

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO SAVE LIVES BY
INTERRUPTING VIOLENCE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2022

WHEREAS, in response to a series of tragic gun violence incidents in the summer of 2021 that resulted in the shooting deaths of young men in Washtenaw County, the Mayor of Ypsilanti brought together a diverse group of stakeholders with a singular focus on addressing community violence and saving the lives of our young people; and

WHEREAS, this group, comprising community members with lived experience, representatives from community organizations, and county, township, and city officials evolved into a community-driven learning collaborative known as the Community Violence Intervention team; and,

WHEREAS, we know that violence is a public health issue with three leading causes of death for people ages 15-24 being unintentional injury, homicide, and suicide, and that most of these violent deaths are directly associated with firearms; and,

WHEREAS, exposure to firearm violence approximately doubles the probability of a young person committing violence within two years, which tracks with the belief that a majority of gun violence in our community is retaliatory in nature; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Violence Intervention Team prioritized the decades of lived experience of its members navigating, surviving, and in some cases perpetuating violence in our community to develop a plan to address intentional violent trauma that results from shooting, stabbings, and serious assaults to interrupt retaliatory violence and save lives; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Violence Intervention Team developed a list of 14 recommendations for local governments, community organizations, and community members to collectively adopt and work towards, including:

1. Setting a clear goal of saving lives by stopping violence
2. Identifying key people and place driving violence
3. Creating a plan for engaging key people and places
4. Engaging key people with empathy and accountability
5. Addressing key locations by place-based investment and policing
6. Placing responsibility for violence reductions efforts at the top of organizations
7. Emphasizing healing with trauma informed approaches
8. Investing in anti-violence workforce development
9. Setting aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies
10. Creating the Washtenaw County Violence Commission
11. Building a Community Center in Eastern Washtenaw County
12. Building a Community Mural & Safe Grieving Community Space

13. Establish grief and loss community response protocol for violent deaths
14. Establish a communication alert system inclusive of all working to cure violence

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has begun some of this work by setting aside American Rescue Plan Act funding for new groups to build capacity and implement community violence interventions and placing responsibility at the top level of organizations by engaging the administrator and board leadership in this work; and,

WHEREAS, this list of recommendations contains a lot of work and not every organization or individual who joins this work will be able to have impact on each recommendation, but rather represents a systems-level approach that collaboratively can be achieved if we work together as a community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners accepts this list of recommendations from the Community Violence Intervention Team and formally adopts the goal of saving lives by stopping violence as a top priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners instructs the County Administrator to explore how to fund an in-depth problem analysis and asset mapping process, involving a review by trained street outreach workers and other non-police individuals with relevant lived and professional experience, and bring a proposal for funding this work within 100 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners encourages all cities, townships, and villages in the County to similarly accept this list of recommendations and begin working to make a meaningful impact to saving lives by stopping violence.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Beeman	X			Maciejewski	X			Shink	X		
Hodge	X			Morgan	X						
Jefferson	X			Sanders	X						
LaBarre	X			Scott	X						

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

9 0 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 4th, 2022, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 5th day of May 2022.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____

Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 22-087
