

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION SEEKING REPLACEMENT OF THE STATE FLAG

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi celebrates diversity and inclusion, and cherishes its past even as it plans for its future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi is proud and not only of its own community, but of this Great State in which it plays a vital role; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that the City of Biloxi and the State of Mississippi should always strive to be welcoming to all people, regardless of their own backgrounds or personal histories; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Flag includes a Confederate Battle emblem in an upper corner; and

WHEREAS, that emblem invokes strong emotions by all who care deeply about this state, and is for many a reminder of slavery and the divisions that existed during the Civil War, and of divisions that persist; and

WHEREAS, the emblem has been appropriated by many people and organizations who have no care or concern about Mississippi - its heritage, its culture or its people - and who use it as a self-serving symbol of a divisive agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Code provides that “The state flag should receive all of the respect and ceremonious etiquette given the American flag”; and

WHEREAS, only the State Legislature has the power to change the current State Flag and to replace it with a flag which can unite, rather than divide the citizens of Mississippi, and which can be the subject of respect and ceremony by all whom would view such a flag.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the governing authority of the City of Biloxi, Mississippi, do hereby request that the Governor and Legislature of the State of Mississippi take action to replace the current State Flag, with a new flag that represents the great spirit and garners the respect of all of Mississippi's citizens.