



City of Lauderhill

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File Details

File Number: 19R-3344

File ID: 19R-3344

Type: Resolution

Status: Quasi-Judicial
Reconsideration

Version: 1

Reference:

In Control: City Commission
Meeting

File Created: 08/13/2019

File Name: Opposing President's Racism

Final Action:

Title: RESOLUTION NO. 19R-08-161: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL OPPOSING AND CONDEMNING THE INSENSITIVE AND RACIST COMMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP DIRECTED TOWARDS FOUR UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMEN; PROVIDING THAT THE RACIST STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP ARE DANGEROUS, DEHUMANIZING AND UNBECOMING OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT; PROVIDING THAT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP HAS, BY HIS CONDUCT SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT, FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NORMS OF INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND EMPATHY THAT ARE EXPECTED FROM THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; PROVIDING THAT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP HAS DEMONSTRATED TIME AND AGAIN THAT HE IS A RACIST; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CAMPBELL).

Notes:

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: RES-RECONSIDERATION-19R-08-161-Oppose Racism-MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION.pdf, RES 19R-08-161 Oppose President Trump Comments

Enactment Number:

Contact:

Hearing Date:

* **Drafter:** apetti@laudershill-fl.gov

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Commission Meeting	08/26/2019	approved				Pass

Notes: *Commissioner Campbell stated the subject resolution was consistent with past City resolutions, as well as those of many other cities, counties and states throughout the United States. The resolution was particularly important for Lauderhill, as it was a city populated with many immigrant and minority populations. He believed the lives of such populations in the City were directly impacted by the consistency of such language made against folks who did not look like the President, and this was something about which no one should continue to be silent, as silence gave the appearance of condoning such language. Such behavior had been witnessed over a long period of time; for example, as in the long ago case of the young men wrongly convicted in New York with the verdict subsequently reversed. He remarked President Trump constantly questioned whether President Obama was born in the United States, as well as stating President Obama should provide transcripts to substantiate his education credentials. When President Trump frequently made comments against Mexicans, many who were not Mexican allowed them to pass, but he made similarly disparaging comments about people of countries populated by dark-skinned persons. Regarding the four congresswomen, three of them were born in the United States, and one came to the U.S. at a very early age, so they were all Americans. Commissioner Campbell noted, oftentimes, people did not react to situations unless it directly affected them, but that, practice should stop. One of the congresswomen in question was an African American born in the U.S. with no affiliation to any African country, and remarks by the President were damaging to people of color. He hoped the subject resolution would be one of many that clearly communicated to the President of the United States that though he was respected as President of the United States, such racist remarks would not be tolerated from the White House. He urged everyone to join him in continuing to condemn statements made by any bigot who spewed such hateful and hurtful comments. He was a proud, dark-skinned person born in another country, who later became an American citizen, so when such language was used by the President, it affected him deeply.*

Commissioner Berger commented resolutions such as that being proposed came before the Commission for approval, and at those times he thought they were wrong and he voted against them. He thought since the issue of Russian collusion was pretty much dead, and with efforts to impeach the President fizzling out, the President's detractors were now playing the race card as, regrettably, a last resort, and going into the 2020 election, this was being done very aggressively. The economy was in very good shape, so that could not be used against the President, and the situation was similar regarding unemployment, which was down, especially in minority communities. He said using the race card was not a new political strategy, alleging many presidential candidates and people in the media said the United States was a mean, oppressive, and racist country with policies built on racism, including the criminal justice system, law enforcement, and police departments. Commissioner Berger claimed in the past week, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez said the Electoral College was a racist scam, recalling in the 2018 Florida Governor's election, people tried to pin an ugly label on Governor DeSantis by contorting his words to give them a false and malicious meaning. He acknowledged bigots and racism did exist, but it was unfortunate that there was widespread weaponizing of such language for political purposes, making it difficult to identify and confront true racists and hate peddlers. The term racist, regrettably, became devalued, and efforts to combat real racism might not be taken seriously when the right situations warranted it. The congresswomen named in the proposed resolution were a part of a recently planned congressional trip to Israel to welcome and introduce 41 Democrat and Republican members of Congress. However, three of the four congresswomen, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez refused to go, with Ms. Tlaib and Ms. Omar preferring to go to Israel on their own, which he claimed was for the purpose of strengthening the boycott of Israel, and to show solidarity with Palestinians. Commissioner Berger remarked these congresswomen supported the Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) Movement, reminding the Commission that in May 2019, they unanimously approved a resolution he sponsored to indicate the City's opposition to the BDS Movement against Israel, as it promoted anti-Semitism and the elimination of the Jewish state. He noted the resolution additionally stated the City would do no business with any company that supported the BDS Movement. It was alleged that the two congresswomen's trip to Israel was being sponsored and planned by Miftah; an anti-Semitic group that celebrated terrorism and praised female suicide bombing as a sacrifice for their cause. He claimed their travel itinerary listed their destination as Palestine, not as Israel, and Congresswoman Tlaib routinely referred to the "occupation of Palestine." It was alleged that their itinerary showed no plans to meet with any Israeli government officials, just left-wing, anti-Israel groups, and one of the leaders of the PLO. Israel made

