

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2018

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW PHILADELPHIA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE RECEIVING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME (VOCA/SVAA) GRANT FOR PURPOSES OF CREATING A FULL-TIME VICTIM ADVOCATE POSITION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia Municipal Court is one of the highest volume courts in the State of Ohio. Last year, the court saw a 4.4% increase in cases handled with a total of 13,800 cases, which does not include cases that are reopened for probation violations or other secondary actions.; and

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office is responsible for the vast majority of those cases and is responsible for prosecuting all misdemeanor criminal cases for the City of New Philadelphia, all townships in the northern half of the county, as well as the Highway Patrol.; and

WHEREAS, last year the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office handled over 450 criminal cases that had victims, including charges of assault, domestic violence, violating a protection order, theft, criminal damaging and more. and;

WHEREAS, there were over 9,500 traffic cases last year in Municipal Court. Most of which were the responsibility of the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office since that office prosecutes nearly all of the Highway Patrol Cases. While not all of those cases had victims, a large amount of time is spent contacting victims of traffic accidents either for trial preparation or restitution.; and

WHEREAS, with the recent passage of Marsy's Law, ensuring Constitutional Rights to all criminal victims, an even larger burden has been placed on New Philadelphia Prosecutor's, which are not the best equipped to handle such matters because their position as advocates for the State of Ohio may sometimes place them at odds with some criminal victims whom they may be forced to compel testimony from in a criminal case.; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Philadelphia and the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office recognizes the fundamental and Constitutional Rights of all victims of crime, and wants to ensure that the best resources are available to assist crime victims.; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Philadelphia recognizes the urgent need for a Victim Advocate Position in the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office to best assist those who find themselves the victims of crime and ensure victims are afforded the best resources available. and;

WHEREAS, Victims of Crime (VOCA/SVAA) Grant would enable the City of New Philadelphia to create the Position of Victim Advocate in the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office to assist victims in the high volume of cases handled by that office.; and

WHEREAS, the New Philadelphia Prosecutor's Office is applying for the, Victims of Crime (VOCA/SVAA) Grant which will enable the City of New Philadelphia to employ a full-time Victim Advocate position.; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Philadelphia fully supports this effort to secure funding for a full-time Victim Advocate position.

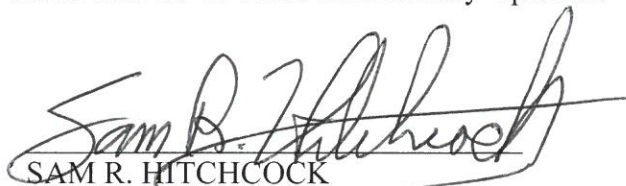
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO:

SECTION 1. The Council of the City of New Philadelphia offers its full support for the New Philadelphia Prosecutor Office's initiative to secure the Victims of Crime (VOCA/SVAA) Grant for the purposes of employing a full-time Victim Advocate position to address an urgent need for the heavy volume of criminal cases in the New Philadelphia Municipal Court with victims of crime, and thereby ensure that all criminal victims are afforded the best resources available to address an important and growing need in our community.

SECTION 2. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, and its immediate passage is necessary in order to preserve, protect, and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval.

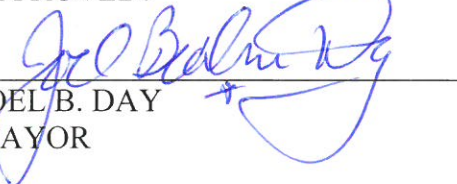
PASSED: June 11, 2018


SAM R. HITCHCOCK
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:


JULIE COURTRIGHT
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:


JOEL B. DAY
MAYOR

SPONSORED BY: SALARY COMMITTEE