

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia  
Mayor and Commission  
Special Called Session  
Tuesday, August 20, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia met this date in a special called session. Present: Mayor Girtz; Commissioners Davenport, Parker, Link, Wright, Denson, NeSmith, Edwards, Herod, Thornton, and Hamby. No one was absent. Commissioner Thornton came in at 6:13 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider a resolution in support of Athens immigrant, undocumented, and Latinx community; enter into executive session for discussion of real estate acquisition and/or disposal; and consider any other item in proper order.

#### Citizen input

The following citizens spoke in favor of the resolution.

1. Maria Fernandez
2. Julio Cesar Hernandez
3. Maria Gomez

#### New business – Consider under suspension of Rules

A motion was made by Commissioner NeSmith, seconded by Commissioner Denson, to suspend Rules of Commission for one item of new business. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Denson, seconded by Commissioner Wright, to adopt the following resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution in Support of Athens Immigrant, Undocumented, and Latinx Community**

Whereas, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia embraces and celebrates our diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and ethnicities, and the Athens-Clarke County community benefits from the hard work, cultural offerings, and tax dollars of the immigrants who call Athens, Georgia home; and

Whereas, Athens-Clarke County, Georgia appreciates the many cultural, educational, and economic contributions the Latinx community continues to give; and

Whereas, one in ten Georgia residents is an immigrant and more than 375,000 undocumented residents live in Georgia; and

Whereas, white nationalists and xenophobes have been emboldened by some politicians and members of the media, and we recognize that our entire community, not just people of color and immigrants, is harmed by the existence of white supremacy in our community going unchallenged; and

Whereas, our immigrant and undocumented neighbors, especially those of Latinx heritage, face daily fears and threats from individuals and institutions such as ICE and we have witnessed these fears and threats become realities in the tragedies of the El Paso shooting, the family separations and incarceration at the southern border, and the mass arrests in Mississippi; and

Whereas, for the Athens community to be whole, it is necessary that families and loved ones remain together and that all people, including those without documentation, feel welcome and comfortable interacting with local law enforcement, their local government, and all services provided by such; and

Whereas, we unflinchingly defend the human rights of all people, including citizens, noncitizens, and those without documentation, and recognize that we cannot be witness to the violation of constitutional rights given to all people, repeatedly reaffirmed in cases such as *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* and *Plyler v. Doe*.

**Therefore let it be resolved by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia that:**

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government is welcoming to people from all lands and backgrounds and strives to foster a community where individuals and families of all statuses feel safe, are able to prosper, and can breathe free; and

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government denounces white supremacy and recognizes the role that some government institutions have played in creating it and commits itself to working to reverse the damage that has resulted to black, brown, and all other minority communities.

A motion was made by Commissioner NeSmith, seconded by Commissioner Denson, enter into executive session for discussion of real estate acquisition and/or disposal. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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Clerk of Commission