

Resolution in Support of the Faith I.D. of Durham

WHEREAS, many Durham residents, especially recent immigrants, have limited access to government-issued forms of identification; and

WHEREAS, El Centro Hispano and the Durham Police Department leadership recently engaged in positive dialogue to create greater understanding, trust and cooperation between law enforcement and Durham's diverse immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, this dialogue included a proposal by El Centro Hispano, supported by Immaculate Conception Church leadership, Durham CAN and others, to create a FAITH I.D. of Durham; and

WHEREAS, the Faith I.D. card will be produced, distributed and secured by El Centro Hispano which states that the I.D. is for "law-abiding, residents in our community who may have limited access to government-issued forms of identification;" and

WHEREAS, the I.D. will provide holders with a verifiable form of identification and help police officers and other community partners better serve and protect all residents, as well as serving to turn strangers into neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Faith I.D. is not a government-issued I.D. and is not a license to drive, and it does not have any impact on an individual's present or future immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Durham Police Department may use the Faith I.D. to assist in determining an individual's identity or residency when no other documents providing an indication of identification or residency are available; and

WHEREAS, Interim Police Chief Larry Smith has issued a statement which reads as follows: "The Durham Police Department fully supports the Faith ID of Durham program and understands the importance of strengthening relationships between the immigrant community and law enforcement. We applaud El Centro for collaborating with the Faith community to issue cards to law-abiding individuals who may have limited access to government-issued forms of identification, and will help police officers and other community partners better serve and protect all residents;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham City Council fully supports the Durham Faith I.D. card and commends El Centro Hispano, its partners, and the Durham Police Department for cooperating in the creation and use of this card which recognizes and embraces the diversity of our City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the leadership of El Centro Hispano as a means of recognizing the Council's support for the Faith I.D.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council strongly endorses El Centro's efforts to recruit community members, businesses and civic institutions to use and recognize the Faith I.D.