



City of Wilmington

Loretta Walsh
City Council Member At-Large

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Public Safety Committee

Loretta Walsh, Chair
Michelle Harlee
Yolanda McCoy
Charles M. "Bud" Freel
Ciro Adams
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

NOTICE

Public Safety Committee Meeting

March 12, 2018

5:00 p.m.

1st Floor Council Committee Room

Agenda

- Discuss a Resolution Urging State and Federal Lawmakers to Enact Stricter Gun Violence Prevention Measures
- Discuss a Resolution Concerning Trauma-Informed Treatments for Children Exposed to Violence

Wilmington, Delaware
April 5, 2018

#XXXX

Sponsor:

Council
President
Shabazz

WHEREAS, the tragedy that unfolded at Stoneman Douglas High School, and which claimed the lives of 17 students, marked the 17th firearm-related incident occurring at a school in 2018 – 6 of which led to at least one victim being killed or wounded – according to Everytown for Gun Safety. It was the 25th fatal school shooting since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999; and

WHEREAS, gun violence touches every segment of our society, disproportionately affects communities of color and annually claims the lives of over 30,000 people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, assault-style weapons have become popular among assailants, leading to elevated death tolls and injury counts. With more than 350 million guns in circulation throughout the United States, children and young adults (24 years of age and under) constitute 38% of all firearm deaths and non-fatal injuries; and

WHEREAS, legislative action (a) raising the minimum age to buy a rifle, (b) banning the use, sale or possession of bump stocks, and (c) restricting felons or the “mentally ill” from immediately accessing dangerous weapons, can have a drastic impact on mitigating gun-related incidents. Eighteen states, most of which feature the lowest per capita homicide rates across the United States, have enacted various prohibitive policies on assault-style weapons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Wilmington City Council calls upon the United States Congress and Delaware General Assembly to prioritize the protection of all Delawareans in

enacting legislation that more effectively restricts and regulates access to firearms, fund initiatives aimed at addressing firearms-related issues and raise awareness on availability of mental health resources. Council further encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 300, prohibiting the sale, transfer or possession of a bump-fire device designed to accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle, House Bill 302, which restricts gun access for individuals deemed dangerous to others or themselves and House Bill 330, raising the legal age where it is permissible for a person to buy, sell, give or transfer a firearm or ammunition from 18 years old to 21.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____

City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the United States Congress and the Delaware General Assembly to enact legislation supporting gun violence prevention measures for the purpose of protecting and promoting the health, safety and welfare of all.

Wilmington, Delaware
April 5, 2018

WHEREAS, around the United States, public safety is among the most important responsibilities of city governments and remains the foundation for all social goods, from health and education to community cohesion, and beyond; and

#XXXX

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WHEREAS, each year, millions of children are exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities. African-American children and youth, who are among the most likely members of our society to be exposed to trauma, are also among the least likely to receive the services that could prevent the development of trauma-related emotional and behavioral difficulties. Exposure to youth violence, which characteristically includes children who witness or are victimized by violence, should be treated as a public health crisis and has been shown to interfere with the development of a child's ability to self-regulate and learn from life experiences; and

WHEREAS, adolescence is a time of many changes for youth and the way a child responds to trauma depends upon their developmental level, environmental factors and family setting. According to a study conducted by Center for American Progress, Twenty-six percent of children in the United States will witness or experience a traumatic event before they turn four. Children of color living in poverty, which account for 38 percent of African American children, 32 percent of Hispanic children and 35 percent of Native American, are most likely to experience multiple traumatic events, a major risk factor for psychological distress; and

WHEREAS, reinvestment and increased support for outreach programs such as the Child Development - Community Policing Program, (CD-CP) operated by the Wilmington

Police Department, engage the community in creating and sustaining environments that prevent violence and promote positive youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, National Youth Violence Prevention Week, March 19-23, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the problem of youth exposure to violence, and to educate our whole community about ways to stop or prevent violence; and

WHEREAS, traumatized youth who do not receive sufficient care and protection often struggle to cope with and process what they've seen or experienced, leading youth to react without thinking clearly about their own and others' safety and the consequences thereafter and the development of coping skills just to survive and function day-to-day; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of how trauma affects children and youth is the first step towards creating a community sensitive to the effects of trauma. Schools and community organizations play a vital role in preparing staff to identify and address the needs of children and youth and aid in the prevention of developmental behavioral and mental health problems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council calls upon the Mayor, district superintendents, school boards and community organizations serving youth throughout the City of Wilmington to ensure that all of Wilmington's children who have been impacted by violent acts be provided the resources necessary to more effectively overcome barriers to trauma-informed treatment.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This resolution emphasizes the importance of public safety and the need to strengthen and enact trauma-informed practices to better support children exposed to violence. Further, the resolution calls upon collaborative efforts between the Mayor, district superintendents, school boards and community organizations to create communities sensitive to the effects of trauma raise and support relationships that can facilitate trauma recovery.

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