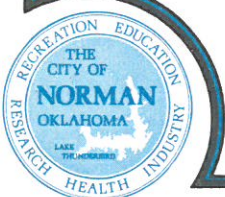


A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN,
OKLAHOMA, REJECTING ALL FORMS OF RACISM, BIGOTRY, AND
HATE AND CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF THE CITY'S STREET
RENAMING POLICY.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the City of Norman affirms its intention of standing for racial justice and equality and seeks to be an inclusive community for all of its residents; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, Norman acknowledges the shameful history of housing discrimination, segregation, incidences of violence, and other forms of inequality and unfair treatment of African-Americans and other minorities in Norman and the surrounding areas; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, Section 7-101 of the City Code states that it is the policy of the City of Norman that all citizens of the community shall have an equal opportunity to purchase, rent, lease or occupy housing accommodations, or to avail themselves of public accommodations, and have an equal opportunity in the job market and the social and economic life of the City, without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, place of birth, handicap or familial status; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, Section 7-101 of the City Code further declares it to be the policy of the City of Norman that all citizens of this community should be provided with an opportunity to reach their full potential as human beings, without being inhibited by conditions relating to race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, place of birth, handicap, or familial status; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the voters of the City of Norman voted to establish the Norman Human Rights Commission in 1971 which was empowered in Section 7-102 to study problems of discrimination, encourage fair treatment and mutual understanding among all citizens; and to combat misconceptions, prejudices and stereotypes that tend to prevent individuals from reaching their full potential as human beings; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Oklahoma have played crucial and courageous roles in the history of civil rights legislation and the advancement of equal educational opportunities for all citizens; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, in 2008 the City Council adopted Resolution No. R-0809-12 to participate in the National League of Cities' Partnership for Working toward Inclusive Communities, reaffirming the City's commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of the community, pledging active efforts to seek to achieve that goal, and urging all citizens to join together to support this effort; and



- § 8. WHEREAS, DeBarr Avenue was one of seven streets identified in a plat filed of record on September 10, 1901, with the Cleveland County Clerk as part of Larsh’s University Addition, which was surveyed by Edwin C. DeBarr; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, the plat of Larsh’s University Addition was not approved or accepted by City Council and was not required to be approved under the laws in place at that time; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, DeBarr Avenue was not named by the City nor named in honor of Edwin C. DeBarr but rather appears to have been named by himself as the surveyor of that property; and
- § 11. WHEREAS, due to the involvement of Edwin C. DeBarr, a former professor and Vice President of the University of Oklahoma, with the Ku Klux Klan, the City has received requests to rename DeBarr Avenue; and
- § 12. WHEREAS, by City Policy adopted in 2008 by Resolution No. R-0809-60, the process for changing a street name requires submission of a petition containing signatures of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the property owners adjacent to the street being changed and payment of an application fee; and
- § 13. WHEREAS, City Council members and community members have expressed a desire to consider changes to the street naming policy expressed in Resolution No. R-0809-60.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 14. THAT DeBarr Avenue was not named by the City, nor named in honor of Edwin C. DeBarr, nor named to honor Edwin C. DeBarr; and
- § 15. THAT the City of Norman as a community rejects all forms of racism, bigotry, and hate; and
- § 16. THAT the City’s street renaming policy be placed on the November agenda of the City Council Oversight Committee to be reviewed and discussed in furtherance of the stated policies and objectives above.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of October, 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk