

# COUNCIL CHAMBER

City of Berea, Ohio

**RESOLUTION** No. 2020-44

By Gene Zacharyasz Sponsored By \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Kim Smith and Councilman Bill DeVito  
Co-sponsors: Mayor Cyril M. Kleem, Council President Jeff Dettmer, Councilman Gene Zacharyasz,  
Councilman Leon Dozier, Councilman Chris McManis, Councilman Jim Maxwell, Councilman Rick Skoczen

## A RESOLUTION

### URGING THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT HOUSE BILL 308, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE FIRST RESPONDERS PTSD BENEFITS BILL, SPONSORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM PATTON.

**WHEREAS**, the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Ohio is presently considering House Bill 308, which is commonly referred to as the First Responders PTSD Benefits Bill, sponsored by State Representative Tom Patton; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 308 has already been passed by the Ohio House of Representatives, and several other States have previously adopted similar legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, this Bill, if enacted into law, will allow first responders, including peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), acquired on the job and due to their employment, to be eligible to receive compensation and benefits, whether or not they possess accompanying physical injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that can occur in people who have experienced or witnessed traumatic events such as serious accidents, acts of crime, terror, war or combat, and those who have been threatened with death, sexual violence or serious injury, and symptoms of PTSD can manifest themselves as anxiety, sleeplessness, trouble concentrating, irritability, anger, aggressive behavior, guilt, substance and alcohol abuse, negative job performance and suicidal thoughts and/or attempts; and

**WHEREAS**, several groups have testified in support of House Bill 308 including the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Columbus Fire Fighters IAFF Local 67 and the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of House Bill 308 will, as declared by Representative Patton, "ensure the much-needed relief for first responders who have served the public and suffer from PTSD as a result of performing their duties", and their courage and selflessness certainly demands that they be afforded the treatment and care they both need and deserve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Berea, State of Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** That the Council of the City of Berea, the Mayor and the Officers of the Administration, do hereby urge the Ohio General Assembly to promptly enact House Bill 308 in order to support, assist and protect the mental health and wellbeing of the courageous individuals who serve the public as peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers.

**SECTION 2.** That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and instructed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, District 24 State Senator Matt Dolan and the Clerks of Council in communities surrounding Berea.

**SECTION 3.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the approval of this Resolution were approved in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall take effect, and be in force, from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: October 5, 2020

[Signature], President of Council

ATTEST:

[Signature], Clerk of Council

APPROVED: October 6, 2020

[Signature], Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature], Director of Law