

RESOLUTION NO. 20190822-069

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to the safety, health, and welfare of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of Austin residents, public safety officers, and visitors is a top City priority; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that gun violence in the United States is at epidemic levels, claiming over 30,000 lives annually; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, from 2008 to 2019, more law enforcement officers were killed in shootings than by any other means; and

WHEREAS, on average more than 3,100 gun-related deaths occur in Texas each year; and

WHEREAS, in just the first weekend of August, at least 31 people were killed in mass acts of gun violence in 24 hours, and on average 100 Americans will be shot and killed every day our state and federal governments do not act; and

WHEREAS, local organizations including Texas Gun Sense and local chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America have advocated at all levels of government for sensible gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign is a market-based approach to entice gun manufacturers to develop safer gun technologies that make it more difficult for stolen guns to be used or sold on the black market; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City of Houston became the first city in Texas to support the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign for gun safety; and

WHEREAS, after a gunman killed 10 people in Santa Fe, Texas, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner created a Commission Against Gun Violence to identify definitive steps for action on the local, state, and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Resolutions Nos., 20161215-064, 20171207-054, and 20180510-047; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

1. The Council establishes the Task Force on Gun Violence to advise the Council on potential actions the City can take to reduce gun violence at the local level and to make recommendations for enhancing existing resources and campaigns, such as safe storage education, community and domestic violence intervention, and gun surrender programs. The Task Force also may recommend actions the City can take to partner

with other levels or units of government and private organizations to make our communities safe and resilient from gun violence.

2. The Task Force shall consist of eleven members. Each Council member and the Mayor shall have one nomination each for approval by the Council, with Task Force members selecting a Chair and Vice Chair at their first meeting. All task force members shall be appointed by the Council no later than 90 calendar days from the date this resolution is adopted.
3. Members of the Task Force shall reflect the diversity of the Austin community and include individuals with expertise or experience in the fields of gun violence, public health, public safety, or advocacy.
4. The Task Force shall be exempt from any requirement in City Code Chapter 2-1 to comply with the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (*Open Meetings Act*).
5. A quorum for the conduct of business is six members. No vacancy in the membership of the Task Force shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all of the rights and perform all of the duties of the Task Force.
6. Any member of the Task Force may be removed by the Council for malfeasance, failure to attend three or more consecutive meetings for any reason whatsoever, or willful neglect of duty.
7. The Task Force shall begin its work as soon as practicable after all members are appointed with the goal of issuing a report of its recommendations within six months

of its first meeting. The Task Force shall be dissolved upon the issuance of its report, or eight months after a quorum of its members are appointed by the Council, whichever is sooner.

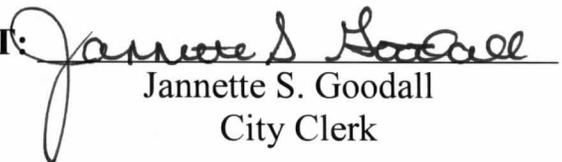
8. The Task Force shall review best practices from across the country including the recently completed report from the City of Houston's Mayor's Commission Against Gun Violence, the Be SMART campaign, and the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign.
9. The City Manager shall provide appropriate staff to advise the Task Force and provide a law enforcement perspective to the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to provide the Council and the Public Safety Commission a quarterly report on incidents of gun violence that occur within the City. The report shall include geographic information concerning the location of those incidents, demographic information on the individuals involved, incidents of domestic violence involving a firearm, trends across reporting history, incidents of gun violence committed by individuals having a history or an association to hate groups, and any other details determined to be appropriate by City staff. The report should respect all appropriate and relevant privacy laws and best practices.

ADOPTED: August 22, 2019

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk