

**CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

20-R-4057

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBERS MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET, DUSTIN HILLIS, JENNIFER N. IDE, CARLA SMITH, ANDRE DICKENS, MICHAEL JULIAN BOND, AMIR R. FAROKHI, ANTONIO BROWN, AND CLETA WINSLOW, J P MATZIGKEIT AND ANDREA BOONE

A RESOLUTION THAT ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT HB 426 (“GEORGIA HATE CRIMES ACT”) WITHIN THE STATE OF GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta (“City”) is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City is the Mayor and Council thereof (“City Council”); and

WHEREAS, the United States and Georgia have pervasive histories of racism, hatred and prejudice against people of color; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) defines a hate crime as “a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity”; and

WHEREAS, 2018 Hate Crime statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation state 46.9% of all reported hate crimes are motivated by anti-Black or African-American bias, the largest category of cases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association confirms that hate crimes harm the community and its members by sending the message that certain group members are unsafe or unwelcome; and

WHEREAS, in the past several years, violent crimes, threats of violence and other incidents of hate motivated targeting of racial, ethnic and religious minorities have increased across the United States; and

WHEREAS, recently in the past six (6) months, the world witnessed the senseless murder of Rayshard Brooks, an African American male, in Southwest Atlanta on June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African American male, was killed in a neighborhood south of downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year old African American woman was fatally shot by Louisville Metro Police Department while she was in her bed sleeping; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Marquez Arbery, an unarmed 25-year -old African-American man, was fatally shot near Brunswick in Glynn County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, these tragic events are the few of many African American lives that have caused outrage over the nation resulting in mass demonstrations of protest and riots all over the country

and incited a renewed interest that Georgia denounces and condemns crimes motivated by hatred and racial bias; and

WHEREAS, the majority of states in the U.S. have enacted hate crime legislation to address harms against others motivated by racism, hatred and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, Georgia is one of only four states in the U.S. with no enacted hate crime legislation; and

WHEREAS, Cities in Georgia such as City of South Fulton and City of East Point are in support of the adoption of HB 426; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health and general welfare of the City, the State of Georgia and the Nation that the Atlanta City Council supports the adoption of HB 426 “Georgia Hate Crimes Act”.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, respectfully request the Georgia General Assembly to enact HB 426 “Georgia Hate Crimes Act” within the State of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption, the Municipal Court shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Brian Kemp and all members of the Georgia General Assembly.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby waived in this instance only.