

Resolution requesting the Memphis Police Department to enforce the curfews of the Child Curfew Act of 1995 and work with the City of Memphis Administration on a proposal to open one or more curfew centers in the City of Memphis

WHEREAS, comprehensive, community-based juvenile curfew programs can help reduce juvenile crime and delinquency, the victimization of minors and save young lives by reducing chances of violent incidents and, or accidental injury; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the City of Memphis adopted Ordinance No. 4430, establishing curfews for individuals under the age of 18 and the age of 17 respectively, as authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1701, also known as the Child Curfew Act of 1995; and

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1701 was amended in 2015 by adding the following subsection regarding minors in violation: “(2) Take the minor into custody and transport the minor to a designated curfew center”; and

WHEREAS, in cities like Philadelphia and Minneapolis, curfew centers serve as overnight resource centers for youth that have violated curfew as well as young people looking for evening recreational activities like midnight basketball leagues; often a public and non-profit partnership, these centers provide safe spaces for youth that does not involve the juvenile court system; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of City of Memphis Ordinance No. 4430 in 1996, there have been substantial developments in State law authorizing municipalities to develop alternative penalties for curfew violation that assist youth and families without court involvement and are not intended to be punitive; it is the wish of the Memphis City Council that local policies are reflective of these changes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in response to public safety concerns and the critical need for increased youth intervention, the Memphis City Council requests the Memphis Police Department to strongly enforce minor curfews as established in the Child Curfew Act of 1995.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLED, the Memphis City Council requests the Memphis Police Department to work with the City of Memphis Administration on a proposal to open one or more overnight curfew center(s) in the City of Memphis and to present the proposal during the October 11th Public Safety Committee of the Memphis City Council.

Sponsor
Rhonda Logan

Chair
Martavius Jones