

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
TO EDUCATE STAUNTON'S RESIDENTS AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY
ABOUT REPORTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S STATE-
SPONSORED ORGAN HARVESTING
FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**

WHEREAS, the global organ trafficking trade exists and a large component of this practice involves the coerced harvesting of organs from individuals who do not consent to such actions; and

WHEREAS, medical "tourism", the practice of traveling to other countries for medical procedures, including organ transplantation, is increasingly prevalent, and in the case of certain organ transplantation, the source of such organs is not readily discoverable by recipients, many of whom are unaware of information regarding the donors or whether or not the donated organ was procured voluntarily and in accordance with ethical and legal standards; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing amount of evidence that the People's Republic of China is sponsoring organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience-specifically certain ethnic minority and religious groups such as practitioners of Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) as documented by independent, non-partisan organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and tribunals such as the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC), The China Tribunal, and Freedom House; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United State House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 343 condemning the systemic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting in the People's Republic of China and called on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end the practice of organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, there is little public awareness of the People's Republic of China's nonconsensual organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, the Staunton City Council received a presentation and petition signed by eighty-two individuals at its September 23, 2021 meeting urging the Staunton City Council to inform its residents of the People's Republic of China's nonconsensual organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, Staunton residents should be fully informed of the organ source in China before they make the decision to engage in medical tourism in China and the Staunton City Council should assist in raising awareness of this issue.

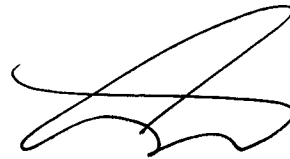
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that the residents and medical community serving the City of

Staunton and the surrounding region be informed about the risks of travel to China for organ transplants to help prevent our local citizens from unknowingly receiving organ transplants from state-sponsored nonconsensual organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia opposes any coerced organ harvesting, specifically including, but not limited to, any state-sponsored nonconsensual organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to both United States Senators representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2021.



Andrea W. Oakes, Mayor

Attest: 
Morgan C. Smith, Interim Clerk of Council