

RESOLUTION NO. 57 - 2015

EXPRESSING City Council's support of the Intimate Partner Violence Bill that is pending introduction in the Ohio House of Representatives, which proposes expanding the protections and legal options for victims of domestic violence and abuse. This bill will expand the definition of victim from "family or household member" to "protected relationship" which will extend current legal remedies to individuals with continuing and significant relationships of a romantic nature with the offender. Further, it will provide additional protections for all victims of domestic violence and abuse.

WHEREAS, all Cincinnati citizens in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature deserve protection from domestic violence and abuse perpetrated by their partner; and

WHEREAS, abuse and domestic violence-related offenses are devastating to women, men, and child victims as well as damaging to communities as a whole; and

WHEREAS, abuse and domestic violence-related offenses are devastating to the partners, spouses, and families of perpetrators engaged in these offenses; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's current law only protects "families or household members," and does not protect all individuals in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature; and

WHEREAS, the Intimate Partner Violence Bill would extend necessary protections to all persons who are in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature with an offender; and

WHEREAS, all abuse and domestic violence victims should have the same legal tools at their disposal to protect themselves from further abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS, expanding liability for abuse and domestic violence-related offenses to victim partners falling outside the current definition is necessary to protect all individuals in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature; and

WHEREAS, initiatives to prevent domestic violence and abuse offenses are essential to retain and increase population and stabilize Cincinnati neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council endorse legislation that is committed to protecting all victims of domestic violence and abuse that are in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature with the offender; now, therefore,

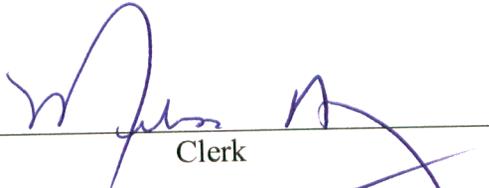
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

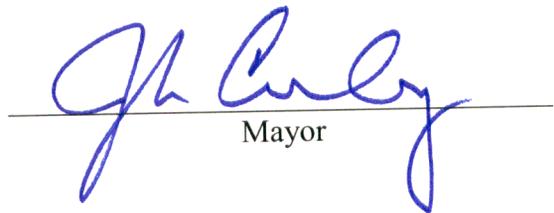
Section 1. That this Council hereby expresses its support for the Intimate Partner Violence Bill, that is pending introduction in the Ohio House of Representatives, which would expand the statewide definition of domestic violence victim to include any individual in a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic nature and would further provide additional protections and legal options for victims of domestic violence and abuse in the new expansive definition, in an effort to deter and reduce domestic violence and abuse in the City of Cincinnati and all Ohio communities.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to Governor John Kasich; Cliff Rosenberger, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives; President of the Ohio Senate Keith Faber, State Senator Cecil Thomas; State Senator Bill Seitz; State Representative Denise Driehaus; State Representative Alicia Reece; State Representative Christie Bryant; and State Representative Tom Brinkman.

Passed October 28, 2015

Attest:


Clerk


Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Yvette Simpson