

R-446-10-04 APPROVED

Resolution Affirming Freedom to Worship without Interference and Condemning the Picketing of Houses of Worship

Whereas, All people with all viewpoints have a right to freedom of speech where it does not infringe on others' constitutional rights;

Whereas, Democracy and the freedoms it engenders cannot exist without civil discourse that shows tolerance for all beliefs;

Whereas, Freedom of religion and freedom of speech are both paramount values at the heart of American democracy;

Whereas, Worship is central to religious expression;

Whereas, Freedom to worship in peace, without obstruction or interference is the right of all people;

Whereas, State of Michigan laws prohibit interference with religious services;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor is home to many cultures and denominations of worship; and

Whereas, In the City of Ann Arbor, at least one house of worship has been subjected to weekly picketers who confront worshipers and ask passersby to honk their horns and cause a disturbance to worship services;

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council affirms the right of people in the City of Ann Arbor to attend services at houses of worship without interference or obstruction; and

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council condemns the picketing of houses of worship during the hours when congregants are attending worship services.

Council Member Reid moved seconded by Council Member Teall that the resolution be adopted.

On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.