RESOLUTION NO. __________

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF SENTENCE ENHANCEMENT FOR HATE CRIMES AS SET OUT IN SENATE BILL 3 AND HOUSE BILL 1020 WHERE THE PROSECUTION PROVES THAT A VICTIM WAS PURPOSELY SELECTED FOR HARM BECAUSE OF A PERSONAL ATTRIBUTE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, it unfortunately has become evident that in Arkansas, as well as other parts of America, a person’s attributes are the reason they are selected to be the victim of a criminal offense; and,

WHEREAS, when such a motive has been established by the prosecution beyond a reasonable doubt such enhanced punishment is appropriate; and,

WHEREAS, during the 2021 Regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly of Arkansas two (2) bills – Senate Bill 3 (SB 3), introduced by Senator Jim Hendren, and House Bill 1020 (HB 1020), introduced by Representative Frederick Love, create a methodology for the enhancement of a sentence of imprisonment, the amount of a fine, the length of a period of probation, if at least one (1) specified attribute is shown to have led to a person’s victimization; and,

WHEREAS, the attributes proposed include past or current service in the armed forces of the United States, race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, homelessness, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, or disability, and to use these attributes as a basis to victimize someone is a horrible statement that such a person is not truly a human being; and,

WHEREAS, the ability to dehumanize a person because of such a characteristic is a first and reprehensible step towards demagoguery and totalitarianism, and are totally and completely inconsistent with the individual protections and rights contained in the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and in the Constitution of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, it is important for the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, to state its support for such legislation in unmistakable terms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The Mayor and Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, wholeheartedly and without reservation endorse approval of Arkansas hate crimes legislation as set forth in SB 3 and HB 1020 of the 2021 Regular Session of the 93rd Arkansas General Assembly.

Section 2. Further, the Mayor and Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, express their appreciation to Senator Jim Hendren of Gravette, Arkansas, and Representative Frederick J. Love of
Mablevale, Arkansas, as the initial sponsors, and Representatives Fred Allen, Denise Jones Ennett, Tippi McCullough, and Joy Springer, and Senators Linda Chesterfield and Joyce Elliot of Little Rock, Arkansas, Representative Jamie Scott of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Representative Monte Hodges of Blytheville, Arkansas, Representative Nicole Clowney and Senator David Whitaker of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Representative Jay Richardson of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Representative Jay Wardlaw of Hermitage, Arkansas, Senator David Wallace of Leachville, Arkansas, Representative David Fielding of Magnolia, Arkansas, Representative Reginald Murdock of Mariana, Arkansas, Representative Milton Nicks, Jr., of Marion, Arkansas, Representatives Kenneth Ferguson and Vivian Flowers of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Representative Joe Jett of Success, Arkansas, for their filing or co-sponsorship of SB 3 and HB 1020.

Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

Section 4. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: February 16, 2021

ATTEST:

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Susan Langley, City Clerk

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Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

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