

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 169

Approved April 24, 2023

WHEREAS, On March 30, 2023, Representatives Pearson, Jones, and Johnson led a gun control protest on the Tennessee House floor following the Nashville Christian school mass shooting that left six people dead, including three 9-year-old children; and

WHEREAS, On April 6, 2023, the Tennessee House of Representatives expelled two Black lawmakers, Justin Jones in a 72 to 25 vote and Justin J. Pearson in a 69 to 26 vote, for exercising their constitutional right to protest; and

WHEREAS, Republicans in the Tennessee General Assembly claimed that these elected officials brought “disorder and dishonor” to the Tennessee House of Representatives for fighting for gun reform legislation; and

WHEREAS, Expulsion has only been used in rare circumstances including in 1866 for attempting to prevent the passage of the 14th Amendment, in 1980 for bribery, and in 2016 for sexual misconduct; and

WHEREAS, As a result, over 136,000 Tennesseans in Memphis and Nashville have had their democratic right to representation stripped from them; and

WHEREAS, The White lawmaker, Representative Gloria Johnson, who joined the protest alongside Representative Jones and Representative Pearson, was not expelled; and

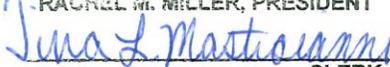
WHEREAS, Representative Jones and Representative Pearson represent the State’s largest cities, with large Black populations; and

WHEREAS, This act of expelling Representative Jones and Representative Pearson silences Black American voices, further perpetuating the historical marginalization of Black Americans.

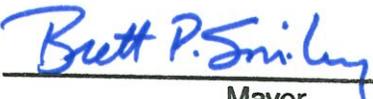
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby condemns the expulsion of elected members of the Tennessee General Assembly, Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, and Tennessee State Representatives Pearson and Jones.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 20 2023
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 4/24/2023