



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Wednesday, December 10, 2008 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Monday, December 15, 2008 marks the 217th Anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights; and

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; and

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; and

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; and

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; and

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, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina do hereby proclaim December 10, 2008 as

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

and December 15, 2008 as

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

and further proclaim December 10-15, 2008 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 10th day of December, 2008.

Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor