

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-658

A Resolution of the City of Gainesville, Florida expressing the belief that gun violence is a public health crisis in the City of Gainesville; and further expressing the City Commission’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 and is linked to many chronic diseases and other physical, reproductive, and mental health consequences;

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association recognizes a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis is necessary;

WHEREAS, gun violence is the leading cause of premature death in the United States, with more than 100 Americans killed each day with a gun, and nearly 49,000 fatalities from firearms in 2021;

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, according to data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WHEREAS, gun violence is the number one crime among minority communities in the U.S. for the last 10 years;

WHEREAS, communities of color are statistically prone to higher concentration of crimes involving guns – for both the perpetrators and the victims;

WHEREAS, in 2022 there were 170 shots fired in the City of Gainesville, as reported by the Gainesville Police Department;

WHEREAS, in 2022 there were 47 individuals shot or injured by gunfire within the City of Gainesville, as reported by the Gainesville Police Department;

WHEREAS, in 2022 there were 10 homicides in the City of Gainesville, as reported by the Gainesville Police Department;

WHEREAS, in the first three months of 2023 there were 4 homicides in the City of Gainesville, as reported by the Gainesville Police Department;

WHEREAS, interaction with the criminal justice system has been shown to be a cause and consequence of neighborhood-level poverty, disease, social stigma, and crumbling infrastructure;

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;

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY**
48 **OF GAINESVILLE, FL:**

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50 That the City of Gainesville declare that gun violence is a public health crisis affecting our entire
51 city.

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53 That the City of Gainesville seek to promote the reduction of gun violence through all legislative
54 policies enacted by the City Commission; is committed to addressing and reducing gun violence
55 and how it affects economic development, youth development, and public safety; and will work to
56 solidify alliances and partnerships with partners that address gun violence and will encourage other
57 entities to recognize gun violence as a public health crisis.

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59 That the City of Gainesville establish working relationships with institutional partners including
60 other local municipalities, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, community partners,
61 and community members to establish an evidence-based public health response to address the
62 underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence.

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64 This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

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66 **PASSED and ADOPTED** this 20th day of July, 2023.

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72 Harvey L. Ward Jr., Mayor

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76 ATTEST:
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80 Kristen J. Bryant
81 Interim City Clerk

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