

RESOLUTION NO. 25896

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AND ENCOURAGING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION PROMOTED BY THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC SAFETY COALITION WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN VIOLENT CRIMES AND PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASED NUMBER OF PROSECUTORS TO ENFORCE THESE LAWS.

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WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that tougher sentencing laws can be effective in lowering the violent crime rate; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition supports and promotes a legislative agenda which would enhance penalties for certain crimes involving violence, including aggravated robbery, violent crimes committed by groups of three or more, violent crimes involving the use of deadly weapons and aggravated burglary repeat offenders and which would provide for up to 64 additional prosecutors across the state to vigorously enforce our laws; and

WHEREAS, it is clear from the number of violent crimes which occur in and around the City of Chattanooga, as well as across the State of Tennessee, that action is needed to address the incidence of violent crime in our community and in our state, which currently ranks second in the nation for violent crimes per capita; and

WHEREAS, the high rate of crimes involving violence in our state especially impacts the urban areas within the state, including the City of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee is of the opinion that the referenced legislation promoted by the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition is urgently needed and, if adopted, will serve to effectively and efficiently reduce the rate of violent crime which threatens the safety and security of all citizens and residents of the State of Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That it hereby respectfully urges and encourages the Legislature of the State of Tennessee to adopt legislation promoted by the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition which will accomplish the following:

- a. Address street terrorism by providing stiffer penalties for violent crimes committed by groups of three or more;
- b. Provide enhanced penalties for aggravated robbery;
- c. Create a tougher "crooks with guns" law invoked when a deadly weapon is used in committing a crime;
- d. Increase penalties for repeat aggravated burglary offenders; and
- e. Add up to 64 more prosecutors in offices of District Attorney Generals across the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, the City Council Clerk is respectfully requested and directed to forward a true and correct copy of this Resolution to Governor Phil Bredesen, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, Speaker of the House Kent Williams and to each member of the Hamilton County State Legislative Delegation to make them aware of City Council's concerns and requests with respect to this matter.

ADOPTED April 21, 2009