


David Whitaker, Esq.  
*Director*  
Irvin Corley, Jr.  
*Executive Policy Manager*  
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.  
*Director, City Planning*  
*Commission*  
Janese Chapman  
*Director, Historic Designation*  
*Advisory Board*

John Alexander  
Ronald Amarteifio  
Megha Bamola  
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.  
Paige Blessman  
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP  
Eric Fazzini, AICP  
Christopher Gulock, AICP  
Derrick Headd

**City of Detroit**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION  
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Marcel Hurt, Esq.  
Kimani Jeffrey  
Edward King  
Kelsey Maas  
Jamie Murphy  
Kim Newby  
Analine Powers, Ph.D.  
Laurie Anne Sabatini  
Rebecca Savage  
Ryan Schumaker  
Sabrina Shockley  
Renee Short  
Floyd Stanley  
Thomas Stephens, Esq.  
Timarie Szwed  
Dr. Sheryl Theriot  
Theresa Thomas  
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN  
VIOLENCE TASK FORCE**

Council Member Fred Durhal III requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY DETROIT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FRED DURHAL III**

**RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE**

- WHEREAS** Cities across the nation, including the City of Detroit have been battling gun violence for decades. The fight against gun violence has been difficult to solve, partially due to an overabundance of gun availability on the streets and lenient gun laws making it extremely easy to obtain guns by almost anyone. Currently, there are more guns in the U.S., than there are people. In addition to that, poverty, years of diminishing resources, and inequities in the Justice System has left the City of Detroit vulnerable to gun violence; and
- WHEREAS** According to the most recent data, 48,000 deaths nationwide involved a gun in 2021, according to nationwide figures compiled by the non-profit group, Gun Violence Archive (GVA); and
- WHEREAS** In 2020, gun violence became the leading cause of death for kids and teens in the United States surpassing automobile accidents, drug overdoses and cancer. According to a New England Journal of Medicine study, there were 3,219 such deaths followed by motor vehicle deaths, of which there were 2,882; and
- WHEREAS** The number of people shot on school property in 2022 increased 46% from 227 in 2021 to 332 in 2022; and
- WHEREAS** There were 648 mass shootings in the United States in 2022, resulting in 672 deaths and 2700 injuries, the second highest number on record, according to (GVA); and
- WHEREAS** In addition to homicides by firearm, the firearm suicide rate more than doubled among Black, Latino, and Asian teenagers. The rate of young people taking their lives with firearms in the United States has increased faster than for any other age group, with the youth suicide rate is at its highest point in more than 20 years. While the overall firearm suicide rate increased about 2% during the pandemic, the rate among young people increased 15% and nearly half of all suicide attempts by young people involve a gun, according to researchers with the group Everytown for Gun Safety; and
- WHEREAS** Detroit continues to be one of the poorest and most violent cities in the country. Detroit gun-related arrests and crimes surged in the city in early 2021, eventually resulting in 309 homicides, 1,065 non-fatal shootings and the confiscation of approximately 8000 guns; and
- WHEREAS** Gun violence continues to be one of the leading causes of death for African Americans between ages 15 and 34, with 52 percent of gun homicide victims being Black males despite Black males making up only 7 percent of the population; and
- WHEREAS** Irrational and senseless, shootings torment the community, prevent stability, and cause the deterioration of the most basic social contract of the right to live peacefully. Exposure to gun violence, not only injures and kills people, but it also causes a myriad of psychological effects on survivors and witnesses. The aftereffects of gun violence can potentially spiral into psychiatric problems, leading to more violence and other destructive behaviors; and

**WHEREAS** The Detroit City Council recognizes the urgency of ending gun violence and preserving all lives in the City of Detroit. City Council has been involved in forums, attended rallies, and supported several initiatives to curb gun violence throughout the city. Many more resources are needed to effectively and continuously uplift and assist Detroit City Council's efforts to prevent, treat, and inform the community about gun violence; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council hereby reestablishes the Gun Violence Task Force effective immediately and continuing until December 31, 2023, chaired by Council Member Fred Durhal III. The Gun Violence Task Force may include residents, representatives from the community, labor, law enforcement, and the business sector, as well as any other individuals interested in participating.