

9/8/2020

L-127-2020 Ist

RESOLUTION NO. 127-2020

BY: **MARK CASSELBERRY**
(By Request – President of Council)

A RESOLUTION URGING SECRETARY OF
STATE LAROSE TO REVERSE HIS ORDER
BANNING OFF-SITE SECURE DROP BOXES
FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, this November, the City of Parma, along with the rest of the country, will be participating in a presidential election; and,

WHEREAS, in past presidential elections, densely populated urban areas, including Parma, have endured long waiting times to cast a vote; and,

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic poses a unique challenge to election administrators and the electorate and has caused our electoral system to adapt to these challenging circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, one of the methods which has facilitated the electoral process in large urban areas was the passage of legislation that permitted the deployment of secure drop boxes for absentee ballots during the March 2020 primary election at each of Ohio's 88 county boards of elections; and,

WHEREAS, Secretary of State LaRose has issued an order prohibiting all 88 County Boards of Elections, including Cuyahoga County, from installing secure offsite drop boxes; and,

WHEREAS, there is still time to implement the deployment of secure offsite drop boxes for the November's election, which makes it more convenient for citizens to exercise their right to vote in a safe and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council urges that Secretary of State LaRose reverse his order banning Ohio's counties from installing off-site secure drop boxes for absentee ballots and completed absentee ballot applications.

Section 2. That this Council urges Secretary of State LaRose to authorize the deployment of more than one absentee drop box, per Ohio county, particularly in more populous areas such as the City of Parma.

Section 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to Secretary of State LaRose and the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Section 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council; and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 5. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary in order to deploy the drop boxes for the upcoming November election, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____
MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO