

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_-2023

ENCOURAGING the Ohio General Assembly to pass legislation making it a felony to assault public transit system workers in Ohio.

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of public transit system workers are of paramount importance to the City of Cincinnati and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, public transit system workers provide an essential service by ensuring the mobility of countless residents and visitors, which contributes to the economic vitality of our communities; and

WHEREAS, public transit system workers, particularly operators of buses, rail, and other transit vehicles, face significant risks in carrying out their duties, including verbal abuse, threats, and physical assaults; and

WHEREAS, assaults on public transit system workers not only endanger the lives and safety of these dedicated public servants but also compromise the overall safety of passengers and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the current legal framework in Ohio does not adequately deter or punish individuals who assault public transit system workers, leaving them without the protection they need to perform their vital roles; and

WHEREAS, several other states have enacted laws making assaults on public transit system workers a felony, effectively increasing penalties for such offenses and thereby deterring potential perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, enacting similar legislation in Ohio would send a strong message that the State of Ohio values the safety and well-being of public transit system workers and is committed to ensuring their protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council encourages the Ohio General Assembly to pass legislation making it a felony to assault public transit system workers in Ohio.

Section 2. That the legislation should include appropriate penalties that reflect the severity of the offense, with provisions for increased penalties in cases of aggravated assault or repeat offenses.

Section 3. That the City of Cincinnati calls upon law enforcement agencies, transit authorities, and relevant stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop policies and procedures to ensure the effective enforcement of the legislation.

Section 4. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Ohio, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, Ohio Speaker of the House Jason Stephens, Ohio Senator Catherine Ingram, and Ohio Representative Sedrick Denson.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Victoria Parks