

**CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED
ALABAMA RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

WHEREAS, Alabama denies the right to vote to all persons who have been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude;

WHEREAS, voting is both a fundamental right and a civic duty;

WHEREAS, restoring the right to vote strengthens our democracy by increasing voter participation and helps people who have completed their incarceration to reintegrate into society;

WHEREAS, under current Alabama felony disfranchisement law, more than 132,000 non-African-Americans and more than 130,000 African-Americans have lost the right to vote;

WHEREAS, the felony disfranchisement law has a disproportionate impact on minority communities, denying the right to vote to nearly one in three African-American men in Alabama;

WHEREAS, the restoration of voting rights through application to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for a Certificate of Eligibility to Register to Vote has proved cumbersome for both applicants and the Board;

WHEREAS, the current system imposes economic and administrative burdens on the State and is costly for Alabama taxpayers;

WHEREAS, streamlining the restoration process will advance administrative efficiency, fiscal responsibility, fairness, and democracy;

THE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS the proposed Alabama Restoration of Voting Rights Act, which would automatically restore the right to vote to people who have been convicted of felonies when they are discharged from incarceration. People who have served their time in prison deserve to reenter the political community as participants, eligible to exercise the right and to fulfill the responsibility to vote.

SO RESOLVED by the _____ CITY COUNCIL, this _____ day of _____, 2005.