

MADISON HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING POLITICAL VIOLENCE
IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2025, conservative political activist Charlie Kirk, the co-founder of Turning Point USA, was assassinated while answering questions from college students attending Utah Valley State University in Orem, Utah. The assassin has been arrested and is awaiting trial; and,

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2025, Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman (Democrat) and her husband Mark Hortman, were shot and killed, by an assassin disguised as a police officer, in a targeted, politically motivated attack at their Minneapolis home. Just prior to the attack on the Hortman's, the assassin shot and wounded Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman (Democrat) and his wife Laura Hoffman, at their home. The assassin has been arrested and is awaiting trial; and,

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2025, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's official residence was firebombed by a would-be assassin, who scaled a security fence, broke windows, and threw homemade Molotov cocktails into the residence at 2:00 a.m., while the Governor, his wife and their family were asleep inside. The firebombing caused significant damage to the official residence requiring millions of taxpayer dollars to repair. The would-be assassin and arsonist is awaiting trial; and,

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2024, Brian Thompson, the CEO of United Health Care, was assassinated in Midtown Manhattan, New York, as he was entering a building for a company meeting, by a masked assailant. The assassin fled the scene but was arrested five days later and is currently awaiting trial; and,

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2024, an attempted assassination occurred of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump at his golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida. The would-be assassin was found guilty of all charges, including the attempted assassination of a major presidential candidate, along with a range of firearm offenses; and,

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2024, an attempted assassination occurred of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump, during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. One bullet grazed and bloodied candidate Trump's ear and another killed a rally attendee. The Secret Service killed the assassin; and,

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2022, Paul Pelosi, the 82-year-old husband of U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-California) was attacked during a break-in of their home and was struck in the head by a hammer, causing a skull fracture and other serious injuries, by an attacker who intended to hold Nancy Pelosi hostage. The attacker was convicted of both state and federal charges and sentenced to 30 years in federal prison; and,

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2020, Daniel Anderl, the twenty-year-old son of U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas, was murdered, and Mark Anderl, the husband of Judge Salas, was seriously wounded, at their home by a disgruntled lawyer and self-proclaimed "anti-feminist," posing as a FedEx delivery driver. The assassin was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the next day; and,

WHEREAS, in October 2020, government authorities uncovered a domestic terror plot to kidnap and murder Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (Democrat), by conspirators angered by Whitmer's covid restrictions and their anti-government beliefs. The two men accused of leading the plot were found guilty and sentenced to lengthy prison terms; two other defendants pleaded guilty; and three other defendants were acquitted; and,

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2018, a man, expressing hatred for Jewish people and opposition to assisting immigrants, attacked the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers. The assassin has been convicted and sentenced to death; and,

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2017, U.S. Representative Steve Scalise (R-Louisiana) was shot and critically wounded, at a baseball field in Alexandria, Virginia, while practicing with other Republican members of Congress for the annual Congressional Baseball game. Also wounded in the attack were several U.S. Capitol Police Officers, a Congressional aide and a lobbyist. The assassin was killed in a shootout with police; and,

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2015, an assassin targeted the Mother Emanuel AME Baptist Church, a historically African American congregation in Charleston, South Carolina, murdering nine parishioners during a bible study session, including Pastor Clementa Pickney. The assassin has been convicted and is awaiting imposition of the death penalty; and,

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2011, U.S. Representative Gabrielle (Gabby) Giffords (D-Arizona) was shot in the head at point-blank range by an assassin, outside of a supermarket near Tucson, Arizona, during an event for her constituents. Six people were killed, and twelve others were wounded in the shooting. After an intensive and long rehabilitation process for a severe brain injury, Giffords resigned from Congress in 2012 to focus on her recovery. The shooter was convicted and is serving multiple life sentences in a federal prison; and,

WHEREAS, only days after this Resolution was drafted, on September 28, 2025, a gunman killed four and wounded eight worshippers, during church services at the Mormon Church, in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, while setting fire to the church building. Although the investigation has not yet been completed, preliminary reports indicate that the gunman supported the current administration and had expressed anti-Mormon feelings. The gunman was killed by the police in a shoot-out in the church parking lot; and,

WHEREAS, the above referenced bloodshed unfortunately fits into a long history of political violence in this country, including the assassinations of Presidents Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy, the attempted assassinations of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, and the assassination of Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator and Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy; and,

WHEREAS, the above referenced shootings fail to mention the appalling and numerous incidents of school shootings in this country, including but limited to the Church of the Annunciation School in Minneapolis, Minnesota (August 27, 2025), Oxford High School in Oxford Township, Michigan (November 30, 2021), Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut (December 14, 2012), Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas (May 24, 2022), Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida (February 14, 2018), Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia (April 16, 2007), Columbine High School in Jefferson County,

Colorado (April 20, 1999), and University of Texas at Austin (August 1, 1966), among many others; and,

WHEREAS, political violence, as indicated above, is a feature of both the political left and the political right; and the recitation of violent incidents herein was not intended to cover every single incident of political or school violence in this country.

WHEREAS many of the perpetrators often have mental health issues, but their actions seem to be driven or shaped by heightened political polarization, a decline in democratic norms, the normalization of hostile rhetoric, social media spreading anger, distrust and conspiracy theories, and easy access to deadly weapons; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison Heights City Council unequivocally condemns and opposes (i) political violence (or violence of any kind) against our nation's elected and appointed officials, religious leaders, business managers, students and their teachers, or those who exercise just and rightful authority; (ii) the demonization and dehumanization of political rivals; (iii) political leaders who use aggressive, hateful and extreme language; (iv) the weakening of our democratic institutions and norms; (v) social media (or parts thereof) interested in spreading anger, distrust and conspiracy theories and/or promoting violent radicalization and mobilization; (vi) the lack and availability of mental health facilities for those in need of treatment; and (vii) the widespread availability of high-capacity weapons to those who should not have such weapons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to President, Donald J. Trump, U.S. Senator, Elissa Slotkin, U.S. Senator, Gary Peters, U.S. Representative, Haley Stevens, Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General, Dana Nessel, Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson, State Senator, Stephanie Chang, State Representative Mike McFall, State Representative, Tom Kuhn, Oakland County Chief Executive, David Coulter, and Oakland County Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault.

APPROVED BY THE MADISON HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.