

Legislative #
170840

RESOLUTION NO. 170840

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY; REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF GAINESVILLE OR RELIEVE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON FLORIDA CITIES AND COUNTIES TO ALLOW US TO TAKE ACTION; EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO ARMING FLORIDA TEACHERS; PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the tragic shooting deaths of fourteen students and three teachers and wounding of more than a dozen others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is the latest in a string of at least 63 school shootings since the Sandy Hook Massacre in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Floridians are still reeling from other public mass shootings including the Ft. Lauderdale Airport in 2017 and the Pulse Nightclub Massacre in 2016; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings at churches in Texas and South Carolina and a concert in Nevada are still fresh in the minds and hearts of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 mass shootings occurred in 2017 alone; and

WHEREAS, more than 21,000 Americans die by gun suicide every year, and approximately 90% of those who attempt suicide by gun will die as opposed to more than 90% of those who attempt suicide by other methods who will live and be unlikely to attempt suicide again; and

WHEREAS, almost 4,000 children aged 0-17 years were killed or injured by guns in 2017 and more than 480 have already been killed or injured by guns in 2018; and

WHEREAS, women in America are 16 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries, making this country the most dangerous in the developed world when it comes to gun violence against women; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the likelihood of a woman dying fivefold; and

WHEREAS, governments are not addressing gendered based violence adequately which leads to it being under reported; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities in gun violence are drastic, with more than half of all gun homicide victims being African American; and

WHEREAS, residents of Gainesville find themselves weary of candlelight vigils and have offered all the thoughts and prayers they can muster; and

WHEREAS, without action the next mass shooting might happen as easily in Gainesville as any other; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes the data clearly indicate that gun violence is a significant and present public health and safety hazard and that the tools to keep our residents safe have been denied our city; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution and Section 790.33, Florida Statutes, preempts cities and counties from enacting any ordinance, rule or regulation related to firearms, except as provided by general State law.

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

Section 1. The Commission recognizes gun violence as a public health and safety emergency and demands that for the health and safety of the people of Gainesville, the Florida Legislature consider and pass emergency legislation that includes but is not necessarily limited to: a ban on semi-automatic and assault rifles, high capacity gun magazines and bump stocks; swift and thorough background checks for all firearm purchases; disarming and prevention from arming those convicted, under investigation, and reasonably suspected of violence; and review of mental health funding and appropriate measures to match access to gun ownership.

Section 2. If the Legislature fails to achieve emergency legislation as described in Section 1 of this Resolution, the City Commission demands the Florida Legislature repeal Section 790.33, Florida Statutes, and enact Statutes that enable the cities and counties of our state to enact ordinances, rules and regulations to keep our residents safe from gun violence.

Section 3. That if the current legislative session is not enough time to consider and enact the legislation requested in Sections 1 and 2 of this Resolution, the Governor call a special legislative session for this purpose.

Section 4. The Commission opposes any State legislation that would allow or mandate the arming of teachers in Florida schools.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2018.

LAUREN B. POE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

OMICHELE D. GAINNEY
CLERK OF COMMISSION

NICOLLE M. SHALLEY, CITY ATTORNEY

