

**RESOLUTION NO. 120**  
**Muslim Solidarity Resolution of 2016**

**WHEREAS**, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of Islam in the United States began even before the country's founding, when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where they contributed to the building of this country, including sacrificing their lives on the line in every major war from the Revolutionary War on; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States today, and tens of thousands living in the City of St. Louis, making invaluable contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, those perceived as Arab, and those perceived as Muslims, along with frequent targeting of these group for abusive and discriminatory police practices sanctioned by the state, including surveillance in their neighborhoods and places of worship; and

**WHEREAS**, we are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color, and we are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this escalation and using it in order to gain power; and

**WHEREAS**, in the face of extreme bigotry and violence, Muslim communities and their leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote peace, justice, and service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hate, violence, and discrimination against any of our constituents or countrymen.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Alderman for the City of St. Louis:

1. Condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and people of color;
2. Categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence;
3. Commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and

ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and

4. Reaffirms the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.

Introduced on the 23rd day of September, 2016, by:

**The Honorable Megan-Ellyia Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward**  
**The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward**

Adopted the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, as attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy O'Connell  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen