

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church Of Charleston, South Carolina has a storied history as the first of its denomination in the southern United States; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1816, the Emanuel A.M.E. Church of Charleston has been a beacon of hope within the antislavery and civil rights movements; and

WHEREAS, On June 17, 2015, a day that will live in infamy, nine of this congregation's bright souls became unwitting martyrs while studying the Bible in an open and loving community; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Clementa C. Pinckney, Tywazna Sanders, Daniel Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton and Myra Thompson, and their families were made to suffer because of prejudice, hatred and a betrayal of the ideals that lie at the heart of African Methodist Episcopal Church movement and the many other religious denominations that have united in expressing their sympathy, solidarity and outrage; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence was founded on the ideal of religious tolerance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence and State of Rhode Island has its own sorry history with the slave trade, prejudice and bigotry, but also bright moments of commitment and recommitment to the ideals of equality and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Providence feel acutely the pain of the recent shooting in Charleston, and the victims and families are in our thoughts and prayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and the fellow congregants of the Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, South Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council requests that the flag outside City Hall be flown at half staff to mark the City's solidarity with the Charleston church and congregation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council wishes the community of the Charleston A.M.E. Church to know that we in Providence will look for ways to improve

the beloved community in Providence as a memorial for the recent sad events in Charleston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Providence City Council directs the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina.