

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ATHENS YOUTH AND AGAINST GANG AND GUN VIOLENCE.

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 9, 2024, 3-year old Kyron Zarco, also known as “Baby Dro,” was violently murdered through gunfire while watching a movie with his brother in the late afternoon; and,

WHEREAS, his mother and family are heartbroken as they grieve his forever loss and gunshot injuries to his older brother as well; and,

WHEREAS, this gunfire was the result of teenagers, barely more than children themselves, involved in retaliatory gang violence; and,

WHEREAS, 54 people have died from gun violence in the last decade in Athens, including 25-year-old Nigel Turner on April 17, just weeks after “Baby Dro;” and,

WHEREAS, too many families are affected by this gun and gang violence causing death, injury, and trauma and through the involvement of their children in dangerous gang activity that too often leads to death, injury, illegal activity, and incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, legal and illegal handguns and long guns are widespread throughout our communities and our nation; and,

WHEREAS, young men and women are drawn to gang life through a desire for connection, purpose, status, protection, and resources that is not met through more positive affiliations and activities; and,

WHEREAS, in Athens, Georgia, it is estimated that there are up to 1,000 gang members; and,

WHEREAS, these gang members make evident the importance of guns and violence in their lives through social media and online photos and videos; and,

WHEREAS, some Athenians, especially in the brown and Black communities, live in poverty that makes them more vulnerable to involvement in the negative underground economy; and,

WHEREAS, the issues listed above are among the most pressing issues facing Athens.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR & COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA, THAT:

First, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall prioritize addressing youth development and prevention of gun and gang violence in our community and in our annual ACC budget.

Second, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall work long term with parents, local non-profits, the CCSD school system, churches, and other community groups to create programs to support youth and their families and help them lead healthy, happy, and productive lives free from involvement with local gangs.

Third, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall investigate and implement initiatives that directly impact the more immediate involvement of teens in gang culture.

Fourth, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall continue to support our law enforcement's efforts to make our community safe from gang violence and address its root causes.

Fifth, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall continue our commitment to providing more affordable housing to provide homes for families.

Sixth, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall continue to address the factors that keep people in poverty, from low-wage jobs to low levels of education to persistent racism and health vulnerabilities.

Seventh, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall advocate with state and federal elected officials and agencies for funding to address issues related to youth and gang violence, poverty, and lack of affordable housing.

Eighth, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall communicate with state and federal elected officials to enact legislation to limit the number of guns available to our youth.

Ninth, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, shall proclaim every June 18, as Kyron Zarco Day, a day on which we will celebrate the life of Kyron Zarco and others' shortened lives due to gang and gun violence and recommit ourselves as a community to the health and welfare of our youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event scrivener's errors shall be discovered in this Resolution after the adoption hereof, the Commission hereby authorizes and directs that each such scrivener's error shall be corrected by the Clerk of Commission with the assistance of the County Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission grants the Mayor and the Manager the authority to take any and all further actions necessary to carry out the intents and purposes of this Resolution,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor or upon its adoption into law without such approval.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5 day of June, 2024.

**UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE
COUNTY, GEORGIA**

By: 
Mayor

Attest: 

Clerk of Commission

(SEAL)