

1 **WHEREAS**, the issue of firearm violence is rooted in racial and health inequities and injustices
2 experienced for generations by people of color; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, firearm violence affects people of all ages and races in the United States, but has a
4 disproportionate impact on Black males; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims with Black Americans
6 ten (10) times more likely than White Americans to die by gun homicide; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, 72% of homicide victims in 2021 were Black males and 100% of the homicide victims
8 in 2022 have been Black males; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, 61% of homicide victims in 2021 were under the age of thirty (30) and 100% of homicide
10 victims so far in 2022 have been under the age of thirty (30); and,

11 **WHEREAS**, homicides are commonly linked with firearm-related violence; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, the City of Little Rock had fifty-three (53) homicides involving a firearm in 2021 and all
13 six (6) homicides have involved a firearm so far in 2022; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, there were ten (10) victims of firearm-related violence in a forty-eight (48)-hour period
15 between January 28, 2022, and January 30, 2022, ranging from the age one (1)-year to twenty-four (24)
16 years old; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, hospitals and other community health institutions are near capacity because of the
18 ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

19 **WHEREAS**, this action is being taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Little Rock
20 residents; and,

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY**
22 **OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:**

23 **Section 1.** The City of Little Rock, Arkansas declares the recent community violence and firearm-
24 related crime a public health emergency within the jurisdiction of the City.

25 **Section 2.** The City will employ a holistic approach to addressing violence through law enforcement
26 and community programming.

27 **Section 3.** The Office of Neighborhood Safety within the Community Programs Department shall
28 establish an Emergency Response Team to coordinate services between the Little Rock Police Department
29 and other City Departments.

30 **Section 4.** The Office of Neighborhood Safety shall establish partnerships with grassroots and
31 Community Outreach Programs to combat gun violence and provide the necessary resources.

32 **Section 5.** The City shall temporarily remove budgetary limits related to overtime efforts by
33 Little Rock Police Department for a period of thirty (30) days.

34 **Section 6.** The City Procurement Division shall identify opportunities to expedite funding to address
35 community violence effectively and efficiently, so that grants and other resources are quickly deployed to
36 awarded organizations.

1 **Section 7.** The City Human Resources Department shall expedite hiring of social workers and other
2 employees to address community violence.

3 **Section 8.** The Board of Directors will identify opportunities for mutual aid with Federal and State
4 partners to remove violent criminals and illegal weapons from the streets of Little Rock.

5 **Section 9.** The Little Rock Police Department shall increase strategic and targeted patrol in the most
6 violent areas to promote neighborhood safety.

7 **Section 10.** The City shall enforce its loitering ordinance to prohibit loitering throughout the City of
8 Little Rock. This loitering prohibition shall be enforced against the businesses allowing the gathering
9 outside their place of business.

10 **Section 11. Severability.** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or
11 word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or
12 adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and
13 effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the
14 resolution.

15 **Section 12. Repealer.** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with
16 the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

17 **ADOPTED: February 1, 2022**

18 **ATTEST:**

APPROVED

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Susan Langley, City Clerk

_____ **Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor**

22 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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25 **Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney**

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