

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS HENDERSON'S EFFORTS TO CRACKDOWN ON GANG VIOLENCE AND REPEAT VIOLENT OFFENDERS.

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2013, a University of South Carolina freshman and Greenville County resident was shot and paralyzed by a convicted felon while waiting for a taxi in the popular Five Points area of Columbia, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the convicted felon accused of the shooting is classified by the State of South Carolina as a violent offender and, at the time of the shooting, was out of jail on both parole and probation; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis and Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins acknowledge that there are gang and repeat violent offender problems in Greenville County and have identified at least 57 gangs in Greenville County, ranging from well-known gangs, such as the "Bloods", "Crips" and "Folk Nation", to "homegrown" gangs; and

WHEREAS, State Representative and former Greenville County Council Chair Phyllis Henderson intends to introduce legislation in the South Carolina General Assembly that will provide sentence enhancements for those individuals convicted of gang-related crimes; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Henderson has also stated her support for House Bill 3051 which will, if adopted, reform the State's bonding laws so as to make it harder for gang members to get out of jail on bond; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3051 also provides for the revocation of bond for those individuals who, while out of jail on bond, commit a violent crime; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3051 further includes a mandatory five year sentence for those individuals convicted of committing a General Sessions offense while out of jail on bond; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Loftis, as well as law enforcement officials throughout the State, support tougher laws to crack down on gangs and repeat violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council supports Representative Phyllis Henderson's efforts in the General Assembly to crack down on both gang and repeat offender violence; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council urges the members of the South Carolina General Assembly to support Representative Henderson’s proposed legislation to crack down on gang violence as well as enact House Bill 3051.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Greenville County Council requests that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly support the legislation to be introduced by Representative Phyllis Henderson that will crack down on gang violence and Greenville County Council further requests that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly enact House Bill 3051 to amend the State’s bond law so as to: (1) make it harder for gang members to get out of jail on bond; (2) require that bond be revoked for individuals who commit a violent crime while out of jail on bond and; (3) provide for a five year sentence enhancement for those individuals who commit a violent crime while out of jail on bond.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 5TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013.

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bob Taylor, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator