

Resolution No. 482-2019**Council Member:** Zone

An emergency resolution urging the Ohio General Assembly to increase the Ohio Rape Crisis Centers Line Item in the Ohio Operating Budget from \$1,550,000 to \$3,000,000 per fiscal year.

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects persons of all social, racial, religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, and age groups in the Cleveland community; and

WHEREAS, taking many forms, sexual violence can include incest, child abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, stalking, and acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, and nearly seventy percent of these crimes are committed by individuals known to the victim; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in five women and one in seventy-one men will experience rape or an attempted rape at some point in their lives, with children and young adults being at a significant risk of this crime; and

WHEREAS, along with the immediate physical and emotional costs of sexual assault, the victims can have such adverse consequences as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, providing that sexual assault survivors suffer from emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed; these impacts are visible in the Cleveland community; and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes and affirms the efforts of Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and Ohio's additional 30 Rape Crisis Programs, complying with the Ohio Core Rape Crisis Center Standards, that respond to survivors of sexual violence and work to prevent its occurrence in Cleveland and across the state; and

WHEREAS, in Cuyahoga, and three other counties, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center provided life-saving services to more than 10,000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and Ohio's Rape Crisis Programs are eligible for support from the Ohio Rape Crisis Centers Line Item that has supported the expansion of services in Ohio from 42 counties in 2014 to 75 counties in 2019; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the line item from \$1,550,000 to \$3,000,000 per fiscal year is crucial to supporting efforts to increase services at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and throughout the state of Ohio; 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 urges the Ohio General Assembly to increase the Ohio Rape Crisis Centers Line Item in the Operating Budget from \$1,550,000 to \$3,000,000 per fiscal year.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Ohio General Assembly and Cassie Gaffney, Director of Government Affairs, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.

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.

Adopted April 22, 2019.

Effective April 24, 2019.