

# City of Dover

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2013-22 WITH SA#1

### **A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE CESSATION OF ILLEGAL GANG FORMATION IN DOVER, DELAWARE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dover, the State Capital, strives to be a model for all cities in Delaware and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 58 - Human Relations, Article II. Human Relations Commission, Sec. 58-31. Purpose, of the Dover Code, states:

The city council has deemed it to be in the best interest of the city to establish a human relations commission to include members who are broadly representative of the entire community and who are committed to a philosophy of inclusion, intergroup cooperation, and fair treatment that will effectively help the city meet the following needs: (1) Fairness, respect. Promote and develop an environment of fairness and respect among its citizens; (2) Monitoring. Develop ways to measure and monitor community relations, particularly those that are sources of intergroup conflict; (3) Intergroup relations. Involve all segments of the community in understanding and appreciating the benefits of positive intergroup relations; (4) Issues. Offer a range of programs and services that will help its residents and neighborhoods prevent and resolve issues of human relations; and (5) Intergroup conflict. Develop ways of anticipating, preparing for, and relieving community tensions arising from intergroup conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council have granted powers and duties to the Dover Human Relations Commission, pursuant to Chapter 58 - Human Relations, Article II. Human Relations Commission, Sec. 58-36. Powers and duties, of the Dover Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dover Human Relations Commission, through open discussion with members of the community and the knowledge of local events, has found that gun possession and illegal gang activity is at an all-time high; and

**WHEREAS**, an illegal gang is a group of individuals consisting of three or more persons whose demoralizing influence, common interest, attitude, and graffiti signs significantly contribute to disruptive behavior and criminal enterprises in the City of Dover; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of illegal gang organizations in Dover and Kent County has increased over the last few years, cultivating an environment of psychic imprisonment, mistrust, and fear among citizens of Dover; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal gang culture and activities have played a significant role in student dropout rates, drug activity, and random acts of violence, often leaving innocent bystanders paralyzed and traumatized for life; and

WHEREAS, illegal gang graffiti promoting hate, fear, and danger has defaced public and private sector facilities, impeding home and business owners' rights to market or enjoy their properties without unwelcome and unauthorized graffiti signs.

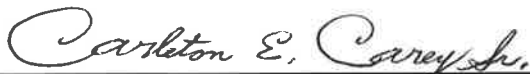
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the residents of Dover, Delaware; the Mayor; City Council; Dover Police Department; and the Dover Human Relations Commission have observed with dismay the escalation of gang growth and development in our communities and will merge resources and efforts to intensify the pursuit of the elimination of illegal gang formation, activities, and communication, including the display of graffiti signs in Dover, Delaware.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will accomplish this goal and establish a New Community and Family Involvement Paradigm for Cessation of Illegal Gang Formation by:

1. Cleaning up our streets together, showing resistance to illegal gang formation and unwelcome graffiti signs through unity and clear purpose;
2. Increasing individual awareness and accountability for reporting known illegal gang activity and/or formation in your community;
3. Strengthening parent and family involvement in the childrearing and educational processes;
4. Implementing and supporting additional intervention and summer programs; and
5. Providing additional funding to the Dover Police Department through grants and other resources to establish additional police stations in areas with high volumes of crime to protect Dover residents from being targets of bias-motivated violence in the City of Dover.

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

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CARLETON E. CAREY, SR.  
MAYOR



DAVID L. BONAR  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT