RESOLUTION NO. 7461

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmembers Lisa Stubbs, Jeff Preisner, John Alcala, Duane Pomeroy, John Nave, Clark Duffy, Gary Price, Bill Haynes and Lover Chanler stating the support of the City of Topeka for the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954) case regarding desegregation of public schools.

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Earl Warren, delivering the unanimous opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court in its landmark decision in the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka 74 S.Ct. 686 (1954), stated: "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 1992, the United States Congress approved Public Law 102-525 establishing the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site for the purposes of:

a. Preserving, protecting, and interpreting for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, the places that contributed materially to the landmark United States Supreme Court decision that brought an end to segregation in public education;

b. Interpreting the integral role of the Brown v. Board of Education case in the civil rights movement, and

c. Assisting in the preservation and interpretation of related resources within the city of Topeka that further the understanding of the civil rights movement; and

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WHEREAS, the opening ceremony of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site will be held on May 17, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the White Revolution, an Arkansas white supremacist group, plans to hold a rally near the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site on May 15, 2004, in protest of the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka school desegregation ruling, and expressing the viewpoint that the forced racial integration of American public schools has had a devastating impact on the nation's educational system, a position that this organization claims is privately held by a majority of white people in this county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Topeka that it publicly and privately ardently supports the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, believing that children have the Constitutional right to attend desegregated schools, affording them equal protection of the laws as required by the Fourteenth Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the desegregation of schools has strengthened the educational system and communities of this country by providing all citizens with the equal treatment they deserve both morally and under the Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council emphatically does not support the White Revolution's assertion that Topekans' public beliefs regarding desegregation differ from their private beliefs on the subject.

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ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council April 27, 2004

ATTEST:

James A. McClinton, Mayor

Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 4/28/04