

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-046

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO STRONGLY OPPOSING ANY EFFORT BY THE STATE OF OHIO TO ABOLISH THE LOCAL KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE IN PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE CITY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES DURING A TIME OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have been advised of the proposed state budget, House Bill 110, which includes language that requires " ... a study examining the efficiency and effectiveness of the city health district merging with the general health district of the county in which the city is located."; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is likely the first step in an effort by the State of Ohio to abolish the local Kent City Health Department so as to give greater control and authority to a centralized government in Columbus without regards to local needs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio only contributes \$10,000 per year for the operation of the Kent City Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Health Department is currently completing the Public Health Accreditation Board process which is in and of itself an effectiveness and efficiency survey eliminating the need for the State to duplicate this process; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Health Department has proven invaluable in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the entire City of Kent and surrounding communities during a time of global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kent **strenuously** objects to any effort by the State of Ohio to abolish the local Kent City Health Department, and moves that any effort to study the feasibility of dissolving the same or otherwise abolish it be immediately stricken from any State Budget proposals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Ohio General Assembly should immediately remove all language pertaining to House Bill 110 requiring "...a study examining the efficiency and effectiveness of the city health district merging with the general health district of the county in which the city is located." and oppose any effort in the State Budget that would abolish local city health departments in general and the Kent City Health Department specifically.

SECTION 2. The Kent City Health Department has proven invaluable to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the entire City of Kent and surrounding communities during a time of global pandemic, and the City opposes any efforts by the Governor or the Ohio General Assembly to abolish the same and deprive the local community of such a valuable and necessary asset to its citizens.

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 of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: May 19, 2021
Date

JTF
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: May 19, 2021
Date

ATTEST: Amy Wilkens
Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF RESOLUTION No. 2021-040, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON May 19, 20 21.

(SEAL)

Amy Wilkens
AMY WILKENS
CLERK OF COUNCIL