Passed 9-0

ORDINANCE 01-03

TO AMEND CHAPTER 2.23 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "COMMUNITY AND FAMILY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT" BY ESTABLISHING THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACK MALES

WHEREAS, in 1993 the Indiana State Legislature established the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (I.C. 12-13-12-1) and this 25-member Commission systematically studies the conditions and reasons underlying the problems of Black males and proposes measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of such conditions; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Frank O'Bannon noted in presenting the annual report of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males that the Commission has encouraged "Hoosiers of all colors to work together to find new ways to enhance and develop the economic, professional, educational and social status of African American Hoosier Males;" and,

WHEREAS, Darren L. Washington, former Executive Director of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, noted that the state commission works "diligently to create public and legislative remedies in the areas of employment, education, health, and criminal justice to reduce the problems that Black males face;" and,

WHEREAS, Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Michigan City, Muncie, Gary and Lake County have each established local commissions, which are the key units in Indiana's network to bring together those who are at the forefront of the battle to reduce the factors that contribute to the particular problems and difficulties of the Black male, and,

WHEREAS, local commissions are instrumental in encouraging the development of programs at the local level that focus on long-range remediation of problems facing Black males; and,

WHEREAS, in February of 1995, the African American Male National Council was established to focus on social, political, educational, economic, criminal justice, and public health issues which adversely affect African American males; and,

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Joseph E. Kernan has stated that "in order to work toward a solution, we must analyze where we came from, where we are, and where we need to go as a community" and with that mission in mind, the City of Bloomington, Indiana believes that the creation of a local commission, which would actively and creatively partner with the state and federal commissions, would be in our City's best interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2.23 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled "Community and Family Resources Commission" shall be amended by inserting Section 2.23.070, which shall be entitled the "Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males" and which shall read as follows:

2.23.070 Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males - Establishment.

There is created in the community and family resources department the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males.

(1) Members. The Commission shall be composed of seven members.

(2) Appointments. Three members shall be appointed by the Mayor, two by the Common Council and one each by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and the Bloomington Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Celebrations Commission.

(3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. Preference for appointments may be given to people with expertise in, or representing, one or more of the following areas: education, health, employment, criminal justice, Black history, the faith community and the social service community.

(4) Terms. The initial commissioner terms of one mayoral and one Council appointment, and the term of the appointment of the Human Rights Commission, shall expire on January 31, 2002. All subsequent terms, and the terms of the remaining initial appointments, shall be for two years and expire on January 31.

(5) Purpose and duties. The Commission shall do the following:

(a) Develop action committees addressing problems of Black males in education, health, criminal justice and employment; and

(b) Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted problems confronting Black males in our community and the resulting effects on the entire community; and

(c) Organize and convene community forums and neighborhood-based focus groups to discuss the status of Black males; and

(d) Network with like-minded groups such as the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, the African American Male National Council and local commissions throughout the state, sharing ideas, information, data and plans.

(6) Reporting requirement. The Commission shall submit identical written reports to the Mayor and the Common Council Office by the end of February of each year describing the activities of the Commission in the previous calendar year as well as future plans. Any issues or concerns regarding the Commission itself, its organization or its purpose shall also be addressed in this report.

(7) Sunset provision. This commission shall cease to be in existence after the 31st day of January, 2004. The Commission may be renewed or reestablished by ordinance for up to three additional years at any point after January 1, 2003. Such a renewing or reestablishing ordinance shall modify the dates of this subsection of the Bloomington Municipal Code to reflect the renewal or reestablishment. Subsequently renewed or reestablished Commissions may then also be renewed or reestablished through the same process. However, if an ordinance to renew or reestablish the Commission has not been adopted by December 31, 2003, then the City Clerk shall take steps to remove this section from the Bloomington Municipal Code at the first opportunity that arises in the ordinary course of business.

SECTION 2. If any sections, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 21st day of February, 2001.

PATRICIA COLE, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 22nd day of February, 2001.

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 22ND day of FEBRUARY, 2001.

JOHN FERNANDEZ, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance creates a Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males. The Commission will work to alleviate the problems Black men and boys experience in employment, education, criminal justice and health. And, unless renewed or reestablished by a future ordinance, this Commission will cease to exist after January 31, 2004.

Signed copies to: CAFR
Human Rights
Mayor