

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 189

BY SENATORS CROWE, PETERSON, ALARIO, APPEL, HEITMEIER, MORRELL
AND MURRAY

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Urgently requests additional assistance and resources to fight crime in New Orleans, and designates this resolution as "The Briana "Bri" Allen Resolution for Peace".

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To make an urgent request for additional assistance and resources to fight crime in New
3 Orleans on behalf of five year old Briana "Bri" Allen who randomly and senselessly
4 lost her life to violent crime in New Orleans.

5 WHEREAS, this resolution shall heretofore be referred to as "The Briana "Bri" Allen
6 Memorial Resolution for Peace".

7 WHEREAS, New Orleans is faced with the highest per capita murder rate in the
8 country; and

9 WHEREAS, just this week an innocent five year old girl named Briana "Bri" Allen
10 was murdered shortly after graduating from kindergarten; and

11 WHEREAS, at the time of the murder this innocent child was celebrating a family
12 member's 10th birthday; and

13 WHEREAS, at the same gathering another innocent ten year old child was shot in
14 the neck but survived the stray gunshots, and this is just one of four separate incidents of
15 random shootings on the same day that left four dead and four injured in a period of only
16 three hours; and

17 WHEREAS, the streets are becoming more and more dangerous for the public and
18 for police and in the midst of the rampant crime, more and more the innocent victims are our

1 children; and

2 WHEREAS, with Louisiana recently being named the most violent state in the
3 nation, in large part because of the violence in and around New Orleans, our people, our
4 businesses and industries, and our potential for economic development in the state will
5 suffer; and

6 WHEREAS, New Orleans not only attracts tourists and industry from all over the
7 world, it is a major driver of the state's economy and the state's national reputation which
8 makes the staggering crime rate a shared problem that requires a shared solution; and

9 WHEREAS, in New Orleans, forty Department of Corrections Probation and Parole
10 Officers supervise over six thousand five hundred individuals on probation or parole; and

11 WHEREAS, statistically that is one hundred fifty probation or paroled individuals
12 per officer, which is well above the state workload average and almost double the national
13 workload average; and

14 WHEREAS, with this comparatively small number of probation and parole officers
15 assigned to New Orleans, it is impossible to rigorously supervise these individuals which is
16 definitely a contributing factor to the increase in crime; and

17 WHEREAS, the Senate strongly urges and requests that the number of Department
18 of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services probation and parole officers assigned
19 to New Orleans be doubled; and

20 WHEREAS, every time the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) responds to
21 or handles an accident on the interstate, particularly I-10, I-510 or I-610, instead of the state
22 police, other parts of the city get neglected; and

23 WHEREAS, on any given day, the NOPD typically dedicates six cars to monitor the
24 interstate traffic; and

25 WHEREAS, if state troopers can be dedicated to the interstate system in New
26 Orleans as well as, major state highways, and state-controlled properties in New Orleans, it
27 would be a tremendous help in freeing up NOPD to fight crime and murder in the city; and

28 WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request the colonel of the state police
29 to work with the mayor of the city of New Orleans to resolve some of these issues so
30 additional resources can be allocated to the city and thereby free up local resources to be

1 used to target violent crime and murder in the city; and

2 WHEREAS, while the district attorney and the public defender are critical and
3 important parts of the criminal justice system, currently the New Orleans' General Fund pays
4 out nearly eight million dollars in local funds to these two state entities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request that the state fully fund and
6 adequately support these two state entities; and

7 WHEREAS, New Orleans loses of behavioral health beds and services means fewer
8 services for those who may be a danger to themselves and the community; and

9 WHEREAS, this means police and first responders are diverted to those individuals
10 whose true obstacles are behavioral health needs instead of traditional public safety
11 concerns; and

12 WHEREAS, the Senate would like to urge and request the Department of Health and
13 Hospitals to provide adequate budgeting for out patient mental health and substance abuse
14 services including a Mobile Crisis Response Team, four Crisis Step-Down Beds, an
15 Assertive Community Treatment Team, and an Intensive Case Management Team; and

16 WHEREAS, another year cannot go by without all stakeholders contributing to
17 address the escalating crime in New Orleans and all factors outlined above are critical and
18 intertwined in realizing solutions; and

19 WHEREAS, the time is now for the state to intervene with additional assistance and
20 resources.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate would like to urge and request
22 that the state police, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the commissioner of
23 administration, and the Department of Health and Hospitals all work with the mayor of the
24 city of New Orleans to dedicate more state resources to the area so local resources can be
25 freed up and used to target violent crime and murder in the city thereby restoring faith that
26 New Orleans, Louisiana, is a safe place to live, work, and play.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall heretofore be referred to
28 as "The Briana "Bri" Allen Memorial Resolution for Peace".

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 superintendent of the office of state police, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety

1 and Corrections, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the commissioner
2 of administration, the governor, the mayor of the city of New Orleans, and the family of
3 Briana "Bri" Allen.
4

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

DIGEST

Crowe

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