

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPORT AND COLLABORATE WITH THE COALITION FOR PEACEFUL TOLEDO NEIGHBORHOODS IN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE AND ELIMINATE DEATHS BY GUN VIOLENCE IN TOLEDO NEIGHBORHOODS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Toledo is committed to promoting safe and peaceful neighborhoods for its residents. On December 20, 2022, Toledo City Council adopted Resolution 654-22 memorializing this commitment and declaring gun violence a public health crisis in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting peace and eliminating deaths by violence, particularly deaths by gun violence, in Toledo neighborhoods. The Coalition continues to grow and consists of over 200 people committed to promoting peace in the City of Toledo. The Coalition includes former Toledo Mayors Bell, Finkbeiner, Hicks-Hudson and Owens, as well as business and community leaders, clergy and church leaders, and many residents who care deeply about their community and the neighbors around them; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods has met in town hall and small group forums over a number of months, collecting information and feedback from members of neighborhoods and neighborhood churches in all corners of the City. These members of the community are in the best position to specifically identify the problems and suggest effective measures to promote peace and combat the surging violence in City of Toledo neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Toledo City Council recognizes the importance of supporting the efforts of community organizations like the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods and its members in achieving the goal of more peaceful neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOLEDO, OHIO:

SECTION 1: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to express support for the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods in its efforts to promote peace and eliminate deaths by violence in the City of Toledo, and to provide resources as necessary to implement community-driven initiatives aimed at reducing violence and promoting peace.

SECTION 2: Support for the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods

Toledo City Council hereby expresses its full and unequivocal support for the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods in its efforts to promote peace and eliminate deaths by violence in City of Toledo neighborhoods.

SECTION 3: Collaboration and Implementation

Toledo City Council directs the active collaboration between the City of Toledo and the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods to address issues related to violence in the community. Toledo City Council hereby commits to a comprehensive review of the priorities identified by the residents of Toledo neighborhoods aimed at reducing violence in the City and developing a plan for the implementation of these community-driven initiatives to reduce violence and promote peace. These community developed priorities include:

1. Youth programming that provides access to mentorship, job training, and educational opportunities;
2. Neighborhood support and community building resources that foster positive relationships and build stronger, more cohesive communities;
3. Increased police presence and involvement in neighborhoods, focused on community policing efforts that prioritize communication, trust, and respect between law enforcement and residents;
4. Our judicial, probation and parole system, while following the law, must apply stringent penalties to convicted offenders and limit the ability of repeat violent offenders to walk the streets while awaiting trial;
5. Support for parents and parenting classes, including access to resources on conflict resolution and parenting techniques;
6. Revitalization and cleanup of neighborhoods, including investment in infrastructure and beautification efforts that support community engagement and increase access to public spaces;
7. Mental health resources that provide access to counseling, crisis intervention, and other mental health services;
8. Renewal and strengthening of Community Watch programs, including the expansion of programs and resources that facilitate communication and engagement between neighbors and law enforcement;
9. Strengthening of gun laws, including the adoption of local policies and ordinances aimed at preventing gun violence and supporting responsible gun ownership;
10. Safe methods of reporting crime, including the development of anonymous reporting mechanisms and the adoption of policies that protect whistleblowers and other informants;

11. Cameras in the neighborhoods, including the deployment of surveillance technologies that are subject to strict privacy protections and oversight mechanisms;
12. Enforcement of curfews, including the adoption of clear, consistent policies on curfews for minors and the provision of resources and support for parents to ensure compliance.

These priorities are interdependent and require mutual support. SECTION 4: Oversight and Evaluation

Toledo City Council will provide a report to the community on its evaluation of the priorities developed by the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods within 45 days along with a plan and timeline for implementation of these community-driven initiatives. Toledo City Council will provide ongoing oversight to ensure the effective implementation of these community-driven initiatives in accordance with the goals of reducing violence and promoting peace.

SECTION 5: That this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and property of the City, and for the further reason that this Ordinance is required to be immediately effective in order to take immediate action in efforts to protect the lives of members of the Toledo community; wherefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption or at the earliest time allowed by law.

Vote on emergency clause: yeas ____, nays ____.

Passed: _____, as an emergency measure: yeas ____, nays ____.

Attest: _____ Clerk of Council

Approved: _____

_____ President of Council

_____ Mayor

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance passed by Council _____.

Attest: _____ Clerk of Council