

AWB

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2022

EXPRESSING the belief of the Mayor and City Council that gun violence is a public health crisis in the City of Cincinnati; and further **EXPRESSING** City Council's commitment to reducing the prevalence of gun violence in our City and protecting citizens from gun violence.

WHEREAS, gun violence is a significant problem in the United States that affects people in all stages of life, from infants to the elderly, and is linked to many chronic diseases, obesity, substance abuse, and other physical, reproductive, and mental health consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has proclaimed February 1 to February 7, 2022 as National Gun Violence Survivors Week in the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, as a longtime advocate for violence prevention policies, the American Public Health Association recognizes a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis is necessary; and

WHEREAS, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States and is the cause of over 38,000 deaths and nearly 85,000 injuries each year; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), nationwide more than 44,800 people were killed by gun violence in 2021; and

WHEREAS, violence also affects youth in the United States with homicide as one of the leading causes of death among persons 15 to 24 years old, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 over 2,200 children in the United States were fatally shot, the highest total in over two decades; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,578 people in Ohio died by gun violence in 2019, an average of more than 4 people every day, and the state was twenty-second in death rate compared to other states across the nation; and

WHEREAS, every year in Ohio, 13.3 people die in gun-related incidents per 100,000 people in the community, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, in Cincinnati, Ohio, there were 413 victims of gun violence in 2021, and 81 of those shot were killed; and

WHEREAS, gun violence affects people of all ages and races in the United States, but has a disproportionate impact on Black young adults and males; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims, with Black Americans ten times more likely to die by gun homicide; and

WHEREAS, 88.6 percent of the reported firearm victims in Cincinnati in 2021 were Black people; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, young Black males aged 15 to 34 account for 2 percent of the population but 37 percent of all gun homicide fatalities, a rate 20 times higher than white males of the same age group; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has found that although there are a significant number of violent deaths per year in the United States, there are many more individuals who survive violence and are left with permanent physical and emotional scars, and that this violence erodes communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services; and

WHEREAS, those exposed to gun violence are more likely to engage in future gun violence behaviors, and firearm violence is highly correlated with behavioral health conditions, including drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, exposure to youth violence can lead to a wide array of negative health behaviors and outcomes, including alcohol use, drug use, and suicide, and depression, anxiety, and other psychological problems can result from exposure to violence; and

WHEREAS these findings demonstrate the prevalence of violence and the detrimental effects that violence has on the citizens of this nation, state, and city; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Mayor and City Council that the issue of gun violence in Cincinnati is rooted in racial and health inequities and injustices experienced for generations by people of color; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country require multidisciplinary solutions that address the root causes of violence, and protecting public safety in the communities we serve is one of City Council's highest responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognizes the need to provide positive and safe environments for children through community programs as well as mental health services; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increasing calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence in America; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of Cincinnati that the Mayor and City Council support the existing collaborations to establish an evidence-based public health response to address the underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council declare that gun violence is a public health crisis affecting our entire City.

Section 2. That the Mayor and City Council seek to promote the reduction of gun violence through all legislative polices enacted by City Council; are committed to addressing and reducing gun violence and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development, youth development and public safety; and will work to solidify alliances and partnerships with external partners that address gun violence and will encourage other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize gun violence as a public health crisis.

Section 3. That the Mayor and City Council express their commitment to honestly and directly addressing minority health inequities, including implementing a systematic, data-driven focus on economic instability, education, social and community environment, neighborhood infrastructure, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health affecting gun violence in many areas, including but not limited to crime, health behaviors, socioeconomic status, childhood trauma, mental health, physical health, environmental exposure, and public safety.

Section 4. That the Mayor and City Council express their intention to expand and strengthen City policies that promote community engagement; to provide tools for City systems to engage actively and authentically with the community to address gun violence; to support continuing work to build alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track record of addressing gun violence; and to engage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, and criminal justice and safety areas to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

Section 5. That the Mayor and City Council will establish working relationships with other local municipalities, community partners, and community members to establish an evidence-based

public health response to address the underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence.

Section 6. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that the office of Councilmember Meeka D. Owens will transmit copies of this resolution to the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio State Senate, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.

Passed: _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmembers Meeka D. Owens, Scotty Johnson, Mark Jeffreys, Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Jeff Cramerding, Reggie Harris, Greg Landsman, Victoria Parks