

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
**RESOLUTION HONORING SENATOR BYRON BAER'S LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS**  
RESOLUTION OF December 11, 2007

**WHEREAS**, by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey of New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights was created; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Civil Rights is charged under the law with consulting and advising the Attorney General with respect to the work of the Division on Civil Rights, surveying and studying the operations of the Division, and reporting to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to such matters relating to the work of the Division and at such times as it may deem in the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination was the first state-wide civil rights statute in the nation, and was designed to address discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights is charged with enforcing the Law Against Discrimination and has been instrumental in informing the public and promoting the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and combating unlawful discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, Byron Baer was a champion for civil rights and in 1961, served a 45-day prison sentence in the Mississippi Parchman Penitentiary as a result of being one of the Freedom Riders; and

**WHEREAS**, Byron Baer put his physical welfare on the line getting a broken arm after fighting with a farm operator while protesting the treatment of their migrant workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Baer was instrumental in getting the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination amended to protect New Jerseyans based on affectional or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Baer spent thirty four years serving the citizens of New Jersey in the State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Baer's legislation served as a model for many other states and for national legislation. Particularly in the areas of : Truth in Pricing, Right to Know, Open Public Meetings, Toxic Catastrophe Prevention, Ethnic Terrorism, Open Public Records, and many more devoted to good government, civil rights and consumer protection; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that on this date, December 11, 2007 the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights recognizes and salutes the late Senator Byron Baer for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the transparency of government and the equality of all people in the State of New Jersey; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, on this date, December 11, 2007, by the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights to honor the late Senator Byron Baer, for his leadership in protecting the rights of persons in New Jersey, and to memorialize him for his dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts for helping all the citizens of New Jersey gain equal access and

opportunity by strengthening the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination to eradicate unlawful discriminatory practices in the Garden State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission on Civil Rights, joins with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, to officially refer to the Newark Commission's Conference Room as the "Senator Byron Baer Commission Conference Room" in his honor, for the many contributions he made to civil rights law; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each of us will follow the example set by Senator Baer and work together towards achieving a safe, open and respectful environment in which all New Jersey citizens can thrive; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Division shall ensure that a copy of this Resolution is transmitted to the Legislative leadership, Attorney General, and the Governor, and shall have a copy posted on the website of the Division under the Commission's link.