



City of Wilmington

Loretta Walsh
City Council Member At-Large

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Public Safety Committee

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

➤ REVISED NOTICE

Public Safety Committee Meeting
May 7, 2018
5:00 p.m.
1st Floor Council Committee Room

Agenda

- A Resolution Concerning Trauma-Informed Treatments for Children Exposed to Violence
- A Resolution Supporting the American Civil Liberties Union's Campaign for Smart Justice
- Discuss a Resolution Authorizing the Wilmington Police Department to Submit a Grant Application to the Delaware Criminal Justice Council to fund a Crime Analyst position and a Consultant for a Strategic Intervention Plan

REV. 1 (04/30/18)

Any members of the public who wish to speak during the committee meeting will be limited to three minutes per agenda item. If the public's permission to comment is abused, the Chair may exercise greater discretion in limiting public comment.

Wilmington, Delaware
May 17, 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

Sponsor:

Council
President
Shabazz

WHEREAS, each year, millions of children are exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities. African-American children and youth, 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, has been shown to interfere with the development of a child's ability to self-regulate and learn from life experiences, and must be treated as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Center for American Progress found that twenty-six percent of children in the United States will witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of four, and the way a child responds to trauma depends upon their developmental level, environmental factors and family setting; and

WHEREAS, 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 more 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, 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 to 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.

Wilmington, Delaware
May 17, 2018

#XXXX

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Dixon**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
President
Shabazz**

**Council
Member
Oliver**

WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was constructed to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ACLU's Campaign for Smart Justice represents a nationwide campaign effort committed to redesigning the criminal justice system – one that is substantially smaller, centered on restorative justice practices and helps people make a successful transition back to mainstream society. Today, the United States makes up about 5 percent of the world's population and has 21 percent of the world's prisoners; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, African Americans represented 12 percent of the U.S. adult population but 33 percent of the sentenced prison population. These disproportionate outcomes are attributable to "tough on crime" policies and legislation enacted by policymakers in the 1980s. From 1980 to 2007 about one in three of the 25.4 million adults arrested for drugs was African American. Mandatory minimums and three-strikes sentencing laws have resulted in unnecessarily harsh and disproportionately devastating racial disparities within our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, according to the Sentencing Project, despite African American juveniles accounting for only 16 percent of the youth population, 37 percent of their cases are moved to criminal court and 58 percent of African American youth are sent to adult prisons. Harsh school punishments, from suspensions to arrests, have led to high numbers of youth of color encountering the juvenile-justice system at an earlier age; and

WHEREAS, of April 2018, there are a total of 1,074 sentenced inmates and 544 detentioners being held at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution. African Americans account for 67 percent of the correctional population, where nearly half of the population is between the ages of 19 and 30. Based on analysis performed by the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, about 75 percent of offenders were rearrested for a serious offense within 3 years of their release, and the average term for those sentenced to more than one year was 742 days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council supports the bipartisan effort of the ACLU's Campaign for Smart Justice by recognizing the obstacles faced by previously incarcerated individuals and its negative impact on individuals, the community, and the City of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution offers support toward the ACLU's Campaign for Smart Justice – a multiyear effort to reduce the U.S. jail and prison population by 50%, combat racial disparities in the criminal justice system by challenging the injustices that have helped make America the world's largest incarcerator.

Wilmington, Delaware
May 17, 2018

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Walsh**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council's approval by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City, through the Wilmington Police Department, applied for a grant in the amount of \$151,362.00 from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council; and

WHEREAS, the proposed grant funds would be used to fund a Crime Analyst and Consultant for a Strategic Intervention Plan to combat violent crime in Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, no matching funds are required; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it necessary and proper to authorize the grant application, for the aforesaid purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Wilmington Police Department's grant application to the Delaware Criminal Justice Council in the amount of \$151,362.00 is hereby authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,
May 17, 2018

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution authorizes the Wilmington Police Department's application for a grant from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council in the amount of \$151,362.00. The funds will be used to fund a Crime Analyst and Consultant for a Strategic Intervention Plan to combat violent crime in Wilmington. No local matching funds are required.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: There is no negative fiscal impact on the City, because no local matching funds are required by the grant.

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