

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1496

A resolution expressing the Metropolitan Council's condemnation of mass shootings, hate crimes, and violence motivated by hate in all of its forms.

WHEREAS, mass shootings have become an almost daily occurrence in the United States, and studies suggest that these mass shootings are growing deadlier over time; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the largest portion of active shooting incidents from 2000 to 2016 occurred in workplaces and other commercial buildings (43%), followed by education facilities (22%), open spaces (13%), government buildings (11%), residences (5%), houses of worship (4%), and health care facilities (3%); and

WHEREAS, these deadly mass shootings have coincided with a deeply alarming rise in mass shootings and other violent crimes motivated by race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, crimes motivated by race or ethnicity are consistently the most common type of reported hate crime, with African-Americans being the most targeted racial group. Jews are consistently the most targeted religious group, comprising almost twenty percent of all hate crimes reported in major cities in 2017, based on FBI data; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, mass shootings have occurred at houses of worship such as the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015, and the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the beginning of November, and tragically too many others to list; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest mass shooting in the United States history to date occurred in Las Vegas, NV in October 2017 at the Route 91 Harvest music festival, where a gunman fired into a crowd of country music fans and artists, ultimately killing 58 people and injuring another 851. Prior to that, the deadliest mass shooting had occurred just the previous year in Orlando, Florida where a gunman targeted a LGBT nightclub, killing 49 people and wounding 53 others; and

WHEREAS, locally, mass shootings at the Waffle House on Murfreesboro Pike and at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ have claimed the lives of innocent Nashvillians who were simply living their lives -- trying to worship freely or to enjoy a meal with friends; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings and violent crime, including hate crimes, have left members of the public fearing death and destruction in places where all should feel safe -- from religious sanctuaries to restaurants to concerts; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council condemns mass shootings, hate crimes, and violence motivated by hate in all of its forms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as condemning mass shootings, hate crimes, and violence motivated by hate in all of its forms.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

SPONSORED BY:

Sharon W. Hurt
Member of Council