

**RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND AT PUBLIC MEETINGS
IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §14-12.8 prohibits the wearing of masks, hoods, or devices so as to conceal an individual's identity on public property; reading "No person or persons shall in this State, while wearing any mask, hood or device whereby the person, face or voice is disguised so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter, or appear upon or within the public property of any municipality or county of the State, or the State of North Carolina (1953, c. 1193, s.7); and

WHEREAS, the statute was passed in response to KKK violence and enforcement of this statute is essential for both public safety and specifically the safety of our elected officials given recent threats and violence occurring at the federal, state, and local levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has created confusion in the enforcement of such statutes as mask mandates may be necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Roy Cooper clarified NCGS §14-12.8 in 2020 through passage of S.B.232 that mask-wearing for public health reasons is exempt, but wearing masks or other devices to conceal one's identity remains in violation of state law; and

WHEREAS, extremist and white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys are routinely violating the state law by attending public meetings and events on public property with their identity fully concealed;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE AS DEMOCRATS:

Support the enforcement of NCGS §14-12.8 with the exceptions as passed by the NCGA in S.B. 232 and signed into law, including the exceptions for wearing of masks for public health purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe in the rule of law and transparency in government. In accordance with those values, we believe enforcement of the ban on identity concealment is necessary and integral to the safe conduct of public meetings and for the safety of individuals on public property; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we will advocate for and support candidates for elected office who stand up to white supremacists and hate groups while specifically supporting enforcement of NCGS §14-12.8; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe in protecting disenfranchised and vulnerable individuals and are committed to ensuring they can voice concerns at public meetings and public events without fear of threats, intimidation, harassment, or violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are committed to not repeat the mistakes of the past in allowing threats, intimidation, harassment, or violence by those groups using the playbook for hate like the Ku Klux Klan; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we stand up to hate in all its forms as fundamentally against our values as Democrats and as patriotic Americans who believe in "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as unalienable rights for ALL, and not just a privileged few.

Submitted and Authored By: L. Kyle Horton
New Hanover County Democrat on February 18, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Kyle Horton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Unanimously approved at FP04
Precinct Meeting 2/25/2023.

Submitted to Jim Morgan by
email 2/26/2023.

Barbara Avery Garrow, Precinct Chair
BARBARA AVERY GARROW