



Louisville Metro Government

Legislation Text

File #: R-020-23, Version: 1

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2023

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT HOUSE BILL 325 AND SENATE BILL 168, EMPOWERING LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT TO PERMANENTLY DESTROY ABANDONED, CONFISCATED, OR FORFEITED FIREARMS IN ITS CUSTODY.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS HAWKINS AND HUDSON

WHEREAS, 146 people were killed by firearms in Louisville-Jefferson County in 2022, of which 14 were children under the age of 18 years old; and

WHEREAS, over ninety percent of homicides committed in Louisville-Jefferson County in 2022 used a firearm; and

WHEREAS, Louisville Metro Police Department (“LMPD”) currently has thousands of firearms in the custody of the LMPD property room; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky statutes prohibit LMPD from destroying forfeited firearms which were used in the commission of a crime, and further requires transferring those firearms to the Kentucky State Police (“KSP”) to be made available for sale by public auction; and

WHEREAS, the Courier-Journal has found at least 31 instances where firearms sold at KSP auctions were tied to later criminal cases in Louisville, including 12 that were auctioned multiple times; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Craig Greenberg has ordered LMPD to remove the firing pins and affix a warning label to forfeited firearms that were used in commission of a crime prior to transferring to KSP for auction; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky State Representative Keturah Herron has filed House Bill 325 and State

Senators Karen Berg and Reggie Thomas have filed Senate Bill 168 to allow consolidated local governments, such as Louisville-Jefferson County, to permanently destroy abandoned, confiscated, or forfeited firearms in the custody according to guidelines set forth by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (“THE COUNCIL”) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: The Council urges the Kentucky General Assembly to act with urgency to address the illegal firearms crisis and pass House Bill 325 and Senate Bill 168 during the 2023 Regular Session.

SECTION II: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval or otherwise becoming law.

Sonya Harward
Metro Council Clerk

Markus Winkler
President of the Council

Craig Greenberg
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Michael J. O’Connell
Jefferson County Attorney

BY: _____