

RESOLUTION NO. 20-15

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) **To Reinforce Diversity, Support Racial Equality**
)
COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN) **and Affirm that Black Lives Matter**

WHEREAS, Georgetown County, a local government and body politic, is not shielded from the most recent national events resulting from the deaths of Black Americans and cannot remain silent; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation’s history, institutional and structural racism have caused injustices that deepen racial disparities across all sectors of society and have lasting negative consequences for our county, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, our Nation’s Declaration of Independence, ratified on July 4, 1776, declared “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;” and

WHEREAS, while Georgetown County Council cannot alter the historical and factual context of racism and bigotry in the United States, this Council can and does unequivocally declare it will not condone racial inequities within the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter protests have swept the nation as demonstrators demand justice in response to the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and far too many other Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement, like the civil rights movement before it, has effectively articulated the injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class, and gender; including incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, gender inequality, poor access to healthcare and educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in early June 2020, nearly one thousand community members peacefully marched through the City of Georgetown, the Town of Andrews, and Pawleys Island in protest of these acts; and

WHEREAS, “Equal Justice Under the Law” is a phrase engraved on a pediment in front of the United States Supreme Court, and Georgetown County Council believes all officials should work toward making this a reality; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of Georgetown County Council to foster meaningful relationships and establish conversations with its citizens, inclusive of all races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Georgetown County Council recognizes a compassionate regard for Black lives is a vital first step, one of many, that must be taken within this organization in order to build bridges, acknowledge and better understand cultural differences across Georgetown County; and

WHEREAS, this Council fully commits to promote a culture of trust among county government, county law enforcement, county advocacy and special interest groups, and the citizens of Georgetown County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgetown County Council condemns any and all acts of racism and discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Georgetown County Council commits itself not only to address the symbols of institutional racism, but also to proactively identify and address biases, practices, policies, and institutional barriers that perpetuate injustice and inequality in our community; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Georgetown County Council aims to make Georgetown County an even more welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all, with equity and equal access for opportunity, regardless of race or ethnicity.

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SO SHALL IT BE proclaimed this 23rd day of June, 2020.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCIL Georgetown, South Carolina

John Thomas, Chairman, District 1

Ron Charlton, District 2

Everett Carolina, District 3

Lillie Jean Johnson, District 4

Raymond L. Newton, District 5

Steve Goggans, District 6

Louis R. Morant, District 7