

(Webmaster's note: The vote on this non-binding resolution was as follows - Three no, Two not voting, One abstention, and Six for. Seven for votes were needed to make this declaration of values an official part of what Baton Rouge presents to other communities and businesses. Although it was not passed, it was *not* defeated by "no" votes.

Those of us who believe in the potential of Baton Rouge as a center for growth and progress, who see it as an embodiment of all that represented the best of historic Louisiana's tradition of embracing people of different nationalities, races and philosophies, such as the Creole peoples, Jamaicans, French, Spanish and various people of North America, intellectuals, artists and laborers, moneyed and poor - we will proffer this community as being accepting and open for business.

No one person or group has the ability to make that happen, just as no group or person can stop it. But we believe that the spirit of this community is not one of fear and suspicion, but one of love and brotherhood. One Baton Rouge welcomes your participation, whatever your opinion, so long as you are interested in growing Baton Rouge.

Thanks to all of the people who worked to bring this resolution to the attention of the Metro Council, to those who voted for it, and to the people who spoke so passionately on its behalf.

RESOLUTION

By

Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden & The One Baton Rouge Committee

"The City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge has a strong commitment to diversity and equal opportunity for all of our citizens, including acceptance and integration of people of all races, sexes, creed, colors, religions, ages, ancestries, disabilities, sexual orientations, nationalities, marital status, political affiliations and people of all abilities and all walks of life into every aspect of Baton Rouge community life so that we all will be enriched by one another."

Expressing the metropolitan council's commitment to diversity and equal opportunity for all the citizens of the city of Baton Rouge and Parish Of East Baton Rouge, and directing the display of this commitment on the city-parish website, diversity materials, economic development materials, and all other appropriate internal and external expressions of our city and parish philosophy.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge wishes to join the Mayor-President and the One Baton Rouge Committee to express and publicize its commitment to diversity and equal opportunity for all citizens of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, it is the Metropolitan Council and Mayor-President's desire to present the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge in the future as a city and parish that has, as their foundation and philosophy, the acceptance and integration of people of all races, sexes, creed, colors, religions, ages, ancestries, disabilities, sexual orientations, nationalities, marital status, political affiliations and people of all walks of life into every aspect of Baton Rouge community life so that we all will be enriched by one another.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge that:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge joins the Mayor-President and does hereby express its support and publicizes its commitment to diversity and equal Opportunity for all the citizens of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, and displaying same on the City-parish website, diversity materials, economic development materials, and all other appropriate

internal and external expressions of our city and parish, which shall read as follows:

“The City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge has a strong commitment to diversity and equal opportunity for all of our citizens, including acceptance and integration of people of all races, sexes, creed, colors, religions, ages, ancestries, disabilities, sexual orientations, nationalities, marital status, political affiliations and people of all abilities and all walks of life into every aspect of Baton Rouge community life so that we all will be enriched by one another.”