

ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 23-XX

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING THAT GUN VIOLENCE IS A
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN ALACHUA COUNTY AND FURTHER
EXPRESSING THE COUNTYS COMMITMENT TO REDUCING THE
PREVALENCE OF AND PROTECTING RESIDENTS 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; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association encourages a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Health Charts, Alachua County recorded 14 deaths by firearms discharge in 2020, up from 5 recorded deaths in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 there were 25 Alachua County deaths by firearms discharge, the highest number ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, in the first three months of 2023 the Gainesville Police Department recorded 4 homicides within the City of Gainesville, and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2023, the City of Gainesville by way of Resolution declared gun violence a public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

That gun violence is declared a public health crisis affecting our entire county. Alachua County will seek to promote the reduction of gun violence through legislative policies enacted by the Commission; is committed to addressing and reducing gun violence and how it affects economic development, youth development, and public safety; and will work to solidify alliances and partnerships with others that address gun violence and will encourage other entities to recognize gun violence as a public health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners will establish working relationships with institutional partners including other local municipalities, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, community partners, and residents to establish an evidence-based public health response to address the underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence.

Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Anna Prizzia, Chair

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq.
Clerk
(SEAL)

Alachua County Attorney's Office