Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, these principles reflect the Town of Chapel Hill’s integrity and commitment to preserving racial, economic, and social justice within the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill hereby adopts the amended version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

This 23rd day of November, 2009.