

An introduction by Council Members Calsolaro and Conti

Ordinance Number 71.111.06 (As amended)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 3 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY) OF CHAPTER 42 (DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE XI-A ENTITLED “GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE.”

The City of Albany, in Common Council convened, does hereby ordain and enact:

Section 1. Chapter 42, Part 3 of the Code of the City of Albany is amended by adding thereto a new Article XI-A entitled “Gun Violence Task Force” to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XI-A
GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE**

§ 42-73. Legislative intent; purpose.

A. The City of Albany has been experiencing a rash of violent criminal acts where firearms have been involved. Many of these violent gun incidents have both a youth perpetrator and a youth victim.

B. These violent criminal acts have either taken the lives of many victims or left many victims with great physical as well as emotional injuries. Beyond the immediate harm to the victims and their families, these violent gun acts have a detrimental effect on the social character of the City, leading to a perception that Albany is an unsafe city which hurts the efforts of the city administration to promote Albany as a place to live, visit, or invest in.

§ 42-74. Establishment.

There shall be, and is hereby, established a Gun Violence Task Force in the City of Albany to research and develop strategies to reduce gun violence.

§ 42-75. Membership; term; compensation; vacancies.

A. The Gun Violence Task Force shall be composed of thirteen voting members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the Common Council and six of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor. The majority of Task Force members shall be residents of the City of Albany and shall be individuals who possess a knowledge or interest in gun violence related issues. The members shall serve without compensation. The Task Force may include representatives of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, governmental departments, academics or other municipalities.

B. The Common Council will designate one of the voting members as Chairperson. Vacancies on the Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the predecessor to fill the unexpired term.

C. The work of the Task Force shall be completed within one year after the appointment of its members at which time the Task Force will cease to exist.

§ 42-76. Powers and duties.

The Task Force shall:

A. Prepare a report on the number and types of gun related offenses, with as much detail as possible, in the City of Albany from the year 2000 to the present;

B. Compare the number and types of incidents to at least five other municipalities of similar size;

C. Research and report on programs used successfully by other municipalities to reduce gun related violence and the approximate cost of such programs.

D. Have the power to request documents, conduct public hearings, hear testimony of witnesses, and take any other action it deems necessary to carry out its functions. Every department, office, division, agency or public authority of this city shall cooperate to the full extent possible with the Task Force and furnish such information and assistance as the Task Force determines is reasonably necessary to accomplish its purpose in a timely fashion;

E. Research and report on other relevant issues related to gun violence and illegal ownership of guns.

§ 42-77. Expenses.

Neither the Task Force nor its members shall incur any cost or expense for or on behalf of or payable by the City of Albany without written authorization of the Common Council.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
October , 2006

S/_____
Corporation Counsel