

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 223

Approved July 9, 2020

WHEREAS, In the past several weeks there has been a large public outcry for substantial reforms to how our country handles criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Although much of the focus has currently been centered around policing, the significant amount of discretion prosecutors have in determining the outcome of criminal cases also plays a significant role in the current criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, There are certain cases in which prosecutorial discretion grants a prosecutor the power to decide whether to save or destroy an individual's life, especially in cases in which a prosecutor may have the ability to charge a juvenile as an adult or require that a juvenile register as a sex offender; and

WHEREAS, Delinquency rates for juveniles increase significantly the moment they are charged with a crime and it can be difficult, if not impossible, for a juvenile to succeed in life if they are charged with a crime as an adult or forced to register as a sex offender; and

WHEREAS, Youth of color remain far more likely to be committed to a detention facility than white youth, with black youth being up to four times as likely to be committed; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that proper protocols are in place to guide prosecutorial decision making in juvenile cases in order to avoid the risk of unjustly ruining a young person's life through aggressive prosecuting techniques.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council requests that the Attorney General's office review its internal policies and procedures around prosecuting cases involving children and teenagers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 02 2020

READ AND PASSED

Safina Mota
PRES.

Sham Selha
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]
Mayor
Date: 7/9/20