

November 6, 2014

Announcement of Press Conference;

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 a.m. Friday November 6, 2014

The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce will hold a press conference, Friday, November 7th @ 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber offices.

The press conference is to announce that the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the Repeal of Ordinance 5703, Chapter 119, also known the civil rights ordinance.

The Chamber resolution states that Ordinance 5703 Chapter 119 should be repealed because:

It criminalizes civil conduct; and

It does not provide an adequate definition of what prohibited conduct will give rise to criminal prosecution;

It does not define critical terms such as, socio-economic background and physical characteristic nor how these terms apply regarding discriminatory acts or classes under the ordinance;

It does not include any current legal defenses under Arkansas or federal law now available to any one alleged to have discriminated;

It does not define “perception” which can be the basis of a complaint from one believed to be a victim of discrimination;

It is incomplete and vague in prescribing the specific types of conduct prohibited and in defining the specific businesses that will be covered and those exempt;

It was not adopted with a complete and thorough review and debate, which has been the long standing policy and practice of the City of Fayetteville starting with incinerators and impact fees then moving to

paid parking and the determination of the proper number of unrelated persons that should be permitted to live together.

The Chamber will encourage its members and the public to **“Vote for Repeal of Ordinance 5703 Chapter 119”** on December 9, 2014 the date of the special referendum election on this ordinance.

The Chamber submits to voters that it is never good public policy for any governmental entity to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances or laws that are vague, incomplete, fail to include critical definitions for prohibited acts or conduct that may be later be adjudged as criminal; base criminal prosecution on the basis of another’s “perception” of conduct, verbal or non verbal communication or attitude or that have not been completely and thoroughly debated and reviewed.

The Chamber urges voters to cast their “Vote for Repeal of Ordinance 5703 Chapter 119” on December 9th, 2014