



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton
Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Signature

Resolution: RES-0060-2025

File Number: RES-0060-2025

A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION AFFIRMING HUMAN DIGNITY AND BELONGING FOR ALL WHO CALL GAHANNA HOME

WHEREAS, Gahanna's long-term vision, as articulated in its Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy ("Our Gahanna"), RES 0046-2025, calls for a welcoming, supportive, and safe community that builds lasting connections and fosters mutual respect, understanding, and belonging, a value fundamental to civic life; and

WHEREAS, racist, xenophobic, or dehumanizing rhetoric in any form undermines the dignity, cohesion, and well-being of Gahanna residents, particularly those historically marginalized or targeted by such speech; and

WHEREAS, harmful rhetoric recently directed toward immigrant and refugee communities in central Ohio has caused fear and concern among neighbors, heightening vulnerability and weakening the sense of belonging every resident deserves; and

WHEREAS, Gahanna is home to a rich and growing diversity of cultures, ethnicities, religions, languages, and national backgrounds, all of which contribute immeasurably to the social, economic, and civic strength of our city; and

WHEREAS, December is recognized globally as Universal Human Rights Month, honoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all people are entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or immigration status, principles which apply equally to every resident of Gahanna; and

WHEREAS, honoring Universal Human Rights Month requires more than reflection as it calls us to act: to safeguard human dignity, strengthen belonging, and uphold a shared civic identity grounded in inclusion, respect, and safety for all who call this city home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL AND PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. The City of Gahanna formally affirms the dignity, safety, and belonging of all residents, expresses solidarity with those who experience racism, xenophobia, or exclusion, including immigrant and refugee neighbors, and commits to fostering a welcoming and inclusive community consistent with Gahanna's shared vision for our future.

Section 2. This Joint Resolution and Proclamation shall be in full force and effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

At a regular meeting of the City Council on December 15, 2025, a motion was made by Renner, seconded by Jones, that the Resolution be Adopted. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Bowers, yes; Ms. Jones, yes; Ms. McGregor, NO; Ms. Padova, yes;
Mr. Renner, yes; Mr. Schnetzer, yes; Mr. Weaver, yes.

President Merisa Bowers
Merisa K. Bowers

Date 12.15.25

Attest by Jeremy A. VanMeter
Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

Date 12/15/2025

Approved by the Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin
Laurie A. Jadwin

Date 12.15.2025

Approved as to Form PDT
Priya D. Tamilarasan
City Attorney

Date 12/15/25