

RESOLUTION NO. 166-2020

BY: **DEBORAH LIME**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF OHIO HOUSE BILL 308, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE FIRST RESPONDERS PTSD BENEFITS BILL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 133rd 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 Ohio 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 PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council, Mayor, and the Administration do hereby urge the Ohio 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 directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine and District 23 State Senator Nickie J. Antonio.

Section 3. 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 this 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 4. 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 urge the Ohio General Assembly to adopt House Bill 308, 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