

Resolution No. 257-2023

By Council Member Harsh

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Calling upon the Bibb administration to file suit against Kia and Hyundai to recover costs incurred by the City associated with the rash of thefts of stolen vehicles.

WHEREAS, the number of insured Kias and Hyundais stolen in Cuyahoga County jumped more than 233% from October to December, 2022, when 656 cars were stolen in the county; Cleveland alone saw 459 thefts of the two makes of cars in the December, 2022; and

WHEREAS, over 60% of vehicles stolen in Cuyahoga County in November and December, 2022 were Kias and Hyundais; and

WHEREAS, these thefts are a part of a dangerous TikTok challenge that has thieves targeting certain Kia and Hyundai vehicles manufactured between 2015- 2021; and

WHEREAS, Kia and Hyundai failed to equip their vehicles manufactured between 2015- 2021 with industry-standard security features, including engine immobilizers and other anti-theft systems, which could have helped prevent the thefts; and

WHEREAS, the rise in the thefts of Kias and Hyundais has caused the City to expend more resources to investigate the thefts, respond to criminal activity related to the thefts, and assess associated property destruction, all at the increased expense of taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Bibb Administration should follow the lead of Columbus and other cities across the country by filling suit against Kia and Hyundai in order to alleviate the cost of damages sustained by the City while responding to the rising thefts; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council calls upon the Bibb administration to file suit against Kia and Hyundai to recover costs incurred by the City associated with the rash of thefts of stolen vehicles.

Section 2. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

KH:rns
2/27/2023

