

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
Meeting Date: December 7, 2009

Action Agenda
Item No. 3-a

SUBJECT: Proclamation for Bill of Rights Day in Orange County

DEPARTMENT: BOCC

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

ATTACHMENT(S):
– Proclamation

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Valerie Foushee, Chair, Orange County
Commissioners, 245-2130

PURPOSE: To consider a proclamation to recognize December 15, 2009 as Bill of Rights Day in Orange County.

BACKGROUND: The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, commonly know as the Bill of Rights, were ratified on December 15, 1791.

The Bill of Rights protects every person of this nation providing freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of the people to peacefully assemble.

The amendments also grant the right to privacy within one's home, free of searches and seizures in the absence of probable cause.

Local governments will participate in a Bill of Rights ceremony at 12:00 Noon on December 15, 2009 in Chapel Hill and Commissioners are invited to attend and participate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board approve the attached proclamation recognizing December 15, 2009 as Bill of Rights Day in Orange County and authorize the Chair to sign the proclamation.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**P R O C L A M A T I O N****Bill of Rights Day****DECEMBER 15, 2009**

Whereas, the necessary states ratified the **Bill of Rights**, the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution, on December 15, 1791; and

Whereas, the **Bill of Rights** protects every person of this state and nation from the infringement of basic human and civil rights; and

Whereas, the freedoms of speech and association and the right to due process and equal protection of the law, as embodied in the **Bill of Rights**, are a model for democratic institutions and laws all over the world; and

Whereas, the people of North Carolina stood strong in withholding ratification of the Constitution until the **Bill of Rights** was added to ensure their inalienable rights; and

Whereas, the Orange County Board of Commissioners demonstrated its commitment to “upholding the civil rights and civil liberties of all persons in Orange County and their free exercise and enjoyment of any and all rights and privileges secured by our constitutions and laws of the United States, the State of North Carolina, and Orange County,” in a May 20, 2003 approved resolution entitled “A Resolution Regarding the Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties”; and

Whereas, the Orange County Board of Commissioners reaffirmed the protections of all its residents by passing “A Resolution Opposing the Use of Local Law Enforcement to Enforce Civil Immigration Law and Policy” on January 23, 2007;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that we the Orange County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim **December 15, 2009** as “**BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**” in Orange County and commend this observance to all people.

This, the 7th day of December 2009.

Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners