1	ORDINANCE NO
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3	AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE IT IMPRACTICAL AND UNFEASIBLE
4	TO BID FOR THE SELECTION OF AN ENTITY TO DEVELOP A PILOT
5	PROJECT TO ADDRESS YOUTH VIOLENCE A CRISIS IN THE CITY OF
6	LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
7	OTHER PURPOSES.
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9	WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, averages one (1) murder every 168 hours for fifty-two
10	(52) weeks (fifty-six (56) killed in 2020); and,
11	WHEREAS, data provided by the Little Rock Police Department indicates that from January 1, 2021,
12	to April 8, 2021, Little Rock has had fifteen (15) homicides (ten (10) Black males, four (4) Black females
13	and one (1) White Female); and,
14	WHEREAS, Little Rock has a population of just under 200,000 residents and 20% (38,000 – 40,000)
15	are African-American males. Data collected and analyzed by the Derek Olivier Research Institute for the
16	Prevention of Violence indicates that of the homicides committed in the City of Little Rock during this
17	period, 93.7% of the deaths are Blacks, and 66.7% are Black males. According to the Little Rock Police
18	Department, 84.6% of the suspects in these homicides for this period were Black males, and 7.7% of known
19	suspects in these homicides for this period were Black females. The last two (2) homicides occurred in
20	Ward 6 (John Barrow Addition) at 3710 Boyd Street and 6310 Colonel Glenn Road; and,
21	WHEREAS, these figures indicate, youth violence in the City of Little Rock is a major concern in the
22	African-American community; and,
23	WHEREAS, Little Rock is not alone in this issue, in the Centers for Disease Control in an analysis,
24	titled "A Public Health Crisis in the Making" found that although Black men and boys ages fifteen (15) to
25	thirty-four (34) make up just 2% of the nation's population, they were among 37% of gun homicides in
26	2019; and,
27	WHEREAS, there is no simple answer or quick fix to this complex crisis. The recognition and
28	acknowledgement that this is indeed a crisis by City Officials is a good place to start. The Little Rock Board
29	of Directors took its first step on January 19, 2021, when it passed the Targeted Community Development
30	Initiative (TCDI); and,
31	WHEREAS, if the circumstances make it impractical and unfeasible to submit a program to a
32	competitive selection process, then the Board of Directors may dispense with the competitive of competitive
33	selection pursuant to Ark, Code Ann. 8 14-47-138 (b): and.

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WHEREAS, the death of a ten (10)-year-old child on March 12, 2021, in a City park while with her family has made this situation untenable and as the local Governing Authority with the authority to act, we must take the necessary action and allocate the resources including staff support, to address this crisis. I am therefore, making an emergency request for Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (PIT) Funding to establish a Youth Violence Intervention Center.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK:

**Section 1.** The City Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock:

- a. Shall address the current crisis caused by youth violence crisis as a part of the framework established pursuant to Little Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 15,382 (January 19, 2021) as the Targeted Community Development Initiative ("TCDI") that outlined the social and structural conditions that have led to poverty and disinvested communities in the targeted areas and requested a funding allocation of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from available and future funding to address these issues;
- b. Shall initially fund this Youth Violence Initiative as part of the TCDI with an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) to be taken from unused program revenues for Prevention, Intervention & Treatment ("PIT") Programs initially funded as part of the 1993 Future-Little Rock Sales and Compensating Use Tax; and,
- c, Directs the City Manager to create a special fund so that the monies utilized by this Youth Violence Initiative are subject to proper review and audit; and,
- d. Declares that because of time and the work already done by the Derek Olivier Research Institute for the Prevention of Violence at Arkansas Baptist College it is impractical and unfeasible and submit this initial pilot project to a competitive selection process.
- **Section 2.** The Board of Directors strongly encourages the Mayor and City Manager to direct the Community Programs Department to establish a Youth Violence Prevention Center as a part of its Youth Master Plan immediately upon passage of this ordinance by emergency clause.
- Section 3. Because of the unique research and work the done with data as to the impact of violence on youth within the City of Little Rock, and the inability to efficiently to recreate such data, the Board determines that it is impractical and unfeasible to bid the initial contract for the pilot project to create this youth violence initiative, and therefore waives a competitive selection process and awards an initial contract to Arkansas Baptist College working through the Derek Olivier Research Institute for the Prevention of Violence to obtain, evaluate, and document data on the number of youth within the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, who have been the perpetrator or victim of criminal violent acts starting with calendar year 2020, and to recommend programs to be utilized within the existing framework of the Community Programs

Department to establish the Little Rock Youth Violence Prevention Center; further, to require that every

1 three (3) months the Board of Directors shall receive from Arkansas Baptist College a written report on the 2 work that has been done to date, the programs that have been implemented with an evaluation of the 3 operation of such a program, and a recommendation as to additional areas and programs to be pursued. 4 Section 4. The Board of Directors further acknowledges the work that has been done by City Director 5 Doris Wright in the development of the West Central Youth Violence Prevention Center Project. This plan developed in collaboration with the Community Programs Department, Little Rock Police Department, 6 7 Derek Olivier Research Institute at Arkansas Baptist College and Second Baptist Church, directs staff to 8 use this plan as the pilot project to be implemented by the Youth Violence Prevention Center. 9 Section 5. The Board of Directors calls on the Mayor and City Manager to provide a report on this 10 Youth Violence initiative as a part of the Targeted Community Development Initiative bi-annual update to 11 the City Board regarding the progress of work performed pursuant to this ordinance. 12 Section 6. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or 13 word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or 14 adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance on which shall remain in full force and 15 effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the 16 ordinance. 17 Section 7. Repealer. All laws, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the 18 provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. 19 Section 8. Emergency Clause. The involvement of youth in criminal violence within a 20 community as a perpetrator, victim, bystander, witness, or simply a community citizen, is adverse to a safe 21 environment for youth to grow, learn, and become, productive members of society; the causes of such 22 violence must be studied and understood, and programs must be developed to help eliminate to the 23 maximum extent possible such violence in order to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare; an 24 emergency is, therefore, declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after 25 the date of its passage. 26 ADOPTED: April 27, 2021 27 **ATTEST: APPROVED:** 28 29 30 Susan Langley, City Clerk Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor 31 APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM: **SPONSOR:** 32 33 Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney **Director Doris Wright, Ward 6** 34

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