

RESOLUTION NO. 57 - 2020

EXPRESSING the opposition of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Cincinnati to the proposed Ohio Stand Your Ground legislation currently in consideration in the Ohio General Assembly.

WHEREAS, Stand Your Ground laws upend centuries of traditional self-defense doctrine and threaten public safety by encouraging armed vigilantism, allowing a person to kill another person in a public area even when that individual can clearly and safely walk away from the danger; and

WHEREAS, under current Ohio law, a person can use force, including deadly force, to defend himself or herself anywhere; but when in public, a person cannot use force likely to kill or seriously injure someone if there is a safe way to avoid the danger; and

WHEREAS, in states which have adopted such legislation, Stand Your Ground laws are associated with an increase in firearm homicides and injuries and do not deter crime; and

WHEREAS, at least 30 people nationwide are killed each month as a result of Stand Your Ground laws; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, passage of the Stand Your Ground law was linked to a 32 percent increase in firearm homicide rates, and at the same time, justifiable homicide rates increased by 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, Stand Your Ground laws have a disproportionate effect on communities of color, based on evidence demonstrating that when white shooters kill Black victims, the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable 11 times more frequently than when the shooter is Black and the victim is white; and

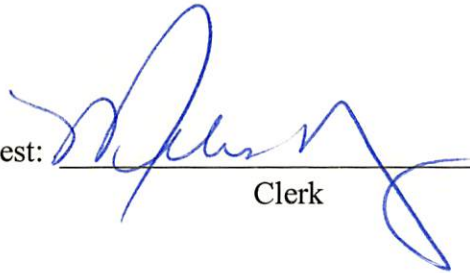
WHEREAS, Controlling for other factors — such as who initiated the confrontation and whether or not the victim was armed — Florida Stand Your Ground cases with minority victims are half as likely to lead to conviction, compared to cases with white victims; now, therefore,

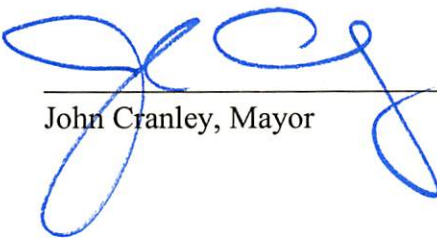
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That that the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Cincinnati hereby record their strong opposition to any Stand Your Ground legislation currently in consideration in the Ohio state legislature.

Section 2. That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: December 16, 2020

Attest: 
Clerk


John Cranley, Mayor