

RESOLUTION NO. R-118-2021

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE, COORDINATE AND COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON GOVERNMENT PARTNERS TO EARNESTLY CONSIDER ALLOCATING FUNDING SEPARATE FROM TRADITIONAL FUNDING FOR POLICE AND FIRE IN THE FY 2021/2022 AND IN FUTURE BUDGETS TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CRIME, AS WELL AS FUND INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMING.

RESOLUTION NO: R-118-2021

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Singh

PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED: 4-20-2021

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: 85 PAGE _____

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville is committed to improving the lives and safety of its residents and strengthen its businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, the City dedicates the largest portion of its budget to public safety, including the Knoxville Police Department and Knoxville Fire Department, which have historically been called upon to respond to chronic societal issues that stem from generational violence, racism, neglect, poverty, addiction and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, well-funded, evidence-based community programs could better address many of these problems without criminalization; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a dramatic increase in severity of violence and a continuing surge in gun violence and homicide in Knoxville and communities throughout the State of Tennessee and Country; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging a basic understanding that violence has an overall cost to society, leading to potentially adverse physical and mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the City and City Council recently allocated \$1 million to develop strategies and build capacity to address crime and violence; and some of these funds have already been utilized to retain Cities United to gather stakeholders and develop strategies, and build capacity to address the most immediate, frontline threats of violence is a crucial element of reducing gun violence; and

WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion this initial allocation of funds will not be wholly adequate to address needs in our community and that future City budgets should also fund, promote, and encourage non-law enforcement frontline and second line initiatives and enterprises that address root causes of violence by providing employment, training, education, and counseling to individuals, as well as investing to advance trauma informed services; and

WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion that the City Administration should evaluate both immediate and long-term budgetary needs, including any opportunities available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and to allocate resources in the FY21/22 budget and future budgets to a non-law enforcement violence intervention and prevention fund, and


WHEREAS, City Council supports the establishment of a multi-agency, multi-government community driven and public safety resource coalition, potentially based upon the collaborative, coordinated, centralized, wraparound services model of the Family Justice Center to implement data driven, evidence based best practices to address root causes of violence and create a safe, healthy, and hopeful Knoxville.

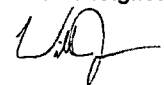
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: City Council hereby respectfully requests the City Administration to earnestly evaluate both immediate and long-term budgetary needs, including any opportunities available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and to integrate those resources into the FY21/22 budget and future budgets to support a multi-government, multi-agency, multi-community-based violence intervention and prevention fund to develop proactive, community-based, non-law enforcement measures to reduce violence and promote healing and hope throughout our city.

SECTION 2: Recognizing that the City is not the only institution with a stake in local violence intervention and prevention, City Council hereby respectfully requests the administration to lead engagement, coordination and collaboration of all critical government and agency stakeholders to contribute appropriate resources and otherwise collaborate equitably and in good faith on developing and supporting violence intervention and prevention efforts, including Knox County government, criminal courts, District Attorney's office, and any and all relevant state, local and federal agencies and nonprofits with a public health and safety mission.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

DocuSigned by:

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Presiding Officer of the Council

DocuSigned by:

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City Recorder

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOCATE \$4 MILLION IN THE FY 2021/2022 BUDGET TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CRIME, AS WELL AS FUND INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMING.

RESOLUTION NO: _____

REQUESTED BY: Councilmember Singh

PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ PAGE _____

WHEREAS, the City of Knoxville is committed to improve the lives and safety of its citizens and strengthen its businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, the City dedicates the largest portion of its budget to public safety, including the Knoxville Police Department, which has been called upon to respond to chronic societal issues that stem from generational violence, neglect, poverty, and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, well-funded, evidence-based, non law enforcement community programs could better address many of these problems without criminalization; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a dramatic increase in severity of violence and a continuing surge in gun violence and homicide; and

WHEREAS, it is important to acknowledge a basic understanding that violence has an overall cost to society, which leads to potentially adverse physical and mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the role of the City's recently retained consultant, Cities United, to gather stakeholders and develop strategies, and build capacity to address the most immediate, frontline threats of violence is a crucial element of reducing gun violence; and

WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion the City budget should also fund, promote, and encourage second line initiatives and enterprises that address root causes of violence by providing employment, training, education, and counseling to individuals, as well as investing to advance trauma informed services; and

WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion that \$4 million should be directed to begin seeding a violence intervention and prevention fund, to support the establishment of a multi-agency, multi-government community driven public safety resource center, potentially based upon the collaborative, coordinated, centralized, wraparound services model of the Family Justice Center to implement data driven, evidence based best practices to address root causes of violence and create a safe, healthy, and hopeful Knoxville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: City Council hereby respectfully requests the administration to allocate \$4 million funding in the City's upcoming FY 2021-22 budget to establish a multi-government, multi-agency, multi-community-based violence intervention and prevention fund to develop proactive, community-based, non-law enforcement measures to reduce violence and promote healing and hope throughout our city.

SECTION 2: Recognizing that the City is not the only institution with a stake in local violence intervention and prevention, City Council hereby respectfully requests the administration to lead engagement of all critical government and agency stakeholders to contribute appropriate resources and otherwise collaborate equitably and in good faith on developing and supporting the violence intervention and prevention plan and public safety resource center, including Knox County government, criminal courts, District Attorney's office, and any and all relevant state, local and federal agencies and nonprofits with a public health and safety mission.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Council

City Recorder



CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

City Council

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA DATE: April 20, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Legislative

DIRECTOR: City Council

AGENDA SUMMARY A Resolution respectfully requesting the administration to allocate \$4 million in the FY 2021/2022 budget to reduce and prevent crime, as well as fund interventional programming.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED

All

BACKGROUND

Requested by Councilmember Singh

OPTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

FISCAL INFORMATION

ATTACHMENTS:

- 11.c - Compromise Proposal Changes Accepted (PDF)
- Resolution - Crime Prevention Funding (DOC)

RESULT:	APPROVED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Seema Singh, Third District
SECONDER:	Tommy Smith, First District
AYES:	Fugate, McKenzie, Rider, Roberto, Singh, Smith, Testerman, Thomas
NAYS:	Amelia Parker