

RESOLUTION NO. 20210506-066

WHEREAS, gun violence is preventable; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, gun violence has increased across the country and in Austin, with most gun violence concentrated in our lowest-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, victims of one form of violence are two to three times more likely to experience other forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, gun violence costs the public millions of dollars per year in immediate response, physical and mental health care, criminal justice costs, forgone earnings, and quality-of-life lost over a victim's lifespan; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, City Council approved the creation of a Gun Violence Task Force to advise the Council on potential actions the City can take to reduce gun violence at the local level; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the Gun Violence Task Force released their final report, which recommended investing in evidence-based violence prevention and intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, violence interruption programs, such as Cure Violence, have shown to reduce violence in major cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, in August 2020, City Council approved funding for violence reduction strategies to be focused in areas most affected by violence; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2021, the White House announced billions of dollars in increased funding for evidenced-based community violence intervention; and

WHEREAS, City Council has taken extensive action to address the epidemic of gun violence including Resolution No. 20130228-035 signifying City Council's intent to endorse efforts to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime as well as Resolution Nos. 20161215-064, 20171207-054, 20180510-047, 20190808-149, 20190822-069, and 20210422-059, which directed the City Manager to accelerate local efforts to combat gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is dedicated to preventing gun violence and investing in violence prevention and intervention; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

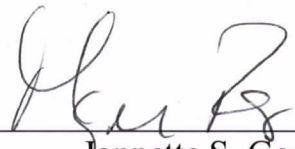
The City Council directs the City Manager to expedite the development and implementation of community violence prevention and intervention programs this fiscal year and to present options to increase funding for such programs in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to explore all opportunities to draw down newly available federal funds for violence prevention and intervention programs.

ADOPTED: May 6, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk