

Resolution No. 883-2026

Council Members Starr

FOR ADOPTION
July 15, 2026

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Opposing enacted Ohio House Bill 492 based on concerns regarding its potential impact on civil liberties, community trust, racial equity, and the relationship between Cleveland residents and law enforcement; and urging the Ohio General Assembly to review the implementation of House Bill 492 and consider amendments that provide additional protections against unnecessary escalation, discriminatory enforcement, and violations of constitutional rights.

WHEREAS, Cleveland City Council recognizes that protecting public safety and supporting law enforcement are essential responsibilities of government; and

WHEREAS, this Council also recognizes that effective public safety depends upon trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mike DeWine signed Ohio House Bill 492 (HB 492) into law on July 7, 2026, which requires drivers—and in specified circumstances, passengers—to provide their name, address, and date of birth to a peace officer upon request during certain lawful traffic-related encounters, and expands penalties related to interfering with certain motor vehicle-related arrests; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland has experienced decades of strained relationships between portions of the community and law enforcement arising from historical inequities, racial disparities in traffic enforcement, and concerns regarding constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that any expansion of law enforcement authority should be accompanied by strong safeguards protecting constitutional rights, transparency, accountability, and meaningful public oversight; and

WHEREAS, this Council is concerned that implementation of HB 492 may increase the number of interactions between law enforcement and residents during routine traffic stops, creating additional opportunities for misunderstanding, escalation, and unnecessary criminal charges, particularly in communities that already experience disproportionate police contact; and

WHEREAS, residents of Cleveland, particularly in Black and Brown communities, have historically experienced disproportionate traffic stops and enforcement activity, making it essential that any statewide policy be carefully evaluated for unintended disparate impacts; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that requiring additional identifying information during traffic stops may create confusion among motorists and passengers regarding their legal rights and responsibilities unless accompanied by robust public education and clear statewide guidance; and

WHEREAS, this Council supports law enforcement officers having effective investigative tools while also supporting policies that reduce unnecessary criminalization of Ohio residents for nonviolent conduct arising during routine traffic stops; and

WHEREAS, this Council urges the State of Ohio to require comprehensive statewide training for all law enforcement agencies regarding constitutional policing, de-escalation, implicit bias, and consistent enforcement of HB 492; and

WHEREAS, this Council encourages Ohio law enforcement agencies to collect and publicly report demographic and geographic data regarding enforcement actions taken pursuant to House Bill 492 to identify potential disparities and promote transparency; and

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WHEREAS, this Council calls upon the Ohio Attorney General to issue public guidance clearly explaining the rights and responsibilities of motorists and passengers under House Bill 492 so that residents understand the law and unnecessary conflicts may be avoided; and

WHEREAS, this Council requests that the Ohio General Assembly evaluate the law after one year and issue a public report examining: the number of citations and arrests made pursuant to House Bill 492; demographic information regarding enforcement; geographic distribution of enforcement; any documented racial disparities; complaints arising from enforcement; whether the law measurably improved officer safety; and recommendations for legislative revisions; 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 opposes enacted Ohio House Bill 492 based upon concerns regarding its potential impact on civil liberties, community trust, racial equity, and the relationship between residents and law enforcement; and urges the Ohio General Assembly to review the implementation of House Bill 492 and consider amendments that provide additional protections against unnecessary escalation, discriminatory enforcement, and violations of constitutional rights.

Section 2. That this Council directs the Clerk of Council to transmit copies of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, President of the Ohio Senate, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, Members of the Cleveland Legislative Delegation, members of the Ohio General Assembly, Attorney General Dave Yost, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, City of Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, and Director of Public Safety Dornat Drummond.

Section 3. 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.

jho 7-15-26

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READ FIRST TIME		REPORTS	
and referred to			
READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME			CITY CLERK
	READ SECOND TIME		
			CITY CLERK
	READ THIRD TIME on JULY 15, 2026		
			PRESIDENT
			CITY CLERK
	APPROVED		
	MAYOR		