

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**May 8, 2024**

**RESOLUTION**

**GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Board, the Department, and the Health Officer are responsible under Alabama Code §§ 22-3-1–5 to exercise supervision over the sanitary conditions and public health conditions in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department’s 2017-2021 Strategic Plan included an Objective to “establish a strategy for JCDH to address the problem of violence in Jefferson County;” and

**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2022, the Jefferson County Board of Health authorized the disbursement of Jefferson County Department of Health funds as specified above to the Jefferson County Public Health Fund of The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (Advised Fund) for funding of a Hospital-linked Violence Intervention Program in Jefferson County to further the Board’s public health work in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2023, the Jefferson County Board of Health and the City of Birmingham, Alabama, entered into an agreement to implement a hospital-based and hospital-linked violence intervention program to reduce gun violence and further the Board’s public health work in Jefferson County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department’s 2023-2026 Strategic Plan includes a Goal to “Engage and collaborate with community members and organizational partners to facilitate and communicate equitable improvements to health and well-being throughout Jefferson County”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) is committed to the safety and well-being of all its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the JCDH recognizes the importance of responsible gun ownership and the role it plays in preventing accidental injuries and fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 21, 2024, at least 42 persons in Jefferson County have died as a result of gun violence, as reported at <https://gunmemorial.org/AL/birmingham> (“Fatal Shootings in Birmingham, Alabama—Real people, not just statistics”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to his statutory authority (including Alabama Code section 22-3-5(11)), the County Health Officer has identified gun violence as a hazard to public health and recommends the distribution of gun locks free of charge to the residents of Jefferson County as an appropriate control measure to reduce loss of life; and

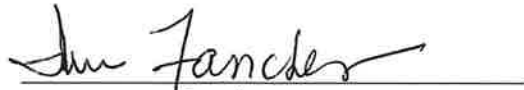
**WHEREAS**, the Board agrees that providing free gun locks to community members is a proactive step towards enhancing public safety and promoting responsible gun storage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Board of Health declares gun violence as a public health problem.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the JCDH, through its Health Officer, will collaborate with local organizations, stakeholders, and community leaders to ensure the successful implementation of this program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes the use of Jefferson County Department of Health funds to provide and distribute gun locks free of charge to the residents of Jefferson County as part of its ongoing commitment to community health and safety; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, signifying the JCDH's dedication to fostering a safe and healthy environment for all.

  
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Iris Fancher, MD, Chair  
Jefferson County Board of Health