

Policy Proposal:

Follow up to RES 20-788 Supporting religious minorities persecuted globally and establishing a process for City Council action in response to requests for advocacy in support of persecuted minorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within 60 days, the City Council staff, in consultation with the Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity, shall establish a formal process to accept, research, and evaluate community requests for action against local, national, and international religious persecution outlined in this legislation and it will further provide a method for determining proper advocacy steps appropriate to any such request.

Proposed process:

1. Requests are submitted or forwarded to the Director of Council Research for review and recommendation to the City Council.
2. Council Research, working with the HREEO and the CAO will develop a memo to Council which includes:
 - a. Background on the topic
 - b. Evaluation based upon criteria outlined below
 - c. Recommendation to Council

The goal will be to complete the memo within 30 days of receipt of request.

3. Criteria used to evaluate request is a two-step process:

Step 1

Does this request violate the 1st amendment? *Does this request ask the City to take a position on or endorse a specific religion or favor one religion over another? Is it religion neutral/secular?* If the answer to the first question is yes, then the recommendation to Council is to not go forward with the request.

Step 2

If the answer is 'no' to the first question above, then proceed with the following criteria:

- a. Does the request have a councilmember sponsor?
- b. Is the request from a St. Paul resident, or a non-profit which is located in St. Paul or has a significant number of its members who are St. Paul residents?
- c. Does the request align with the City's legislative agenda, policies or goals?
- d. Does the request contemplate ongoing involvement of the City with religion?

- e. Does the outcome champion justice and equity by confronting issues of discrimination and promote innovative avenues for accessibility and economic opportunities for all residents and businesses?
- f. Are there any negative or unproductive ramifications for St. Paul communities from passing this resolution?