

STATE OF TENNESSEE
Sumner County



SEPTMBER 18, 2023
Date: _____

STATE OF TENNESSEE, SUMNER COUNTY Board of County Commissioners

I, the undersigned County Clerk, do hereby
certify that this is a true and correct copy
of the original instrument filed in this office.
Given under my hand and the seal of office

RESOLUTION

This 22nd day of Sept. 2023

Carolyn Simploton Clerk by Janice Mitchell No. 2309-14
SUMNER COUNTY CLERK DC

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the future of Sumner County, Tennessee relies on the health and wellbeing of its children and young people; and

WHEREAS, children are our greatest treasure, and our most vulnerable population. We must always weigh the risk of harm to children in public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, we value integrity and excellence and will not trade the innocence of children for other governmental goals; and

WHEREAS, protecting the innocence of children should be an issue of concern for all adults; and

WHEREAS, adults and children are increasingly overtly sexualized in our nation, state, and county; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent Tennessee Department of Health report titled "Sexual Violence" there were 4,582 victims of sexual assault in the Mid-Cumberland Region from 2016 to 2020 with 2,737 of those cases (59.7%) being under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the average age of a child sold for sex is 13 years old and human trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal industry; and

WHEREAS, the exposure to and normalization of sexualized behaviors reduces children's inhibitions and ability to protect themselves from the sexual advances of others; and

WHEREAS, children learn from observing and subsequently acting out the behaviors they have observed. Children who have observed sexualized behaviors or who have been the victim of sexual assault may act out with other children at home or school, which may lead to additional child victims; and

WHEREAS, the normalization of sexualized behaviors and content to children is not in the long-term interest of children or society. Wholesome, good, and honorable content and activities should be promoted to children instead.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Sumner County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the 18th day of September 2023 is committed to protecting the innocence of children, and to cultivating healthy children, families, communities, and institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no county staff or resources shall be allocated to activities, programs, events, content, or institutions which support, normalize, or encourage the sexualization of children and youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution applies to the extent that it does not conflict with Tennessee law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board encourages individuals and communities to promote the good and the honorable to children rather than the normalization of sexual behaviors, protecting the health and wellbeing of our children and the future of our county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Sumner County Commission is directed to establish an ad-hoc committee to study and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Sumner County Commission to address the threat of sexualization of children in Sumner County in accordance with "Exhibit A" attached hereto.

CERTIFICATE OF ACTION



COUNTY CLERK



COUNTY MAYOR

9/22/2023

DATE

Ayes: 22 Nays: 0 Abs: 0

APPROVED: REJECTED:

Exhibit A

Amendment – Create an adhoc committee that serves as a task force to make recommendations to all of our governing bodies in our county to address threats to our children. Threats like our current mental health crisis, which according to the same TBI data is a larger threat to our kids than this resolution addresses. This task force should include leaders from our non-profits/counseling centers (Ashley's Place, BABB Center), faith leaders throughout our county, our school principals and administrators, our criminal court judges and anyone else they recommend that can help offer solutions that get to and address the root of the issue and work alongside the TBI and other state resources in fighting this issue and finding solutions that work.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, SUMNER COUNTY

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certify that this is a true and correct copy
of the original instrument filed in this office.
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This 22nd day of Sept. 2023

Carolyn Seropletan, Clerk by Jennifer Mitchell, DC
SUMNER COUNTY CLERK