

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE TOWN OF CARRBORO'S SUPPORT FOR THE
TASTE OF HOPE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGING MORE
CITIZENS TO BECOME DONORS
Draft Resolution No. 100/2010-11

WHEREAS, these are difficult times because of the slowdown in the economy and increases in the costs of necessities such as energy and food, and these circumstances are most challenging for families who have the least resources; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Census Bureau data show that the poverty rate in Orange County has risen to 18%, which means that almost one in every five Orange County residents is coping with marginal resources, and the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service has reported that the number of families participating in the emergency food assistance program has risen to 3,000 for the first time in the IFC's history; and

WHEREAS, when a family cannot pay for water and sewer service, the family's quality of life is affected in fundamental ways involving health, sanitation, hygiene and food preparation; and

WHEREAS, our citizens have demonstrated in many ways for many years their commitment to and caring for the well-being of everyone in the community; and

WHEREAS, since 1997 the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) have sponsored the Taste of Hope Customer Assistance Program to help low to moderate income OWASA customers when they are unable to pay their water/sewer bills; and

WHEREAS, if an OWASA customer decides to become a regular donor to the Taste of Hope Program, the customer's monthly bill is automatically rounded up to the nearest dollar, and the added amount goes to the IFC to help OWASA customers; and

WHEREAS, in the near future, OWASA will announce the option for customers to add any whole dollar amount to their monthly bills (\$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) as a Taste of Hope donation; and

WHEREAS, the IFC has a track record of commitment and service to families in need in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Southern Orange County community since 1963 as a tax-exempt, charitable 501(c)(3) organization; and

WHEREAS, OWASA is a community-owned, non-profit public entity, and in accord with State law, OWASA does not use its customers' revenues to fund or promote the Taste of Hope program; and

WHEREAS, about 6% of OWASA's customers are regular donors in the Taste of Hope program; and their donations total about \$7,000 annually, but the need is much greater; and

WHEREAS, an OWASA customer can become a Taste of Hope donor simply by calling OWASA Customer Service at 537-4343, sending e-mail to customerservice@owasa.org or using OWASA's on-line form at www.owasa.org; and

WHEREAS, citizens are also invited to contribute to the Taste of Hope program with donations directly to the IFC at 100 West Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen formally endorsed the Taste of Hope program by resolution adopted on November 18, 2008;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO:

Section 1. The Board hereby:

- Reaffirms its strong support for the Taste of Hope Customer Assistance Program sponsored by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority; and
- Expresses its sincere appreciation to citizens who are already Taste of Hope donors; and
- Encourages more citizens to donate to the Taste of Hope program on a regular basis by having their monthly OWASA bills rounded up to the nearest dollar and/or by making donations directly to the IFC.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.