

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 029

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE KENT SAFETY TOWN DECLARATION OF COLLECTIVE INTENT (DCI) FOR THE COMPLETION OF A PERMANENT SAFETY TOWN IN KENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, the Rotary Club of Kent has initiated the completion of a permanent Safety Town in Kent and has raised funds for the project from the Community and the State of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, a project planning team with stakeholders in the community has been established and includes representatives from Kent Junior Mothers, Kent City School District, Kent State University and Kent Parks and Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the DCI is a formal declaration that the community stakeholders will work cooperatively to share resources, ideas and talent to complete the project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** That Council does hereby authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to consider and approve the Kent Safety Town Declaration of Collective Intent (DCI) for the completion of a permanent Safety Town in Kent and is more fully described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: 4/16/25  
Date

J T Fiala  
Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: 4/16/25  
Date

ATTEST: Kathleen Coleman  
Kathleen Coleman  
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2025-029, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON April 16, 2025.

(SEAL)



KATHLEEN COLEMAN  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

CITY OF KENT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

MEMO

TO: Dave Ruller  
Kathy Coleman

FROM: Jim Bowling *JB*

DATE: March 17, 2025

RE: Kent Safety Town – Declaration of Collective Intent

We are requesting Council’s consideration and approval of the attached Declaration of Collective Intent (“DCI”). The Rotary Club of Kent (“Rotary”) has initiated the completion of a permanent Safety Town in Kent (“Project”). Rotary has made a considerable start to making the permanent Safety Town a reality. Rotary has raised funds for the project from the Community and the State of Ohio. They have also established a project planning team with stakeholders in the community for the completion of the project. The planning team includes representatives from the Kent Junior Mothers, the Kent City School District, Kent State University and the Kent Parks and Recreation Department.

The DCI, is a formal declaration that the community stakeholders will work cooperatively to share resources, ideas and talent to complete the Project. The DCI, will commit only staff time and knowledge to progress the project. If in the future, funding or additional resources are required there would be a subsequent agreement that would require Council’s consideration and approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

C: Melanie Baker  
Angela Manley  
Sam Tuttle

## **KENT SAFETY TOWN DECLARATION OF COLLECTIVE INTENT**

**March 13, 2025**

**Whereas**, the Kent Junior Mothers provide annual safety training for children each year, teaching each child how to stay safe as they walk, bike, etc., on City streets and sidewalks; and

**Whereas**, the Kent Junior Mothers currently provide this training at different local Kent City schools, they are hoping to enhance the educational experience of child safety by establishing a permanent, fully-equipped site in a new “Safety Town Kent”, similar to safety towns in neighboring cities; and

**Whereas**, the Kent Rotary has raised funds in the community and from State of Ohio in support to study and advance the creation of a new Safety Town Kent; and

**Whereas**, Kent Rotary members have attended Kent City Council and Kent City School Board of Education public meetings to share their vision for the new Safety Town Kent and have received unanimous support for the project concept: and

**Whereas**, public safety is a critical component of the mission of the Kent City government; and

**Whereas**, the Kent City Schools are committed to childhood education and safety in the classroom and in the community; and

**Whereas**, Kent State University is a dedicated community partner that supports the project in principle and has offered in kind services where needed to assist in the project; and

**Whereas**, the Kent City School owns land adjacent to Holden Elementary School on Franklin Avenue that the Board of Education is willing to make available for repurposing that is accessible and proximate to the surrounding neighborhood, with favorable topography to host Safety Town Kent; and

**Whereas**, the proposed Safety Town Kent site is near the Holden Recreation Center, creating opportunities for expanded Parks and Recreation programming that could include the use of the amenities of the site; and

**Whereas**, the Historic South End neighborhood has been an area of rising community pride and is an ideal location to serve for Safety Town Kent which would also be a neighborhood amenity and pocket park; and

**Whereas**, City of Kent and Kent City school staff recently completed the “Safe Travel Plan” identifying and emphasizing opportunities to upgrade the safety of school children getting to and from school; and

**Whereas**, representatives from Kent Rotary invited representatives from stakeholders in the project to be a part of a project planning team that has researched best practices in Safety Town design and are recommending securing commitments;

**Whereas**, the parties as signatories to this document who are involved in planning the Kent Safety Town site will finalize a statement of responsibility for maintenance, up-keep, and repair of the property they are sharing once they approve the design of the Kent Safety town site.

Therefore, be it hereby resolved, that the parties to this Declaration of Collective Intent commit to each other and the members of the Kent community that they will work cooperatively to advance the Safety Town Kent project, sharing resources, ideas and talent to develop a site plan, construction blueprint, funding strategy, and operational plan.

Declaration of Collective Intent Community Partners

\_\_\_\_\_ Kent Junior Mothers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rotary Club of Kent  
\_\_\_\_\_ Kent City Schools  
\_\_\_\_\_ City of Kent Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ City of Kent Parks and Recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Kent State University