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# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: Resolution creating the City Council Gun Violence Task Force

City Council Member Fred Durhal III has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution calling for the creation of the City Council Gun Violence Task Force.

If Council requests additional information, research and/or analysis, LPD will be happy to provide same.

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

**RESOLUTION CREATING 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, 39,000 injuries and deaths nationwide involved a gun in the year starting in February 2019 — and that number increased to more than 51,000 between March 2020 and March 2021, according to nationwide figures compiled by the non-profit group, Gun Violence Archive (GVA); and

**WHEREAS** The CDC has declared gun violence a serious public health threat. While nationally gun violence has jumped 30 percent since the beginning of the pandemic. Last summer alone had a spree of gun injuries and deaths, and the weekends were especially violent, with an average of two hundred people killed and 472 injured by guns each weekend in the United States, not including suicides, according to an analysis done by the (GVA) for CNN. That is nearly 3.4 people shot every hour every weekend. It is not surprising that 2020 saw more gun deaths in the U.S. than any year in over two decades; and

**WHEREAS** In addition to homicides by firearm, the firearm suicide rate more than doubled among Black, Latino, and Asian teenagers, while it increased by 88 percent for Native Americans and 35 percent for white teens. From 2019 through 2020 an American teenager took their life with a gun every seven hours on average; and

**WHEREAS** Detroit continues to be one of the poorest and most violent cities in the country. Detroit Gun-related arrests surged in the city, at 5,904 offenders in 2020. That is 200% more than in 2018 and 102% more than in 2019. However, the city saw 327 homicides in 2020, a 19% increase from the 275 that occurred in 2019, and 1,173 nonfatal shootings, a 53% increase from a year earlier; 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 after effects 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 establishes the Gun Violence Task Force effective immediately and continuing until December 31, 2022, 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.

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