

Resolution No. 690-2019**Council Member:** J. Jones

An emergency resolution urging the Ohio General Assembly not to pass House Bill 178, which would put Ohio citizens at risk by allowing people to carry concealed handguns in public without a required license or the necessary safety training.

WHEREAS, gun violence is considered to be one of the major threats to public health and safety in communities across the country; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017 there were 39,773 deaths during that year, which was up by more than 1,000 the year before; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 279 million firearms in the United States, which amounts to approximately 90 guns for every 100 people in the United States, and in 2014, for every gun death considered justified for self-defense, there were 34 criminal homicides; and

WHEREAS, most homicides in the United States are committed with firearms, especially handguns; gang-related homicide is most prevalent among gangs, and during the commission of felony crimes in 1993, nearly all gang-related homicides (95%) involved guns, which reached a major high point, and is still a problem in urban cities across the country as gang violence remains a significant public safety threat; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate for firearm deaths in the State of Ohio was 13.7 in 2017, which exceeded the U.S. rate of 12.0; and

WHEREAS, under the current Ohio law, carrying a concealed handgun in public without a legal permit is against the law, and is widely supported by 90 percent of Ohio voters, according to a 2016 survey; and

WHEREAS, proposed House Bill 178, introduced on March 29, 2019, would allow people to carry concealed handguns in public without a license or firearm safety training, thus enabling individuals with no prior firearm training to carry a concealed handgun in public, putting potentially many people at risk for unintentional or intentional harm; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 178 would allow individuals with prior violent misdemeanor offenses to carry a concealed handgun, thus allowing them to enter into a public place carrying a concealed loaded handgun; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 178 would allow persons convicted of crimes involving the possession, use, or sale of illegal narcotics to carry concealed handguns throughout residential communities; and

WHEREAS, after the state of Missouri enacted a permit-less carry gun law in January 2017, the city of St. Louis experienced nearly a 25 percent increase in the rate of aggravated assaults with a gun in 2017 compared to 2016, which represents a 484 increase in gun-related aggravated assaults; and

WHEREAS, after the state of Arizona enacted permit-less carry legislation in 2010, by 2017 the rate of aggravated assaults with a firearm increased by 39 percent, which represents 1,797 more gun-related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 compared to 2010; and

WHEREAS, after the state of Alaska became the first state to enact permit-less gun carry legislation in 2003, aggravated assaults committed by a firearm increased significantly by 82 percent by 2017, which accounts for 526 more gun-related aggravated assaults committed in 2017 compared to 2003; and

WHEREAS, there are sixteen states currently employing some type of permit-less gun carry system, but most states recognize the importance of regulating concealed gun carry; and

WHEREAS, the passage of House Bill 178 will put the health and safety of Ohio residents at greater risk by allowing persons with dangerous histories to carry loaded handguns into public places; 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 not to pass House Bill 178, which would put Ohio citizens at risk by allowing people to carry concealed handguns in public without a required license or the necessary safety training.

Section 2. That this Council directs the Clerk of Council to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Ohio General Assembly, members of the Northeast Ohio Legislative Delegation and City of Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

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 May 20, 2019.

Effective May 21, 2019.