

There came on for consideration at a duly constituted meeting of the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Gulfport, Mississippi, held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GULFPORT CITY COUNCIL MEMORIALIZING AND REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO RESPECTFULLY RETIRE THE “STATE FLAG” ADOPTED PREVIOUSLY BY A FORMER STATE LEGISLATURE IN 1894 AND TO ADOPT A NEW “STATE FLAG” AND PROCLAIMING THAT THE CURRENT “STATE FLAG” SHALL NOT BE PUBLICLY FLOWN AT CITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, over the course of human history, fabrics of different colors have been utilized to represent as well as convey the ideas, philosophies, ambitions, and values of nations, states, and other sovereign organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, a flag is typically hewn from symbolism steeped rich in the foundings of the body politic and is based on lasting principles held as cornerstones for the philosophies of the authored government; and

**WHEREAS**, the derivative tribute given to flags of nations, states, and local governments is evident in the respect that flags receive as they are to be displayed and hung in accordance with certain protocols and similarly lowered, stored, and handled pursuant to proper procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, through the ages these banners have themselves grown to exemplify the threads that bind the very fabric of the societies they represent and have served as a means to unify, rallying the spirit and passion of the citizens to one voice and purpose of the State, all of which again demonstrates the significance given to these flying emblems; and

**WHEREAS**, the current flag hovering above the State Capitol of the State of Mississippi was adopted as the “State flag” by the Mississippi Legislature in 1894 and the upper left portion of this flag (the “canton corner”) contains a replica of what is often referred to as the “confederate battle flag” containing thirteen (13) stars in the formation of an “x”; and

**WHEREAS**, while the “confederate battle flag,” which is believed to have never been adopted as an official flag of the Confederacy, was utilized in the battlefield during the Civil War and has stood for different things for different peoples through the ages, it has come to be understood and serves for many as a painful reminder of past days of transgressions in this State and has also been used by some as an image of hatred, divisiveness, and violence, none of which in any way represents the ideals and principles of our great Nation, our proud State, or our vibrant City; and

**WHEREAS**, there comes a point in time in the annals of history when it becomes necessary to re-define who a people are and what a collection of these people represent and it is the opinion of the Governing Authority of this City that now is such a time and the conduit for such a re-defining moment is the “State flag” for our State, what should be a unifying image of our ideals and values; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority of this City therefore memorializes the Legislature of the State of Mississippi to change the “State flag” previously adopted by the State in 1894 at a time when there was still divisiveness in the land as well as violence and hatred and to adopt a banner hewn from the very foundations of the Union of States that now collectively serves as the heart of our one united country; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority further finds that since the “State flag” that was adopted by our State in 1894 contains a symbol that has been used by some to represent division, hatred, and violence, this banner of cloth and ink cannot be said to exemplify the great people of our State, our communities, or our City; and

**WHEREAS**, if our great State is to remain true and devoted to President Abraham Lincoln’s universal words that defined the end of the Civil War as a “new birth of freedom,” an emblem of cloth and ink that symbolizes divisiveness, hatred, and violence has no place in and

around the edifices representing a government for the people and by the people; consequently, the “State flag” adopted by the State of Mississippi in 1894 should not be publicly flown on public properties of the City of Gulfport, Mississippi and should instead be respectfully retired to the local Harrison County Library, or other agency that will accept it, for suitable exhibit within this facility’s collection of historical references.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the matters, facts, and things recited in the Preamble hereto are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority.

**SECTION 2.** That the State of Mississippi Legislature be, and hereby is, memorialized to respectfully retire the “State flag” previously adopted by the State in 1894 and to adopt a new flag that represents and signifies the values and principles upon which our State is now based and which unifies the people who call our State home.

**SECTION 3.** That the “State flag” adopted by the State Legislature in 1894 shall not be publicly flown at any of the public facilities owned or operated by the City of Gulfport and any such flags that are currently being so flown shall be respectfully retired to the local Harrison County Library, or other agency that will accept it, for suitable exhibit within this facility’s collection of historical references.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and enactment and the Council Clerk is hereby directed to spread this Resolution on the Minutes of the Gulfport City Council, and to furnish copies thereof to the State of Mississippi Legislature, including its Speaker of the House and Senate Pro Tem, as well as the Governor.

The above and foregoing Resolution, after having been first reduced to writing and read by the Clerk, was introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, and was adopted by the following roll call vote:

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

WHEREUPON the President declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted, this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

(SEAL)

**ATTEST:**

**ADOPTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Brittany Rodgers, Clerk of Council**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**F.B. "Rusty" Walker, IV, President**

The above and foregoing Resolution having been submitted to and approved by the Mayor, this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Billy Hewes, Mayor**