



CITY OF DUBLIN™

Office of the City Manager

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Memo

To: Members of Dublin City Council

From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager

Date: April 6, 2017

Initiated By: Heinz von Eckartsberg, Chief of Police

Re: Resolution 21-17 - Support for House Bill 115

Background

A new piece of legislation (HB 115) was introduced recently by Ohio Representative Theresa Gavaronne and Representative Scott Wiggam that will allow citizens who have a communications disability to voluntarily register in a statewide public safety database. This database would then be accessible by Ohio law enforcement officers through the state's Law Enforcement Automated Data System (Ohio LEADS). This information could be valuable to officers, as it will alert them to an affected person's diagnosis. This could be helpful when dealing with a person in a law enforcement encounter.

We believe that this legislation provides an important tool for law enforcement to help them be aware of a person's disability prior to face-to-face contact.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council approve Resolution 21-17 in support of House Bill 115.

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 21-17 Passed , 20

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 115
PROVIDING A VOLUNTARY REGISTRY FOR PERSONS WITH
COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 115 proposes a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification; and

WHEREAS, Dublin City Council, the Dublin Police Department, and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police believe that this legislation will benefit members of law enforcement, as well as persons diagnosed with a communication disability; and

WHEREAS, providing a voluntary process, by which persons with a communication disability can register to be included in a state-wide database could help to de-escalate encounters with police by providing a quick way for officers to recognize a diagnosed disability; and

WHEREAS, including specifics in the database about an affected person’s diagnosis that can be easily accessed by law enforcement officers could potentially provide this important information before any face-to-face contact is made; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Dublin, _____ of its elected members concurring, that:

Section 1. Passage of HB 115 by The Ohio General Assembly would be in the best interests of persons with communication disabilities and law enforcement personnel.

Section 2. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to appropriate State of Ohio officials.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect upon passage in accordance with Section 4.04(a) of the Revised Charter.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 2017

Mayor - Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council