

RESOLUTION 2016-45

**A Resolution of Goshen, Indiana City Council Affirming
the Value of Community Unity, Safety and Trust**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the oath of office, Goshen City Council is responsible for representing the interests of all residents, ensuring the impartial, effective and efficient delivery of municipal services, and fostering the health, safety and welfare of the City,

WHEREAS, City Council acknowledges that Goshen's strength is in its people and our residents come from both near and far, seeking peace, stability, and a good quality of life for themselves and their families.

WHEREAS, Goshen has a rich heritage deriving from many nations over many generations and a significant population of foreign-born residents, whose economic, cultural and social contributions greatly enrich our community,

WHEREAS, roughly 30 languages are spoken in the Goshen Community Schools and more than half of the students are of Hispanic/Latino ancestry (born inside and outside the United States),

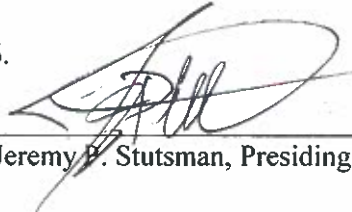
WHEREAS, the Goshen City Council recognizes that positive relationships and trust between each person regardless of race, religion, color, sex, physical abilities, national origin or ancestry are critical to promote public safety, as is trust between City of Goshen municipal service providers, public safety officers, and all Goshen residents.

WHEREAS, all residents should go about their daily lives in our community confident that both their human dignity and their Constitutional rights will be respected and protected,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Goshen City Council affirms the recent statements from the Mayor, the Community Relations Commission, and the Goshen Schools Superintendent pledging non-discrimination and support for equality under the law within our City and our schools, copies of which are attached to this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council adds its voice and commitment to fostering and upholding an atmosphere of unity and non-discrimination in the City of Goshen.

PASSED by the Goshen Common Council on December 20, 2016.



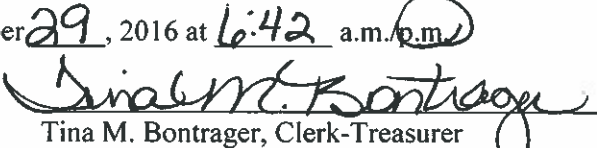
Jeremy P. Stutsman, Presiding Officer

Attest:



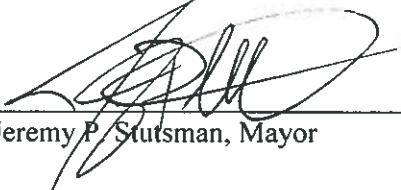
Tina M. Bontrager, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on December 29, 2016 at 6:42 a.m./p.m.



Tina M. Bontrager, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED and ADOPTED on December 30, 2016.



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor

CITY OF GOSHEN

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Residents of Goshen,

11/19/16

We are in this together!

In light of recent elections and the ensuing transition, the potential for major policy shifts brings with them a sense of disruption and uncertainty for us all. The context of our country is marked by social and political polarization, both at the national level and, in some cases, at the local level. In our own community, the strength of our future will depend on our ongoing capacity to express and manage our differences in ways that show respect and promote shared understanding.

In conversations with residents, businesses, churches, schools and community leaders I have heard about incidents of bullying and discrimination. Many people have expressed fear and uncertainty about what may happen in our community in social and economic terms. Goshen has always been a community not free from differences, but resilient and capable of dealing with them effectively. We have worked hard to preserve unity while recognizing our rich diversity. In this time of change I am confident Goshen will continue to thrive together. We achieve this by recognizing our differences, choosing to remain constructive and rejecting actions that could be perceived as acts of hate and discrimination. While we may not all agree on our political views we can all respect one another.

We all have questions about what will happen at the federal level and how that will affect us locally, but one thing that will not be affected is our ability to be a community. The principles that our community has adopted through the Community Relations Commission are what hold us together:

- Respect for each other and respect for each other's rights
- Open communication and engagement
- Honesty
- A safe community
- Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences
- Tolerance of differences
- Support for equality and freedom from discrimination

Especially in this time of change, these are principles that we can hold high and be proud of. These are what keep us all functioning as the Community of Goshen. We have done this in the past and will continue to do this into the future. We recognize the Common Good and build the Uncommonly Great together!

With Great Respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JPM", written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Mayor Jeremy Stutsman



GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"Inspiring Innovation...Empowering Potential...Enriching Our World"

Goshen Community Schools
613 East Purl Street
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Superintendent
Dr. Diane B. Woodworth

*Assistant Superintendent-
Elementary Education*
Dr. Alan Metcalfe

*Assistant Superintendent-
Secondary Education*
Dr. Angela Piazza

*Assistant Superintendent-
Human Resources &
Professional Development*
Mrs. Tamra K. Ummel Ed. S.

November 21, 2016

Dear GCS Parents, Staff, and Students,

This communication is an affirmation that our schools are, and will continue to be, safe places where every person is welcome. To us, it makes no difference if your family has been in our community for generations, or if your family is new to our community. Goshen Community Schools is a safe place, where all students will be given the opportunity to learn and grow without fear.

While the national election marked a change in leadership, it does not change our continued focus on providing an excellent, world class education for our students. Regardless of anyone's party affiliation, we know our community values strong relationships between teachers and students, and the district and community. Our schools mirror the characteristics of our community which we deeply cherish, the freedom to live our lives as we choose, inclusion, and the right for all students to experience an education that is free of worry and distress.

As always, if any students have concerns about any matter, we have counselors, nurses, parent liaisons, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators in every building that genuinely care for our students and are ready to be of assistance. Please contact any of us if there is something you would like to share.

We continue to be deeply committed to ensuring that every student is accepted and valued.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane B. Woodworth

Diane Woodworth
Superintendent

The Community Relations Commission of Goshen (CRC) is a component of Goshen's city government that works to grow positive relations among residents of this city and respond to complaints of discrimination.

The CRC is compelled to express our unwavering belief in the collective goodness of people – friends and neighbors each creating more secure, more rewarding lives for themselves, for their families, and for the community. We believe there is a collective power in the wonderful diversity that is Goshen.

Therefore, we offer these core Principles for engagement developed by the CRC in 2009 as a guide for relating in our City:

- Respect for each other and respect for each other's rights
- Open communication and engagement
- Honesty
- A safe community
- Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences
- Tolerance of differences
- Support for equality and freedom from discrimination

Please join us in keeping these Principles in the forefront as we live and work together with residents from a wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs.

For more information about the CRC please contact us via our hotline at 537-3839 ext. 358, via email at communityrelations@goshencity.com, or find our group on Facebook.

Nathan Mateer Rempel, Chair
Community Relations Commission of Goshen