

Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN Legislation

Bill (Ordinance): BL2021-612

An ordinance establishing a Special Commission to review and investigate the circumstances and responses pertaining to the suicide bombing in Nashville on December 25, 2020, and to make any recommendations regarding public safety improvements.

WHEREAS, on December 25, 2020, a suicide bomber detonated a large explosion in downtown Nashville on 2nd Avenue North; and

WHEREAS, the explosion caused extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure, significant business closures, job losses, and displaced people from their homes; and

WHEREAS, many lives were saved as a result of the heroic actions of first responders and public safety personnel of Nashville and Davidson County; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County is committed to learning from this tragic bombing;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County is committed to transparently report what happened, why it happened, and any areas of potential improvement in policies, practices, procedures, and/or laws; and

WHEREAS, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requires that these matters be pursued diligently.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. There is hereby established a Special Bombing Review Commission ("the Commission"). The Commission shall be comprised of nine members. Seven members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor, which are not subject to confirmation by the Metropolitan Council ("Council"). The remaining two members shall include the Chair of the Council Public Safety Committee (or another Council Member designated by such Chair) and the Vice Mayor (or his designee). The Commission members shall be appointed not later than twenty (20) days after adoption of this ordinance. The Commission shall promptly meet to select a Chair and to establish rules for the conduct of its business.

Section 2. The purpose of the Commission is to review and investigate the circumstances surrounding the suicide bombing in Nashville on December 25, 2020, to make recommendations regarding possible improvements, procedures, and policy changes to reduce the likelihood of another bombing in Nashville, and to improve the city's response to similar emergencies in the future.

To accomplish the purpose of the Commission, the Commission is hereby granted the authority, but not the obligation, to conduct its own investigation, hold hearings, request the services of the Metropolitan Auditor, and, upon adoption of a resolution by the Council, engage the services of outside professionals. Further, as a result of the investigatory authority granted herein, the Commission shall have the right pursuant to Section 18.10 of the Metropolitan Charter to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and records pertinent to the investigation or any hearing, and to administer oaths to witnesses.

The Commission shall prepare a Report and Recommendations to the Council about its findings and any recommendations for further action, within one year from the date of the first meeting of the Commission.

The Commission shall terminate upon its submission of the Report and Recommendations to the Council.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Mayor _____

Date _____

John Cooper