



THE FLORIDA SENATE
THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



February 20, 2019

The Honorable Lenny Curry, Mayor
City of Jacksonville
City Hall at St. James Building
117 W. Duval St. Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mayor Curry,

The safety of our beautiful city of Jacksonville has been under siege in a rash of gun violence and related homicides. Many of the occurrences have involved young people, both as victims and victimizers. There have been 23 confirmed murders within just 48 days of 2019, and more awaiting classification potentially as such. At the current murder rate, 2019 has the potential to surpass the 2018 murder rate “with a quickness.”

The situation in various communities in the city has risen to a crisis of monumental proportion. To stem the onslaught of death and gun violence in Jacksonville, we are calling on you to act now utilizing all resources at your disposal, to include the deployment of state resources and requests for federal assistance, to aid in the emergency our city faces. This violence is affecting the lives of everyday citizens: our children are living in fear, our seniors are living in fear, our families are living in fear, and our small business community fears economic despair. We are a city in a “State of Urgency” emergency.

We cannot sit on the sidelines allowing crime to continue to take over our city, risking the safety of the citizens of Jacksonville. And we cannot turn a blind eye to solutions within immediate reach.

Numerous studies have shown proven deterrents to the exploding gun crisis Jacksonville faces, which, if implemented, could bring about the urgent changes we need today.



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We are calling on you to act immediately by doing the following:

- Increase Public safety cameras in high-crime areas already identified
- Increase ShotSpotter sensors around Jacksonville
- Institute a city-wide curfew until such time the situation is under control
- Coordination with the governor's office for supplementing our local law enforcement's efforts

While we appreciate the creation of your task force, we believe that this issue must have a coordinated state and city-wide comprehensive crime prevention and intervention plan today, including relief for our thinly-stretched police force desperately in need of reinforcements.

For the sake of our children, our families, and our local business community in the city of Jacksonville, we ask that you respond to this request immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey Gibson".

Senator Audrey Gibson
District 6

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracie Davis".

Representative Tracie Davis
District 13

cc: Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor