

# AUSTIN TYLEC

THE CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA  
ALDERMAN AT LARGE

August 15, 2019

North Tonawanda Common Council  
216 Payne Avenue  
North Tonawanda, New York 14120

**RE: Denouncing Hatred Resolution**

Dear Honorable Body:

Please find enclosed a resolution seeking to denounce any acts of hate and intolerance in our community. Due to the recent distribution of recruitment flyers from a hate group, I believe it is necessary for our city to stand against these recruitment efforts and ensure that there is equality for all North Tonawanda residents.

Sincerely,



Austin J. Tylec  
Alderman-at-Large

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY  
THE CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA COMMON COUNCIL**

**RE: Condemning the Rise of Hate in Western New York**

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was established to protect religious minorities from persecution, denying the enforcement of State religion on the public, denying the placement of restrictions on religious practice, and enforcing the right of the people to believe and worship as their conscience dictates; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Robert Jackson wrote in 1943 that, "...no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politic, nationalism, religion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution to the United States establishes equal protection of the laws for all citizens of our nation, stating, "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property;" and

**WHEREAS**, Justice Anthony Kennedy once said in *Lawrence v. Texas*, "As the Constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater Freedom;" and

**WHEREAS**, adherence to these values is crucial to the growth and prosperity of our community and of all those who inhabit it; and

**WHEREAS**, propagators of hatred and bigotry whom manifest in the exploitation of hate and biases continue to target our community members of all ethnic backgrounds and heritage, those of the Jewish, Muslim, and all other faiths, and those of the LGBTQ community, immigrant families, and all other minority groups; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 alone, 598 incidents of hate crime were reported in New York State, of which 52.0% involved an anti-religious bias, 25.6% motivated by race, ethnicity, and national origin, and 20.6% targeted members of the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, the FBI reported a 99% increase in hate crimes against Muslim peoples in the United States in recent years, and a 37% increase in hate crimes against those of the Jewish faith; and

**WHEREAS**, in the days following the shooting in El Paso, head of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Bishop Mark Seitz, stated, "We see the effects of a mind possessed by hatred. We see

the effects of the sinful and insipid conviction that some of us are better than others of us because of race, religion, language or nationality;” and

**WHEREAS**, in 1964, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in accepting The Nobel Peace Prize exclaimed, “ I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history ... I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him;” and

**WHEREAS**, all members of our Western New York community, of all orientations and identities, of all faith and no faith, of all backgrounds and ethnicities, have a stake in fighting every form of hatred and bias against people based on their religion, race, origin, and orientation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the City of North Tonawanda Common Council, hereby rejects the perpetuation of hatred and bigotry in our communities, condemn acts and statements of hate and intolerance, and reinforce our commitment to eradicating racist practices and acts of malice that propagate hate, incite fear, and promote violence in our communities.

**Other governing bodies proposing legislation**

*Town of Tonawanda*

*City of Tonawanda*

*City of North Tonawanda*

*Erie County Legislature*

*Niagara County Legislature*