

Local Resolution in Support of Repealing Georgia Stand Your Ground Legislation

WHEREAS, Stand Your Ground laws threaten public safety by encouraging armed vigilantism, allowing a person to kill another person in a public area even when they can clearly and safely walk away from the danger; and

WHEREAS, Under current Georgia law, a person can use force likely to kill or seriously injure someone even if there is a safe way to avoid the danger.

WHEREAS, New legislation will allow Georgia residents to use force to defend themselves anywhere, however when individuals are outside their homes, they can only use force likely to kill or seriously injure someone, if there is no safe way to avoid it.

WHEREAS, Georgia's Stand Your Ground law provides broad immunity from arrest and other criminal and civil action, which prevents people from being held accountable; and

WHEREAS, Misunderstanding of the Stand Your Ground law can lead to lethal tragedies as with Ahmaud Arbery; and

WHEREAS, Stand Your Ground laws are associated with an increase in firearm injuries and homicides and do not deter crime; and

WHEREAS, At least 30 people nationwide are killed each month as a result of Stand Your Ground laws; and

WHEREAS, In Florida, the Stand Your Ground law was linked to a 32 percent increase in firearm homicide rates. At the same time, justifiable homicide rates increased by 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, Stand Your Ground laws have a disproportionate effect on communities of color. When white shooters kill black victims, the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable 11 times more frequently than when the shooter is black and the victim is white.; and

WHEREAS, Controlling for other factors—such as who initiated the confrontation and whether or not the victim was armed—Florida SYG cases with minority victims are half as likely to lead to conviction, compared to cases with white victims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission records its strong support to any Repeal Stand Your Ground legislation in consideration in the Georgia state legislature.

SO RESOLVED this 16 day of February, 2021.

APPROVED:



Kelly Girtz, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission