

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Urging the Allegheny County Police and other police departments operating within Allegheny County to adopt measures to reduce dangers to the public stemming from the use of force to the greatest extent practicable.

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a series of measures intended to reform the use of force by police departments throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, while several of the initiatives proposed by Governor Wolf are matters that must take place within the structure of the Commonwealth's government, three of the measures are applicable at the County and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the first of these is the comprehensive review by all departments of their current use of force training standards, the formation of a workgroup to develop model training standards to ensure that all officers receive the best instruction in their interactions with the public, and striving to obtain state and or national accreditation as a key component in assisting departments in evaluation and improvement of their standards and practices; and

WHEREAS, the second locally applicable measure proposed by Governor Wolf is the creation of citizen advisory boards, with the goal of establishing such boards within municipalities of all sizes in the Commonwealth, for which the Governor has offered the assistance of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the third proposal for local action is strengthening mental health initiatives and support for officers dealing with trauma, with a concerted focus upon reducing or removing the stigma for seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf also expressed support for legislation pending in the General Assembly that would provide for improved access to police videos, an oversight board for officer training and continuing education, a special prosecutor in deadly force cases, interdepartmental law enforcement hiring reform and PTSD evaluation for police officers; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of Council that the proposals offered by Governor Wolf and the bills for which he is advocating constitute a well-reasoned, measured approach with goals that are achievable;

The Council of the County of Allegheny therefore hereby moves as follows:

Council hereby urges the Allegheny County Police and other police departments operating within Allegheny County to adopt measures to reduce dangers to the public stemming from the use of force to the greatest extent practicable, and further urges those departments to strongly consider the approach outlined by Governor Wolf.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER DUERR

CO-SPONSORS:

Enacted in Council, this 9th day of June, 2020,

Council Agenda No. 11518-20



Patrick Catena
President of Council

Attest: 

Jared E. Barker, Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council