

## **A Resolution of the Town of Davidson**

WHEREAS, two hundred eleven people await execution on North Carolina's Death Row, with ten expected to be executed in the next year,

WHEREAS, 98% of the people on North Carolina's Death Row have been unable to afford their own attorney,

WHEREAS, a study by the Columbia University Law School released June 12, 2000 reveals that between 1973-1995, 71% of all capital sentences in North Carolina were overturned on appeal. Seventy-five percent of these reversals are due to incompetent defense lawyers, prosecutorial misconduct and/or faulty instructions to jurors,

WHEREAS, in the last decade in North Carolina, for every four citizens executed, we have released one citizen from Death Row after their innocence has been established,

WHEREAS, nationally, 82% of all people executed between 1976-1999 had been accused of killing a white person even though people of color are victims in more than half of all homicides, and in North Carolina, of the twelve people executed 1976-1999, eleven had been accused of killing a white person,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Davidson calls on the North Carolina governor and our state legislators, and the U.S. president and our legislators in Congress, to enact and adopt legislation imposing a moratorium on executions until we can be confident that any citizen of the Town of Davidson charged with a capital crime would be guaranteed:

- a) Competent legal counsel not dependent on the defendant's ability to pay for it.
- b) Due process in which the risk of an innocent citizen being executed has been minimized.
- c) Due process in which neither the race of the defendant or the victim changes the likelihood that the defendant receives the death penalty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and our state legislators, President Clinton and our legislators in Congress.