

Proclamation

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF PEACHTREE CORNERS, GEORGIA
CONDEMNING RACISM AND URGING THE GEORGIA GENERAL
ASSEMBLY TO ENACT HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, as Mayor of the City of Peachtree Corners, I am deeply saddened by the tragic events that have recently occurred across the country; and

WHEREAS, racism, hate and bigotry have no place in our community, and I am committed to working actively against all forms of racism; and

WHEREAS, Peachtree Corners is a highly diverse community and it is this diversity that makes us such a desirable place to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to safeguarding our community against the damages that racism causes and to ensuring that the Constitutional rights of every person who lives, works, and plays in our city are respected and protected; and

WHEREAS, criminal offenses occur throughout the United States on a daily basis where persons are victimized because of their immutable characteristics such as race, religion or sexual orientation ("hate crimes"); and

WHEREAS, hate crimes target victims simply for who they are and all that matters to the assailant is that the victim appears to be of a particular race, religion, or other group; and

WHEREAS, because hate crime victims are interchangeable and random, these crimes terrorize the entire victim's community; and

WHEREAS, laws that provide enhanced penalties for criminals who commit hate crimes, are a way for society to recognize that these crimes strike special fear within victimized groups, fracture communities, and tear at the very fabric of our democratic way of life; and

WHEREAS, there can only be a hate crime if an underlying criminal act is committed; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that hate crime penalty enhancement laws are constitutional and do not punish speech; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is one of only five states that do not have a hate crime law; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the residents of Peachtree Corners and all Georgians be protected from hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Georgia House of Representatives passed House Bill 426, a hate crimes penalty enhancement measure and that bill is pending before the Georgia Senate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Peachtree Corners, Georgia that:

1. The Mayor and Council affirm their commitment to the well-being and safety of all residents and stands steadfast against racism, intolerance, and unlawful discrimination.
2. The Mayor, Council and all City staff are committed to engaging in continuing dialog with the community to address issues of systemic racism and intolerance and their impact on individuals and on the Peachtree Corners community as a whole.
3. The Mayor and Council urge the Georgia General Assembly to pass a comprehensive hate crimes penalty enhancement bill before the end of the 2020 Session and for Governor Kemp to immediately sign the bill into law after enactment.

SO PROCLAIMED AND EFFECTIVE, this the 23rd day of June, 2020.

Attest:



Kym Chereck, City Clerk

Approved:



Mike Mason, Mayor

