

Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes and Reconvening the Ann Arbor Community Response Group

Whereas, Ann Arbor’s Non-Discrimination Ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment housing, and public accommodations based on actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight; and

Whereas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation 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, there has been a notable increase in the number of hate crimes committed in public accommodations within the City of Ann Arbor in the past several months, including but not limited to: swastikas and racial slurs spray-painted on Ann Arbor’s Skatepark in Veterans Memorial Park; a racial slur spray-painted on Concordia University’s college track; destruction of property outside of the Aut Bar in Ann Arbor’s Braun Court; and racist graffiti defacing a mural in downtown Ann Arbor on the 600 block of East Liberty Street; and

Whereas, individuals have also directed intolerant, racist, and hateful speech at other community members on or near the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor’s campus, including use of a racial slur during a non-violent campus protest; posting of racist notes on doors of minority community members in a residence hall; and painting of racist and xenophobic graffiti on the historic “university rock”;

Whereas, these incidents target community members based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression, and/or gender identity; 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 unwelcome¹; and

Whereas, the mandate of the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission includes a duty “to discourage and eliminate racial tensions, prejudice, and/or discrimination”; and, therefore it is

Resolved, that the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission formally condemns hate crimes committed in the Ann Arbor community, and will take affirmative measures to reconvene the Ann Arbor community response group. The group of community leaders and representatives is tasked with forming united communal responses to hateful acts, with the goal of maintaining a welcoming environment, strengthening community bonds, and reducing the impact of hate crimes on community members.

¹ American Psychological Association: Public Interest Government Relations Office, *The Psychology of Hate Crimes*, Available at: <https://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/human-rights/hate-crimes.pdf>

