

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of City efforts to prevent and respond to gun violence, in order to ensure transparency and accountability as the City makes historic new investments in this area

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia has made significant efforts in recent years to better prevent and respond to gun violence. Among those efforts are the establishment of Council's Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention and the Kenney Administration's Office of Violence Prevention; the creation of the City's first citywide violence prevention plan, The Roadmap to Safer Communities, which was followed by Roadmap 2.0; and the establishment and subsequent expansion of evidence-informed programs including the Group Violence Intervention, Community Crisis Intervention, and Targeted Community Investment programs. Meanwhile, some legacy programs have been overhauled or eliminated. At the same time, a formal framework has been developed for cross-departmental collaboration and planning on the issue of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Nevertheless, Philadelphia has experienced years of increasing gun violence, which spiked further during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 pace of murders exceeds any in recorded history, and non-fatal shootings have risen commensurately, making gun death and injury a daily fact of life in Philadelphia. This trend raises grave questions regarding the efficacy and adequacy of the City's efforts to reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the growing crisis that gun violence in Philadelphia has become, Council and the Kenney Administration have negotiated an historic increase in spending on violence prevention and response. However, as City spending in this area increases, transparency and accountability become ever more imperative; and

WHEREAS, Despite the appropriation of significant funds in recent years for outside, independent evaluation of City spending on violence prevention, and repeated calls by both City and community leaders, no evaluations have been completed; and

WHEREAS, As a result, this Resolution authorizes hearings on a quarterly basis, or more often as appropriate, to ensure that the City's efforts to prevent and address gun violence are made transparently and effectively; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of Philadelphia does hereby authorize the Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of City efforts to prevent and respond to gun violence, in order to ensure transparency and accountability as the City makes historic new investments in this area.