

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACTION CONCERNING CRIMES BY JUVENILES

WHEREAS, the frequency of crime by juveniles and young people has increased significantly in Glastonbury and communities across the State; and

WHEREAS, crimes by juveniles and young people include theft of motor vehicles, theft of valuables from motor vehicles, intrusion to private property (garages, driveways), display and use of handguns, motor vehicle accidents involving others when young people are fleeing in stolen vehicles, and other related crimes; and

WHEREAS, crimes by juveniles and young people present a threat of serious injury and death involving juveniles, property owners, and others and potential for significant property damage; and

WHEREAS, residents and property owners in Glastonbury and surrounding communities have expressed a range of emotions including fear, concern for safety of person, family and property, anger and frustration; and

WHEREAS, current state laws allow juveniles to commit crimes often as repeat offenders with little regard for police officers or concern for consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Glastonbury Police Department continues to effectively respond to these incidents with professionalism and dedication, however, the lack of consequences makes meaningful enforcement difficult; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, July 22, 2021, the Glastonbury Town Council sponsored a public forum to bring awareness to this issue and other communities have similarly sponsored forums with the common goal of bringing this serious issue to the attention of Governor Lamont, State Representatives and Senators with a demand for meaningful legislative change; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glastonbury continues to develop and implement actions and strategies in response to crimes by juveniles with examples including Community Outreach Officer assigned to work with Safe Streets Group, Police Task Force established to focus on street crimes, Glastonbury Police participating in Capitol Region Task Force, website continually updated to provide information and crime data, public education distributed through Town publications and businesses, training and equipment, additional staffing and equipment under review for possible budget funding, reverse 911 system to be implemented to provide important public safety updates, and other initiatives on an evolving basis; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is prepared to provide the support and resources required as the Glastonbury community continues to respond to this serious public safety threat to personal well-being and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Glastonbury Town Council on behalf of the citizens of Glastonbury and communities across the State calls upon Governor Lamont and the State Legislature to convene a Special Session for the purpose of enacting meaningful and effective reform to juvenile laws to provide consequences, accountability and resources to support law enforcement and to protect the safety and well-being of citizens and property from serious and potentially life threatening crimes now being committed by juveniles and others and presenting a continuing public safety issue within communities across the State.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused this seal to be affixed.

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Date: August 11, 2021

Kurt P. Cavanaugh

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