

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND HOSPITALITY

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recently adopted a bill, H.B. 1523, referred to as the Religious Liberty Accommodations Act, that purports to provide State legal protection for certain discriminatory acts of religious or moral conviction that otherwise could be construed as anti-gay and lesbian and transgender; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 1523 in effect broadly allows for State-sanctioned discrimination against certain sexual orientations or transgender individuals or groups as long as the discriminatory acts are grounded in sincerely held religious beliefs or moral conviction; and

WHEREAS, the Religious Liberty Accommodations Act could potentially sanction overt acts of discrimination against Mississippi citizens and visitors of certain sexual or gender preference based on undefined - and therefore any and all - claims of religious or moral conviction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson understands, appreciates and celebrates that the Constitution of the United States of America prohibits governments from making laws "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," guarantees to all persons "the equal protection of the laws" and does not allow discrimination in any form against any person; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson believes in the essential worth and dignity of every human being, promotes fair and impartial treatment of all citizens, and encourages kindness, compassion, understanding and cooperation among all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is widely known for its cultural diversity and hospitality to all people and welcomes all citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson does not sanction or tolerate discrimination against its citizens or visitors and seeks to preserve and protect the rights of all individuals regardless of religion or identity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson is open for business and tourism and residential development to all law-abiding individuals and groups regardless of religion or identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The findings, conclusions and statements of fact contained in the preamble are hereby adopted, ratified and incorporated herein.

Section 2: Mayor Tony T. Yarber and the Jackson City Council do hereby pledge to continue providing, under law, a municipal government and hospitable community that appreciates, celebrates and protects diversity and the individual rights of all its citizens, visitors and businesses.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after adoption.

Agenda Item #:

Date:

By: Councilman Hendrix