

Kenosha



County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Subject: Resolution condemning violence and hate speech, expressing solidarity with Muslims and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race or religion.	
Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Date Submitted: December 7th, 2016	Date Resubmitted:
Submitted By: Dayvin M.A. Hallmon	
Fiscal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Legal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/>
Prepared By: Dayvin M.A. Hallmon	Signature:

WHEREAS the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles; and

WHEREAS, the history of Islam in the United States began even before its founding when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where they later helped in numerous ways to build this country, including sacrificing their lives on the line in every major war from the Revolutionary War onward; and

WHEREAS there are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States today. Kenosha County has 114 faith congregations¹ with 62,000 people in affiliation² with those congregations including 1 mosque, all making invaluable contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

WHEREAS there has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans and those perceived as Muslims; and

¹ 2010 U.S. Religious Census compiled by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies
The Pew Research Center on Religion and Public life reports that people of the Muslim faith make up 1% of Wisconsin's population out of a statewide sample size from Wisconsin of 600 people.

² Ibid

WHEREAS Arab and Muslim Americans, and those perceived as Muslims, are frequently the targets of abusive and discriminatory police practices sanctioned by the state including surveillance in their neighborhoods and places of worship; and

WHEREAS we are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color, and we are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this escalation and using it in order to gain power; and

WHEREAS in the face of extreme bigotry and violence, Muslim communities and their leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote peace and justice and service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need; and

WHEREAS we, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hate, violence and discrimination against any of our constituents or countrypersons:

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors

- (1) Condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants and people of color;
- (2) Categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence;
- (3) Commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms & uplifts civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination
- (4) Reaffirms the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.