

PASSED 3/12/18 BY A VOTE OF 7-0

AMENDED
RESOLUTION NO.: 3-2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO,
INDIANA, ENCOURAGING CERTAIN ACTIONS BE TAKEN TO PROMOTE
AWARENESS TO PREVENT ACTS OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, the Common Council (“Common Council”) of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana (“City”), abhors community violence in any form or fashion; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is saddened and troubled by the recent acts of community violence that have occurred across the country including, but not limited to, mass shootings, bombings and vehicle ambushes; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned acts of community violence have occurred in public locations such as schools, churches, concerts and outdoor events; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is desirous of adopting this Resolution to promote that all persons be able to live, work, worship, recreate and go to school in the safest environments through vigilance and awareness, and government commitment to same; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council recognizes that the causes of community violence are multi-faceted and include complex issues such as constitutional rights, societal pressures and mental health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council applauds the Legislature’s foresight in adopting Indiana Code 35-47-14, et al., which provides a legal avenue for firearms to be seized from a person believed to be dangerous; and

WHEREAS, while acknowledging the foregoing, the Common Council is mindful of the limitations imposed on its ability to lawfully regulate certain areas such as firearms, the regulation of which is left to the purview of the State of Indiana and federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is desirous of adopting this Resolution to encourage that certain actions be taken to promote awareness to prevent acts of community violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The foregoing recitals (or “whereas clauses”) are incorporated by reference into this Resolution as findings of fact.

2. Actions to be Taken to Promote Awareness to Prevent Acts of Community

Violence. The Common Council hereby encourages that the following actions be taken to promote awareness to prevent acts of community violence:

a. That the Indiana General Assembly convene a Summer Study Committee to review the current laws in the State of Indiana governing the purchase, ownership and possession of firearms, in areas including but not limited to background checks, age, registration and private transactions;

b. That the State of Indiana and federal government expand the use of background checks on individuals seeking to purchase firearms;

c. That the State of Indiana establish best practices in identifying persons at risk of committing acts of violence, and use those key risk factors in background check processes; and

d. That all reporting agencies share records, as required by law, that could directly impact an individual’s ability to lawfully possess and/or carry a firearm according to the laws of the State of Indiana;

e. That all persons be encouraged to report events to law enforcement that could directly impact an individual’s ability to lawfully possess and/or carry a firearm according to the laws of the State of Indiana;

f. That all persons be encouraged to use, when applicable, Indiana Code 35-47-14, et al., which allows for the removal of firearms from a person believed to be dangerous;

g. That all persons be encouraged to use their pens and voices to communicate their opinions on the ownership, purchase and possession of firearms to their State and Federal Legislative Representatives;

h. That all persons (i.e. parents, families, neighbors, friends, school officials) be encouraged to “See Something, Say Something”;

i. That all persons be encouraged to support resources such as local non-profit organizations that support children, especially those considered at risk;

j. That the placement of school safety officers be reviewed to ensure school children are in the safest environments possible, while keeping in mind the recent funding obtained through the referendum has already provided a means to increased safety; and

k. That the recommendations of the Porter County Safe Schools Commission continue to be followed, as well as the One County One Protocol framework.

3. Repealer. Any resolutions inconsistent with or in conflict with the terms of this Resolution are of no further force and effect and are specifically repealed.

4. Severability. If any part, clause or portion of this Resolution shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of this Resolution as a whole or any other part, clause or portion of this Resolution.

5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption by the Common Council and upon the signature of the Mayor as the executive of the City.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2018, by a vote of all members present and voting.

Matt Murphy

George Douglas

Lenore Hoffman

Diana Reed

Trista Hudson

Robert Cotton

Deb Porter

Jon
Costas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer



