

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO STUDY
HOMESTEAD ACT THRESHOLDS AND NEEDS RELATED TO ALL
COMMUNITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the need for senior citizens to have the opportunity “to age at home” and have affordable housing is critical; and

WHEREAS, on Sept. 20, 2016, Mecklenburg County applied for the World Health Organization’s status of “Age-Friendly” by joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control defines aging in place as “the ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level”; and

WHEREAS, the increasing contributions of older adults to economic, social and cultural development is a valuable resource for our County and State; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that nearly 23 percent of North Carolina’s population will be 60 and older by the year 2030, an increase of more than 26 percent from 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the median income for the elderly in the United States was 40.9% less than individuals below 65 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the largest numbers of homeless individuals in North Carolina live in the urban centers with the highest rates of homelessness occurring in the western more rural counties; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina allows a low-income homestead tax exemption in the amount of either \$25,000, or 50% of the appraised home value (whichever is greater) for qualifying individuals that are at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled; and

WHEREAS, the qualifying Annual Income Eligibility Limit is set every year by the NC Department of Revenue. The limit for 2017 was \$29,600 for income received from all sources during the calendar year 2016; and

WHEREAS, there are counties in North Carolina with higher costs of living where the median income for individuals 65 and older is above the threshold but is still an amount that makes paying property taxes burdensome thereby decreasing opportunities for senior citizens to qualify for the exemption and denying them the opportunity to age in place by staying in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, legislation directing a thorough review and analysis of the Homestead Act to include state officials and local government officials, would support efforts to alleviate homelessness and support the growing population of older adults in North Carolina:

NOW therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners supports and advocates for legislation directing a review and analysis of the North Carolina Homestead Act that includes state and local government officials to assess the needs of all counties in North Carolina.

Adopted this the _____ Day of October 2018

Ella B. Scarborough
Chair