the decision not to permit them into the country, as they prohibited the entry of persons who supported boycotts and terrorism in Israel, a similar practice of other countries denying entrance to persons identified as wishing to do harm, like the United States. President Trump spoke in favor of denying them entry to Israel, concurring with the Israeli Prime Minister's decision, as freedom of speech did not stop at the doors of the White House. When Congresswoman Tlaib claimed she wanted to visit family in the West Bank, Israel agreed to let her enter on humanitarian grounds, but said she would not be allowed to propagandize her beliefs. He said Congresswoman Tlaib then changed her mind about going to Israel, and he believed this was due to her foremost reason for going to Israel being to promote radical ideas. He said, several years ago, Congresswoman Tlaib wrote an article for Louis Farrakhan's newspaper, and at a Trump rally in 2016, she became so disruptive she had to be forcibly removed. After getting elected and taking the oath of office on the English version of the Koran, she publicly stated her support for the impeachment of President Trump. He said the subject resolution sought to condemn President Trump, for his insensitivity towards four named congresswomen, yet Congresswomen Omar and Tlaib sponsored resolutions in the House that supported the boycott of Israel. In July, Tlaib made a speech on the floor of the House, opposing an anti-BDS resolution that eventually passed 398 to 17; she compared boycotts of Israel to boycotts against Nazi Germany. Commissioner Berger remarked these congresswomen were the first Muslim women elected to Congress, and they could have been instrumental in normalizing relations between Palestine and Israel, yet they appeared to be walking in lock step with radical Islam. He said Congresswoman Omar suggested several times that lawmakers who supported America's alliance with Israel had dual loyalties, and she tweeted that U.S. politicians' support of Israel was motivated by money. The Israeli Prime Minister responded to her comments that U.S. support of Israel had nothing to do with money, it was about shared values. He stated Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez said the U.S. government was running concentration camps on the country's southern borders, which was offensive to Holocaust survivors. President Trump called out these congresswomen for their radicalism, for being self-described radical, democratic socialists, and for their hate of Israel and anti-Semitism, which he had a right to do, and he was glad the President did. The subject resolution stated President Trump's comments were racist, dangerous, dehumanizing and unbecoming of the office of President, but the comments of the four abovementioned congresswomen were dangerous, bigoted and unbecoming of members of Congress. He felt approving the proposed resolution, essentially, defended and condoned the hate-filled and bigoted views of these congresswomen, and he thought the City was better than that.

Commissioner Campbell remarked that if Commissioner Berger was being allowed to give a lengthy commentary to the matter of discussion, understanding that this was a controversial issue, he should be permitted time to rebut. He expressed hurt and disappointment that out of the four congresswomen, one was being painted as a Muslim; this was what was sad about racism and hatred. The African American congresswoman has nothing to do with Israel and was not Muslim, and to justify an attack on these congresswomen based on what was allegedly the fault of one congresswoman was really sad. For years, Bernie Sanders publicly proclaimed himself to be a democratic socialist, yet he was never told to leave the United States. The Communist Party of the United States was made up of white, Anglo men, but they had never been told to leave the United States because of their political affiliation. President Jimmy Carter previously stated the system in Israel was like Apartheid, and such controversial statements were permitted, despite many disagreeing with him. The difference was that he was white, and he too was never told to leave the United States for expressing such sentiments. Commissioner Campbell remarked the situation was not about the ideological positions of these congresswomen, as there were many white nationalists in the United States who did not go after Jews in Israel, but they attacked them in the United States, yet no one told the white nationalists to leave the United States. Again, it came down to race, so it was a sad, sad day, not just for the statements made by the President, but for those who lived among immigrants and did not find such statements offensive.

Commissioner Grant sought clarification that the primary focus of the resolution was to oppose and condemn insensitive and racist comments made by President Trump

Commissioner Campbell affirmed it was.

Commissioner Grant desired to know, other than President Trump telling the four congresswomen to

go back to where they came from, what other insensitive and racist comments President Trump made.

