

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

**EXPRESSING** the support of the City Council for Ohio House Concurrent Resolution No. 45, “Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma in Ohio.”

WHEREAS, emerging research in neuroscience and psychology reported by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (“NCTSN”) shows that trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects of human development across the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 National Survey of Childhood Health (“NSCH”) found that childhood trauma occurs in epidemic proportions in the United states, with one of every five Ohio children ages 3-17 years old experiencing two or more adverse childhood experiences (“ACEs”) annually; and

WHEREAS, ACEs may include separation from a parent, violence at home or in the community, sexual abuse, usage of drugs or alcohol, educational difficulties, and other social and personal issues, and while all communities are impacted, this epidemic is especially severe in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the impact of trauma on children is seen in malnutrition, mental and physical health issues, poor academic performance, physical abuse, and isolation, which lead to systems wired for “fight” or “flight” responses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 28 percent of all children between ages 0-17 had experienced some type of childhood trauma, and with 2.7 million children in Ohio, this means 729,000 children experienced one or more forms of childhood trauma; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics describes ACEs as stressful or traumatic events occurring during childhood, and strongly related to a wide range of health problems; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that ACEs have a direct impact on the healthy development and lifelong health of individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 6 adults experienced four or more types of ACEs, and preventing ACEs could reduce the number of adults with depression by as much as 44 percent; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 NSCH found that more than 500,000 Ohio children reported one or more ACEs such as divorce, death of a parent, having a parent serve time in jail, experiencing violence with a mentally ill or addicted person, or experiencing unfair treatment due to race or ethnicity, and more than 400,000 Ohio children reported two or more ACEs; and

WHEREAS, culture can provide a source of strength, unique coping strategies, and specific resources to respond to trauma; and

WHEREAS, the NSCH found that the potential for childhood trauma exists among all major racial and ethnic groups in the United States, and some racial and ethnic minorities are at a greater risk for specific traumas and their adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association recognizes that racism is a contributing factor to childhood trauma for children of African American, Native, and Hispanic/Latinx descent; and

WHEREAS, the NSTSN acknowledges that poverty is a contributing factor to childhood trauma; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, substance abuse treatment providers, the education system, and social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and other child welfare services, disability services, and family and community support systems) should all be equipped with up-to-date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma-responsive care; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That this Council hereby supports adoption of Ohio House Concurrent Resolution No. 45, “Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma in Ohio.”

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney