

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 23

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 16, 2023 AS
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly adopted Thomas Jefferson's landmark Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom. This statue later became the catalyst for the establishment and free exercise clause in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson stated, "all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities,"; and

WHEREAS, Religious Freedom Day has been proclaimed by every US President since 1993 and America continues to be one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, our Founders entrusted the American people with a responsibility to protect religious liberty so that our Nation may stand as a bright beacon for the rest of the world. Today, we remain committed to that sacred endeavor and strive to support those around the world who still struggle under oppressive regimes that impose restrictions on freedom of religion; and

WHEREAS, on this Religious Freedom Day, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting the precious and fundamental right of religious freedom and honor the foundational link between freedom and faith in our country and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the religious liberty of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes January 16, 2023 as Religious Freedom Day and urges all citizens to commemorate this day with actions that remind us of our shared heritage of religious liberty and that teach us how to secure this blessing both at home and around the world.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 10th day of January, 2023.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk