

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON TORTURE

WHEREAS, the non-governmental North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) is being established to examine the role of North Carolina in the United States' secret, global torture program launched soon after 9/11/2001; and

WHEREAS, it is documented in the declassified executive findings and conclusions summary of the Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that at least 119 human beings were secretly transferred for torture in CIA-run facilities, while many others were rendered to allied foreign custody for torture; and

WHEREAS, most of those rendered and tortured were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, or had names similar to those of suspects, and have been released without criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, it is further documented in the report titled "The North Carolina Connection To Extraordinary Rendition and Torture" (Weissman, et. al., UNC School of Law, January 2012) that North Carolina played a significant role in the torture program through the operations of Aero Contractors, an aviation front company established by the CIA in 1979 at the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield which, after 9/11/2001, undertook a leading role in kidnapping suspects, including from a hangar it built and operated at the state-run Global TransPark in Kinston; and

WHEREAS, that Aero transported at least 34 detainees to secret detention and torture, 18 of which cases appear in the heavily redacted executive summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee's 6,900-page report on CIA torture, most of which is still kept from the public; and

WHEREAS, the NCCIT will address the harms that torture causes, such as serving as a recruitment tool for extremist and terrorist organizations, endangering U.S. troops abroad, reducing our security here at home, and providing dangerously misleading information, and

WHEREAS, torture is illegal, and violates faith and ethical traditions, and the trauma inflicted on torture survivors affects them for the remainder of their lives, causes lasting psychological injury to those ordered to perpetrate it, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government, the state of North Carolina, and political subdivisions of this state have ignored their obligations to acknowledge and repair the harms created by the secret detention and torture program, even though impunity compounds those harms and allows their repetition; and

WHEREAS, when governments fail to act, citizens have both a duty and an opportunity to do so, and citizen-led inquiries have a long and honorable history, in North Carolina and beyond, of exposing human rights abuses and creating momentum for accountability and redress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen hereby supports the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization described at www.nccit.org, created to address the issue of North Carolina's role in secret detention and torture, and to craft a model of accountability that can inspire similar efforts elsewhere.

This the 6th day of December 2016.