

Resolution 17- 17

By: Deneese Owen

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION EXPANDING THE AVAILABILITY AND LOCATIONS WHERE GUNS CAN BE CARRIED BY CITIZENS AND CONSEQUENTLY INHIBITING RIGHTS OF BUSINESS OWNERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND CITIZENS TO CONTROL AND SECURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTS

Whereas, Violence involving firearms in the United States presents a persistent societal ill that results in approximately 81,000 victims annually, including over 33,000 deaths; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2016, the mortality rate resulting from gun violence increased for the second consecutive year; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has affirmed that Americans have a right to keep and bear arms; however, as Justice Antonin Scalia outlined in his 2008 majority opinion on the District of Columbia v. Heller, the Court's decision does not prohibit laws forbidding firearms in "sensitive places" such as schools or government buildings or regulation of unusually dangerous weapons, nor does it restrict laws prohibiting felons and the mentally ill from carrying guns; and

Whereas, There are several items of legislation pending at the Ohio legislature that, if passed, would significantly expand the availability and locations where guns can be carried, including schools and government buildings; and

Whereas, HB 201 would amend the Ohio Revised Code to allow a concealed handgun licensee to carry concealed all firearms other than dangerous ordnance or firearms prohibited by state or federal law, would repeal the requirement that a licensee stopped for a law enforcement purpose promptly inform an approaching officer if the licensee is carrying a firearm, and would provide for expungement of convictions based on a violation of the requirement; and would provide that a person age 21 or older and not prohibited by federal law from possessing or receiving a firearm does not need a concealed handgun license in order to carry a concealed firearm and is subject to the same laws regarding concealed firearm carrying as a licensee. This bill would effectively eliminate the need for any concealed carry training or concealed carry background checks; and

Whereas, HB 233 calls for the decriminalization of violations of concealed carry restrictions, including in public spaces such as facilities of the City of Bexley and the Bexley City School District, thereby negating the rights of private businesses and public institutions to control the carrying of firearms within their facilities; and

Whereas, SB 180 would expand “stand your ground” beyond personal property, would modify the Concealed Handgun Licensing Law regarding a licensee's duty to keep the licensee's hands in plain sight; and would effectively neutralize the penalties for illegally carrying a concealed firearm or improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, or for disregarding the posting of warning signs regarding the possession of weapons on specified premises; and

Whereas, HB 142 repeals the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped; and

Whereas, Studies have shown that expanding the areas where guns can be carried and the circumstances in which they can be used is associated with an increase in homicides; that using a gun in self-defense is no more likely to reduce the chance of being injured during a crime than various other forms of protective action; that carrying a firearm significantly increases a person's risk of being shot in an assault; and that individuals who were in possession of a gun were about 4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault than those not in possession; and

Whereas, The expansion of concealed carry rights to private businesses and public and educational institutions carries with it potential increased costs in security and liability insurance; and

Whereas, The expansion of concealed carry to exclude classroom time and background checks, especially when coupled with the decriminalization of concealed carrying on premises where concealed carrying is prohibited, will result in a greater proliferation of deadly weaponry in a variety of educational, commercial, and institutional environments, resulting in an increased threat to the public and law enforcement officers; and

Whereas, So-called “Stand Your Ground” laws, which encourage the use of deadly force outside the home, are associated with significantly higher justifiable homicide rates as evidenced by an 83 percent increase in justifiable homicides in the State of Georgia and a tripling of justifiable homicides in the State of Florida after passage of their respective Stand Your Ground laws; and

Whereas, This push towards allowing easy access to guns in a growing variety of public places has only resulted in a greater risk of gun violence, often justified by increasingly permissive laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY, OHIO:

Section 1: That Bexley City Council urges the State of Ohio General Assembly to protect the rights of private business owners and public and educational institutions to control and protect the safety and security of their individual institutions and environments.

Section 2: That Bexley City Council urges the State of Ohio Legislature to vote no on House Bills 233, 201, and 142, and Senate Bill 180, and any legislation that similarly aims to expand the availability and locations where guns can be carried and restrict the rights of business owners and institutions to control and protect the safety and security of their individual institutions and environments.

Section 3: That this resolution shall go into effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

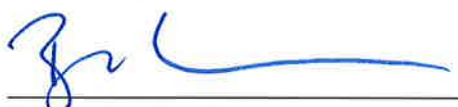
Passed: Dec. 19, 2017



Tim Madison, President of Council

Attest: 

William Harvey, Clerk of Council

Approved: Dec. 19th, 2017


Benjamin J. Kessler, Mayor

First Reading: 11-28-17
Second Reading: 12-5-17
Third Reading: 12-19-17
Passed - 12-19-17

