



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Saturday, December 10, 2011, marks the 63rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Thursday, December 15, 2011, marks the 220th Anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights;

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to recognize the inherent dignity and equal and intrinsic rights of all human beings and at this time every year, the City of Greenville pays tribute to these principles;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States contains the foundation for freedom and democracy that holds our country together today. When the new Constitution was presented to state legislators and the American people, there were protests that it did not contain a "Bill of Right", preserving to the people and to the State those inalienable rights proclaimed by the Declaration of Independence;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina declined to ratify the Constitution until a Bill of Rights was adopted. The First Congress drafted a Bill of Rights, which came into effect on December 15, 1791. The City of Greenville has traditionally observed the birthday of the Bill of Rights as well;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights preserves and expands the freedoms of all Americans. Its provisions protect our freedom of expression and association, freedom of religion, due process, equal protection under the law and freedom of privacy;

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedoms lies with each individual of this country, and each of us can play a major role in enhancing human rights and;

WHEREAS, we must, as individuals and as a people take a stand and continue to work together to make freedom, justice and equal opportunity available for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Allen M. Thomas, Mayor of the City of Greenville, do proclaim December 10, 2011, as

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

and December 15, 2011, as


BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

and further proclaim December 10 – 15, 2011, as

HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

in Greenville and urge all residents to join in the rededication of themselves to the principles of human rights for all our citizens.

This 6th day of December, 2011.


Allen M. Thomas, Mayor