

SLAVERY APOLOGY RESOLUTION*

"Whereas, human beings were enslaved and forcibly abducted from Africa and other parts of the world to North America, including Delaware;

"Whereas, Delaware legalized slavery and practiced it throughout its colonial period;

"Whereas, Delaware maintained the inhuman and immoral institution of slavery from the time the State ratified the Federal Constitution until slavery was outlawed in 1865 by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which Delaware voted to reject that year;

"Whereas, Delaware continued to discriminate against those of color by approving segregation of education in its 1897 State Constitution, a practice that lasted until *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954;

"Whereas, Delaware passed and enforced Jim Crow laws to deny the rights of African American citizens for much of the 20th century;

"Whereas, Delaware today has to deal with the lasting legacy of slavery: an ongoing tension between races;

"Whereas, acknowledgment and apology are the first steps in the healing process;

"Be it Therefore Resolved that the Dover Human Relations Commission urges the Delaware General Assembly to pass a resolution acknowledging and expressing its profound apology for the State's practice of slavery and for the historic wrongs committed against all persons who suffered discrimination and injustice under this dehumanizing system;

"Be it Further Resolved that the DHRC recommends that the Delaware General Assembly recognize the need to address and educate the citizenry regarding the social stigma, stereotyping, racial bias and discrimination which prevail in the state today as vestiges of the institution of slavery;

"Be it Finally Resolved that the DHRC implores all citizens of the State of Delaware to be tolerant and understanding of one another so as to eliminate all bias, prejudice, and discriminatory behavior."

*Passed unanimously by the Dover Human Relations Commission on Wednesday, January 27, 2010

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 22, 2010

CARLETON E. CAREY, SR.
MAYOR

BEVERLY C. WILLIAMS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT