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| CONC | CURRENT RESOLUTION | - A CALL TO |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | CIVILITY | |
| | 2009 GENERAL SESSIO | N |
| | STATE OF UTAH | |
| | Chief Sponsor: John L. Va | alentine |
| | House Sponsor: Kevin S. | Garn |
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| LONG TITLE | | |
| General Description: | | |
| This concurrent resol | ution of the Legislature and the G | overnor urges the people of |
| Utah to return to fundamenta | l principles that will lead to greate | er civility and respectful |
| public discourse. | | |
| Highlighted Provisions: | | |
| This resolution: | | |
| • urges the people of | of Utah to return to fundamental p | rinciples that will lead to greater |
| civility and a new spirit of co | ommunity; and | |
| invites all Utahns | to join the Legislature and the Go | vernor in affirming established |
| ground rules for respectful pu | ablic discourse and behavior. | |
| Special Clauses: | | |
| None | | |
| | | |
| Be it resolved by the Legislan | ture of the state of Utah, the Gove | rnor concurring therein: |
| WHEREAS, the Utah | Constitution, Article I, Section 2 | 7 states, "Frequent recurrence to |
| fundamental principles is ess government"; | ential to the security of individual | rights and perpetuity of free |
| WHEREAS, the Utah | Constitution, Article I, Section 1 | observes that, among our |

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| 30 | "inherent and inalienable" constitutional rights is the fundamental right "to communicate |
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| 31 | freely about our thoughts and opinions"; |
| 32 | WHEREAS, we may also be "responsible for the abuse of that right"; |
| 33 | WHEREAS, there should be a renewal of respectful discourse and behavior in civic |
| 34 | and public settings in Utah; |
| 35 | WHEREAS, this is not an appeal for all citizens of the state simply to get along; |
| 36 | WHEREAS, there are profound differences among Utahns, and spirited debate is a |
| 37 | vital part of American democracy; |
| 38 | WHEREAS, participation in American civic and public life does not require that we |
| 39 | sacrifice our deepest convictions but that we best protect our own rights by protecting the |
| 40 | rights of others and adhering to high ethical standards; |
| 41 | WHEREAS, the following ground rules of civic and public engagement recognize the |
| 12 | important place of the rights, responsibilities, and respect inherent in our civic and |
| 43 | constitutional compact; |
| 14 | WHEREAS, it is vital that the importance of rights and the dignity of each individual |
| 45 | be remembered; |
| 46 | WHEREAS, our society is founded upon the proposition that all people are born free |
| 1 7 | and equal in dignity and rights, and that freedom of conscience and expression is at the |
| 48 | foundation of our rights; |
| 19 | WHEREAS, each of us should be responsible both in the exercise of our rights and in |
| 50 | protecting the rights of others; |
| 51 | WHEREAS, especially on matters of personal faith, claims of conscience, and human |
| 52 | rights, public policy should seek solutions that are fair to all; |
| 53 | WHEREAS, all people, especially our leaders and the media, should demonstrate a |
| 54 | commitment to be respectful in discourse and behavior, particularly in civic and public |
| 55 | forums; |
| 56 | WHEREAS, respect should also be shown by being honest and as inclusive as |
| 57 | possible, by mindfully listening to and attempting to understand the concerns of others, by |

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58 valuing their opinions even when there is disagreement, and by addressing their concerns 59 when possible; 60 WHEREAS, public discourse can be passionate while maintaining mutual respect that 61 reaches beyond differing opinions; 62 WHEREAS, intimidation, ridicule, personal attacks, mean spiritedness, reprisals 63 against those who disagree, and other disrespectful or unethical behaviors destroy the fabric of 64 society and should not be tolerated; WHEREAS, those who engage in this behavior should be brought to light, held 65 66 accountable, and should no longer enjoy the public's trust; WHEREAS, the social compact "of the people" and "by the people" is "for the people," 67 68 and each person has a responsibility to build community; and 69 WHEREAS, on divisive issues, areas of common ground should first be explored, and 70 effort should be given to build broad-based agreement, giving due regard to the concerns of 71 minority points of view: 72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the 73 Governor concurring therein, being concerned about growing incivility in our civic and public 74 settings, urge the people of Utah to return to fundamental principles that will lead to greater 75 civility and a new spirit of community and invite all Utahns to join us in affirming established 76 ground rules for respectful public discourse and behavior. 77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be posted on the Internet

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websites of the Legislature and the Governor.