

Resolution Encouraging the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly to Act on Crime, Criminal Justice Measures and Public Safety

Whereas, Residents in communities throughout Connecticut, including North Branford, are seeing and experiencing an escalation in the seriousness of crime, including motor vehicle theft, car-jackings, robbery, home invasion, targeted shootings, and indiscriminate gunfire;

Whereas, Residents in communities throughout Connecticut, including North Branford, are understandably frustrated by a wave of property crime that includes home and motor vehicle break-ins that have caused victims financial hardship while leaving them feeling violated;

Whereas, the Connecticut General Assembly has failed to adopt substantial measures to deter crime;

Whereas, the Connecticut General Assembly, backed by the Governor, has focused efforts on closing prisons, making the jobs of police officers more difficult, eroding our state's cash bail system, pursuing jail diversion programs for criminal offenders, and erasing criminal records;

Whereas, the Connecticut General Assembly has put forth an inadequate effort to respond to the needs and concerns of crime victims;

Now therefore, be it Resolved, that the North Branford Town Council urges the Connecticut General Assembly to take the following legislative action to deter crime in the state while also holding perpetrators of crime more accountable for their illegal actions:

1. Increase the mandatory minimum sentence for a crime of robbery involving an occupied motor vehicle that involves a firearm or deadly weapon, and increase the penalties for crimes committed using a stolen motor vehicle or stolen firearm;
2. Require crimes involving violence, theft of a motor vehicle, sexual offenses and offenses involving the use of a firearm to be adjudicated in the geographical area where the offense occurred, not where the perpetrator resides;
3. Designate offenses for which a promise to appear in court cannot be granted, such as criminal possession of a firearm and criminal violation of a protective order;
4. Expand the list of offenses that are ineligible for automatic erasure of a criminal record, including, but not limited to, intentional possession of a weapon on school grounds, obstructing and threatening police officers, and hate crimes;
5. Increase the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for enticing a juvenile to commit a criminal act, also lowering the age that an adult may be charged with that from 23 to 18;
6. Prohibit the award of risk reduction credits, also known as "good time credits" to any inmate convicted of a crime involving a firearm;
7. Repeal aspects of the so-called police accountability legislation, which exposes municipalities and officers to frivolous lawsuits while also negatively affecting the ability of cities and towns to recruit and retain law enforcement professionals;

8. Support municipalities by providing adequate funding for compliance with new state mandates on police departments, while incentivizing the enhancement of pension benefits to attract people into attract new people into the career of law enforcement;
9. Expand the circumstances in which a juvenile is automatically transferred to the regular criminal docket, including commission of a serious juvenile offense such as carrying of a pistol or revolver without a permit, robbery, or sexual assault;
10. Add murder committed during an incident of domestic violence as a qualifying crime for murder with special circumstances;

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Town Council of North Branford in Connecticut on October 17, 2023. Upon passage by the Town Council, the Town Manager is directed to furnish a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, the majority and minority leaders of both chambers, and to the members of the State House and Senate representing the Town of North Branford.