

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 120072)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing City Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold public hearings to examine bail practices in gun-possession cases and the correlation to future gun-related crimes.

WHEREAS, The murder rate in Philadelphia has risen twice as fast as in other large cities and the majority of those murders are committed with guns; and

WHEREAS, Recent incidents have indicated a serious disconnect between various parts of our criminal justice system involving the release of persons on low bail conditions charged with gun-possession who then commit more serious and lethal crimes involving guns; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia repeat violent offenders have on occasion received minimal punishment for carrying guns which is the most common weapon used in an overwhelming majority of Philadelphia homicides; and

WHEREAS, In the determination of whether a person is an acceptable candidate for release on bail, it is important to examine their risk to society at large as indicated in prior arrests for gun possession; and

WHEREAS, 40% of inmates released from prison in Pennsylvania in 2004 were returned to jail by 2007; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to establish monitoring and case management strategies for gun violence similar to the national and local systems already in place for convicted sex offenses; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Police Force and FBI started a task force in 2010 to address armed robberies of businesses committed largely by repeat offenders; and

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WHEREAS, There should be stricter punishments for violent offenders who illegally own guns because they have proven that they have a propensity for directing their power against other citizens; now therefore,

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it authorizes Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold public hearings to examine bail practices in gun-possession cases and the correlation to future gun-related crimes.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the ninth of February, 2012.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Jones, Tasco and Johnson

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Jones, Tasco, Johnson, Greenlee, Kenney
and Council President Clarke