

# GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION INTENDED TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

*Submitted by President Wesley Walker, the Executive Board, and the State-Wide Membership of the Association.*

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police is committed to preserving the rights of all crime victims and is expressly opposed to bigotry and prejudice in any form; and

**WHEREAS**, a crime of hate is any crime that is committed due to the victim's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, mental disability, or physical disability; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of states in the United States of America have enacted legislation to redress bias-motivated crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, there currently is a need in the State of Georgia for alternative mandatory sentencing in cases where it is found the perpetrator selected the victim based upon bias against that person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, mental disability, or physical disability; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of hate crimes need a process to seek redress from the perpetrators of those crimes through civil actions;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police support legislation that enhances and mandates the criminal sentence of a perpetrator whenever the court determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the convicted perpetrator intentionally selected any victim, or damaged any property of any victim, based upon bias because of that person's real or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, mental disability, or physical disability in violation of the Official Code of Georgia; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police support the Georgia Crime Information Center being authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to ensure reports of crimes of this nature are submitted in a timely manner and properly archived; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police support the creation of a civil process for victims to seek redress for any injury or damage to his or her property as a result of crimes of this nature.

Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2020



Wesley Walker, President  
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

