



Town of Mars Hill

RESOLUTION

RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND SUPPORT FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

WHEREAS, the history of the Town of Mars Hill is inextricably linked with Mars Hill University; and

WHEREAS, the histories of both the Town and the University are incomplete without the telling of injustices – the occupation of a land once home to the Cherokee people; enslaved Africans, who built the first campus structure, together with that of Joe Anderson’s imprisonment as collateral for a college debt in the first days of Mars Hill University; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have been an essential part of the growth, development and ongoing operation of the University making tremendous contributions to the social and economic fabric of the community—some contributions known and some unknown; and

WHEREAS, African American students have enrolled in Mars Hill University since the 1960s, enhancing the academic, artistic, athletic, social, and religious aspects of campus and community life; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of recent national events brings to the attention of the Town the challenges all communities face in recognizing the failures of the past and affirming the full inclusion, worth and dignity of all persons; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mars Hill is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and is committed to being an equal opportunity provider for all residing within its boundary.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina,
IT IS RESOLVED:

- Section 1.** The Town of Mars Hill affirms and values the presence and contribution of Black, Brown, and all races and ethnicities of the residents of the community and Mars Hill University.
- Section 2.** The Town of Mars Hill recognizes each February as Black History Month, and specifically pays tribute to February 2021 as Black History Month.
- Section 3.** The Town of Mars Hill supports all efforts to make the Mars Hill community a safe place for African Americans and promotes racial and ethnic equality throughout the community by:
- (a.) Committing to having meaningful conversations about race;
 - (b.) Continuing to engage in training programs aimed at strengthening cultural, racial, and ethnic competency and awareness by the town;
 - (c.) Continuing to promote hiring policies and practices that give full consideration to racial and ethnic diversity and representation;
 - (d.) Continuing to voluntarily include race data in reporting traffic stops conducted by law enforcement.
- Section 4.** The Town of Mars Hill seeks to live by its stated commitment to *enhance the quality of life for all residents*—no exceptions.
- Section 5.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 1st day of February 2021, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill.

ATTEST:


STUART L. JOLLEY, Clerk




JOHN L. CHANDLER, Mayor