Commissioner Campbell explained, historically, such language was used as a racist tool in the United States against people of color and, therefore, it was not a new concept. He found it surprising that Commissioner Berger recognized racism when it was against Jewish people, noting he supported Commissioner Berger's previous resolution because it was against racism, but it was important to stop thinking racism against some people was fine, but unacceptable against others. Historically, when certain statements were made, they were easily recognized as racist, and they should not be condoned, regardless of whether the target was someone Jewish, brown skinned, Mexican, etc. When racism lifted its head, it should be denounced, regardless of who it was directed at.

Commissioner Grant repeated her request for Commissioner Campbell to specify other offensive comments.

Mayor Thurston wished to open the discussion to the public, asking for a motion on the proposed resolution.

Vice Mayor Bates made a motion to approve the resolution.

Mayor Thurston seconded the motion, allowing Commissioner Berger to make a few more brief comments.

Commissioner Berger stated it was acceptable to disagree with President Trump's politics, but it was unacceptable to contort the things the President said. Though Commissioner Campbell claimed the President told the four congresswomen to go back to where they came from, he did not say they should stay there. Rather, the resolution showed he said they should go back, fix the broken and crime infested places from whence they came, so he was not speaking about crime infested places in the context of them being a bad thing. He said, as an extension to that, the people who lived in those areas deserved better, so they should go back and fix the problems where they came from, and this showed that the President had both compassion and empathy, as it indicated he thought people deserved better a better living.

Commissioner Campbell observed that if Commissioner Berger was being allowed to make certain points, he should be allowed to respond to him.

Commissioner Grant felt it was important to address the matter further.

Commissioner Campbell concurred.

Mayor Thurston observed a motion and a second were made to approve the resolution, and he wished to open the discussion to the public. He opened the discussion to the public and received no input. He called for a vote on the item.

Commissioner Grant indicated she would support a resolution that stated racism was wrong on any front.

Commissioner Campbell said there was no amendment to the resolution.

Vice Mayor Bates agreed this was not the resolution being voted on.

Commissioner Berger questioned his reference to alleged anti- Semitic comments.

City Attorney Hall, in response to a suggestion by an unidentified person that Commissioner Grant abstain, said abstaining was not an option in the subject instance.

Text of Legislative File 19R-3344

RESOLUTION NO. 19R-08-161: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL OPPOSING AND CONDEMNING THE INSENSITIVE AND RACIST COMMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP DIRECTED TOWARDS FOUR UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMEN; PROVIDING THAT THE RACIST STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP ARE DANGEROUS, DEHUMANIZING AND UNBECOMING OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT; PROVIDING THAT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP HAS, BY HIS CONDUCT SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT, FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NORMS OF INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND EMPATHY THAT ARE EXPECTED FROM THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; PROVIDING THAT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP HAS DEMONSTRATED TIME AND AGAIN THAT HE IS A RACIST; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CAMPBELL).

Request Action:

Pass a Resolution opposing and condemning the insensitive and racist comments of President Donald J. Trump.

Need:

Pass a Resolution opposing and condemning the racist statements of the President of the United States.

Summary Explanation/ Background:

Commissioner Richard Campbell has requested a Resolution opposing and condemning the insensitive and racist comments and conduct by President Donald J. Trump since becoming President of the United States. Request to move for reconsideration granted on 9/12/2019 City Commission meeting.

Attachments:

None.

Cost Summary/ Fiscal Impact:

None.

Estimated Time for Presentation:

Master Plan:

Goal 1: Clean, Green Sustainable Environment

- Increase mass transit ridership
- Reduce City energy consumption
- Reduce water consumption

Goal 2: Safe and Secure City of Lauderhill

- Crime in lower 50% in Broward
- Residents feel safe in neighborhood
- Reduce emergency fatalities

Goal 3: Open Spaces and Active Lifestyle for all ages

- Increase participation in youth sports
- Add new park land and amenities
- Increase attendance at cultural programs and classes

Goal 4: Growing Local Economy, Employment and Quality of Commercial Areas

- Increase commercial tax base
- Increase employment in Lauderhill businesses
- Decrease noxious and blighted uses in commercial areas

Goal 5: Quality Housing at all Price Ranges and Attractive Communities

- Neighborhood signs and active HOAs
- Housing & streets improved, litter reduced
- Increase proportion of single family homes and owner occupied housing

Goal 6: Efficient and Effective City Government, Customer Focused & Values Diversity

- Improves City efficiency
- Increase use of Information Technology
- Increases residents perception of Lauderhill as an excellent place to live