

CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-62

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND ENTIRE COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING ACTIVITIES OF HATE,
INTOLERANCE AND INTIMIDATION IN THE CITY
OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the people of the City of Broadview Heights to seek to protect human and civil rights, and

WHEREAS, we believe that diversity within our community is a source of strength and opportunity, and

WHEREAS, the City of Broadview Heights is home to a variety of religious institutions, many of which are minority religious institutions, and

WHEREAS, many visitors and travelers to the City of Broadview Heights come to attend these religious institutions and other diverse events, and

WHEREAS, the City of Broadview Heights chooses to be a leader in promoting human rights and social justice, public safety and social well-being,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That we join the efforts across the community, country and globe to oppose hate violence by strongly asserting that every person has the right to go about his or her business without fear of intimidation or harassment, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnicity, race, immigration status, gender or sexual identity.

SECTION 2. That the people of the City of Broadview Heights will stand together in opposing manifestations of hate and acts of intolerance committed against those who live, work or visit in this community.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and for the further reason stated in the preamble hereof, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members of Council and the signature of the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: June 5, 2017

DATE FILED
WITH MAYOR: June 5, 2017

ATTEST: Helena Dunlap
HELEN DUNLAP, CLERK OF COUNCIL


ROBERT BOLDT, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 
SAMUEL J. ALAI, MAYOR

DATE APPROVED: June 5, 2017

Helen Dunlap

From: Robert Boldt
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6:16 PM
To: Sam Alai; Helen Dunlap
Subject: Fwd: Proposing a resolution to City Council
Attachments: Richfield Document.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Please put on next weeks agenda

Bob

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: <lindahna@gmail.com>
Date: May 11, 2017 at 8:29:56 AM EDT
To: "rboldt@broadview-heights.org" <rboldt@broadview-heights.org>
Subject: **Proposing a resolution to City Council**

Dear Mr. Boldt,

My husband and I belong to a group of citizens from Broadview Heights, Richfield, Cuyahoga Falls, Bath and Akron who have come together because we are concerned about the animosity towards others that has developed during the past few years. Our hope is that this is not happening in Broadview Heights as it has in other localities. We feel that diversity is good for our city and want it to be a place where people of different backgrounds and beliefs can feel welcome. Both Richfield Village and Richfield Township have passed the resolution, of which a copy is attached to this email, and other citizens are presenting the idea to their localities as well. The link below is an article about it in the Akron Beacon Journal Community section

<http://www.ohio.com/news/local/richfield-passes-anti-hate-resolution-to-support-home-grown-grass-roots-effort-1.761814>

The attached PDF is the actual resolution that Richfield passed.

We were wondering if this could be something that our city could do as well and would like to present a draft for Broadview Heights to City Council on Monday, May 15th.

Let us know if this would be possible.

Please call us if you have any questions about this idea or concerns, please feel free to call us.

Sincerely,

Linda Romans-Hnath and Timothy Hnath

1480 Golden Lane

440-838-1432

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING ACTIVITIES OF HATE, INTOLERANCE AND
INTIMIDATION IN THE VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD.**

WHEREAS, the people of the Village of Richfield seek to protect human and civil rights, and

WHEREAS, we believe that diversity within our community is a source of strength and opportunity, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Richfield is home to a variety of religious institutions, many of which are minority religious institutions, and

WHEREAS, many visitors and travelers to the Village of Richfield come to attend these religious institutions and other diverse events, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Richfield chooses to be a leader in promoting human rights and social justice, public safety and social well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Richfield, Summit County, State of Ohio:

That we join the efforts across the community, country and globe to oppose hate violence by strongly asserting that every person has the right to go about his or her business without fear of intimidation or harassment, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnicity, race, immigration status, gender or sexual identity.

And that the people of the Village of Richfield will stand together in opposing manifestations of hate and acts of intolerance committed against those who live, work or visit in this community.

Akron Beacon Journal

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

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Community

Richfield passes anti-hate resolution to support home-grown grass-roots effort

By Paula Schleis
Beacon Journal staff writer

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Published: April 20, 2017 - 07:40 PM





RICHFIELD: Tuesday evening, Kathy Hayes heard the words that she needed to hear from her village's elected officials.

That Richfield's administration believes every person "has the right to go about his or her business without fear of intimidation or harassment, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnicity, race, immigration status, gender or sexual identity."

That her village council sees diversity as "a source of strength, vitality and opportunity."

That her hometown, a pre-Civil War stop on the Underground Railroad, still "chooses to be a leader in promoting human rights and social justice."

The Village Council's unanimous passage of a resolution titled "Embracing Diversity and Denouncing Activities of Hate, Intolerance and Intimidation" was the first success for Unite Against Hate, a grass-roots effort born in a Richfield living room but possibly coming to another council near you.

In January, Hayes and her husband, Chris, huddled with a dozen friends, disturbed by recent stories of escalating violence. Vandalism at Jewish cemeteries. Attacks on gays. Overt racism. Assaults against women.

"Some of them close to home," Hayes said, believing a divisive presidential election seemed to have released the worst in people.

But that wasn't acceptable in Richfield, the mother, wife and copy editor's home for all of her nearly 50 years. And she and her friends wanted local officials to say so.

They did. The council clerk does not usually read legislation in its entirety, many dry documents filled with facts and figures, lists of "whereas" arguments and rows of conclusions following "therefore, be it resolved." But it was read Tuesday night. Every word.

"That's why we had him read it out loud, to raise community awareness," said Council President Roger Swan, who worked on the language. "It shows support for a grass-roots people who are interested in spreading love and joy."

Hayes and her family were in the audience, but she wasn't alone. Her pastor, John King of Richfield United Church of Christ, presented the council with dozens of signatures on a letter supporting the resolution.

Next year, the congregation will be 200 years old, many of the members still proud that more than a century ago, their church publicly issued a statement opposing the Fugitive Slave Act.

Whether the 19th century or the 21st century, "It's always the right time to stand up for the right thing," Hayes said.

King said he wears four hats in the community, and every one of them supported the anti-hate resolution. As a pastor, "it's consistent with everything I believe." As a trustee of the local historical society, "it reflects the kind of village this has been." As a father and as a citizen, "it's the kind of community I want to belong to."

This is not the time to be silent, he said.

"We want it deliberately stated that we reject hate and intolerance," King said.

Unite Against Hate is just getting started, Hayes said. Other members of the group live in Bath Township, Cuyahoga Falls, Akron and Broadview Heights and have begun reaching out to their own elected officials about passing similar resolutions.

The Richfield Township trustees also have one on their agenda in May.

The group has also sent a letter to Gov. John Kasich, asking the state to create a hate crime hotline, similar to one in Massachusetts. No word yet.

Richfield Mayor Bobbie Beshara said the council's resolution was a good opportunity to remind villagers of their inclusive and compassionate history.

"Our world is a big place and sometimes we put blinders on," she said. "This opens us up to remembering there are different people that live in our community, work in our community, have fun in our community, and they are all welcome."

Paula Schleis can be reached at 330-996-3741 or pschleis@thebeaconjournal.com. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/paulaschleis>.

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