

RES 17-061

Wilmington, Delaware
September 21, 2017

#4406

Sponsors:

Council
President
Shabazz

Council
Member
Chukwuocha

WHEREAS, at the request of the Wilmington City Council, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) conducted an investigation into youth firearm violence in Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the CDC issued its final report assessing gun violence through a public health lens, taking into account a variety of complex factors which could contribute to an individual’s participation in gun-related criminal activity and offering recommendations to identify high-risk individuals and provide services to intervene before the commission of violence; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, in conjunction with City and community leaders, convened the CDC Community Advisory Council, composed of key community stakeholders to provide recommendations on the proposed, evidence-based, integrated services to be provided to youth who are considered at high risk of committing violence; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of that CDC Community Advisory Council have been shared with the Delaware Department of Education, undoubtedly a key stakeholder and a pivotal component of many of the proposals; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Survey for Children’s Health, more than 60% of Wilmington children have experienced some form of trauma in their lives, with 27.5% having two or more adverse experiences, compared to the Delaware average of 22.8%; and

WHEREAS, during the academic year, children spend the vast majority of their weekdays interacting with school and school transportation personnel, including crossing guards and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that young men and women live in caring communities, which help them to develop and foster positive personal and social assets for resilience, and that they have opportunities to focus on personal pathways to success that address individual and community trauma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council respectfully encourages all Delaware educators and educational staff members who interact with children, including crossing guards and bus drivers, to be provided with professional development training related to trauma-informed practice. Council believes that the provision of such training will help educational practitioners and staff in their interactions with children who may have experienced personal or community trauma, and to improve outcomes for those children as a result.

Passed by City Council,
September 21, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seijs
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 18th
day of September, 2017.

Elizabeth D. Lowe
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages all Delaware educators and educational staff members who interact with children, including crossing guards and bus drivers, to be provided with professional development training related to trauma-informed practice. This encouragement is connected to the recommendations of the CDC Community Advisory Council and its efforts to help comprehensively address youth firearm violence in Wilmington through a public health lens.