



202401206

Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

April 18th, 2024

Gun Violence Victims Memorial Motion

WE MOVE that the administration prepare a report within thirty (30) days on the feasibility of the formation/construction of a permanent memorial for victims of gun violence in Cincinnati. This report should include:

- Funding Sources/Opportunities
- Overall Cost
- Community Engagement Processes
- Site Identification
- Key Community Partners
- Key External Partners including but not limited to The Gun Violence Memorial Project
- Educational Opportunities

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meeka D. Owens".

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Allri".

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan Michelle Lemoine".

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DR
4/18/24
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STATEMENT

Cincinnati City Council declared Gun Violence as a public health crisis in 2021; for most of us, it was our first act on this Council. As a city, we should confront our pain and recognize those we have lost through this crisis. In 2023, over 1,600 children died from gun violence, there were 656 mass shootings that killed over 712 people, and over 18,874 people were killed due to gun deaths, excluding suicides. Many members of our country and our community have lost family members, friends, classmates, co-workers, and more. Their lives and memories should not be lost because they are no longer physically with us.

Around the United States, cities are beginning to memorialize moments of gun violence in their communities. The Gun Violence Memorial Project has already installed memorials in Chicago and is actively working to install memorials in Orlando, FL; El Paso, TX; Newtown, CT; New Haven, CT; and Thousand Oaks, CA. Although many of these communities have been sites of prominent mass shootings, these memorials are being placed in communities that are experiencing gun violence continuously.

Our city is becoming a community of survivors—those who are surviving physical and emotional wounds. By acknowledging our community's loss and pain, we aim to find a comprehensive solution to this crisis between mind and soul.