



R. DANIEL LAVELLE

Councilman, City of Pittsburgh-District 6

City Council President



Dear City Council Colleagues,

In honor of Gun Violence Awareness Month, Councilman Khari Mosley and I are reaching out to request your co-sponsorship of proposed amendments to §237, "Stop the Violence Fund." In addition to presenting a proclamation acknowledging Gun Violence Awareness Month and honoring the dedicated work of our city, partners, and advocates, we will introduce these amendments at the upcoming City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 17th.

These amendments aim to reinforce the Stop the Violence Fund and enhance our city's ability to address gun violence as a public health crisis. Our objective is to formalize and build upon the valuable work that has already been done, as we strive to achieve zero-gun violence deaths in Pittsburgh. Specifically, the proposed amendments will:

- Codify our commitment to a comprehensive public health approach: These amendments formally integrate the principles of a public health approach into the administration of the Stop the Violence Fund, reinforcing our commitment to achieving zero-gun violence deaths.
- Enhance structure, clarity, and accountability: The amendments will formalize existing processes and reporting mechanisms, ensuring transparency and accountability in the fund's operations.
- Ensure a data-informed approach: We aim to ensure an open, competitive process that responds effectively to dynamic, emergent trends in real time, using data to inform our decisions.
- Ensure equitable fund distribution: These amendments will ensure the equitable distribution of funds across the three pillars of the Path to Peace (2022), which is a public-health approach to violence prevention, in the following areas: (1) Trauma-informed Community Services, (2) Community Partnerships (direct violence prevention, intervention programs), and (3) Community and Economic Development.
- Commit to measuring outcomes and building capacity: These amendments will support our long-term goal of peace and sustainability, which is contingent upon enhancing the capacity of community-based organizations.

Thanks to dedicated efforts and strategic investments, gun violence has decreased in Pittsburgh, at a greater rate than the surrounding Allegheny County. However, we are at a critical juncture. Longstanding needs from decades of disinvestment have been intensified by federal funding cuts, jeopardizing essential programs and services that support our most vulnerable residents. To proactively address these challenges and safeguard our progress in reducing gun violence, we must act now.

Having successfully completed three rounds of pilot investments; Pittsburgh is now poised to take the next step in preventing violence and promoting community safety as we strive to get to zero-gun violence deaths.

We have attempted to brief as many of you as possible over the last several days to provide a more detailed overview of these amendments. We sincerely hope you will consider joining us as a co-sponsor of this vital legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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