



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND  
A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND REQUESTING THE ALAMEDA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DEPOLY RESOURCES TO THE CITY OF  
OAKLAND'S NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS  
AND SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, gun violence is a critical public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the City of Oakland adopted "Love Life" as the City's tagline and motto that firmly committed to adopting a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing the conditions that lead to violence and toward creating a climate of restoration for the individuals and communities impacted by violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the senseless violence that the City is experiencing is exuding anything but showing love for one another and our City; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 there were 90 shooting homicide deaths, 58 of the victims were Black, and 18 were Latinx. Of the 90 total shooting deaths, 64 were from of East Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the start of September 2021, there has been 78 shooting homicides. Of those shooting homicide deaths 50 of the victims were Black, and 21 were Latinx. Of those shooting deaths, 31 were from East Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, in the first five months of 2021, gunfire killed more than 8,100 people in the United States, about 54 lives lost per day, according to an analysis of data from the Gun Violence Archive. That's 14 more deaths per day than the average toll during the same time of the previous six years; and

**WHEREAS**, in Oakland between the years 2000 and 2020, 1762 of all deaths were gun related and since 2008 firearm deaths have exceeded motor vehicle deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, in Oakland between the years 2000 and 2020, of the 65 weapons used in domestic violence homicides, 43% were firearm related. A vital component to the overall profile of domestic violence is the use of firearms in fatal and non-fatal domestic violence injuries and intimidations; and

**WHEREAS**, this dramatic increase in shooting homicides can be attributed to variables such as historical inequities, red lining, and under investment in communities of color, compounded by deteriorating community relations between police and civilians, racial unrest and the current global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Brown community members in Oakland continue to suffer; and

**WHEREAS**, our residents are living through trauma and tragedy while navigating through Post-traumatic stress disorder also known as “PTSD” brought on by these violent crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland's Black communities feel the toll of gun violence most significantly, representing well over half of all murder victims, while compromising less than 25 percent of the overall city population; and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of community organizations including LIVE FREE USA, Roots Clinic, African American Resource Circle, Oakland Frontline Healers, Faith In Action East Bay, Dope Era, Adamika Village and more have called for a public health declaration naming gun violence a public health issue in Alameda County with the City of Oakland experiencing the highest impact of violent crime; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 29th the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, passed and adopted a resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis and directed county departments to identify and deploy resources to address neighborhood violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has shown its commitment to curtailing the traumatic and long-lasting effects of violent crime in the City by investing in the Department of Violence Prevention at over \$17 million over two years; however, this investment is not nearly enough to enhance the services needed to make a sustained change in the public health crisis Oakland is experiencing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland should further support the availability of educational resources related to firearm safety in homes, schools, and the greater community along with public health research on the dimensions of firearm violence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and County Administrator direct an equitable amount of County’s \$300 million of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds and other available funding to the City of Oakland to enhance its violence prevention programs and services and reduce deaths related to gun violence in the City; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland will collaborate with a diverse coalition of partners to work towards a comprehensive approach for gun safety and the reduction of firearm related violence.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California