

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0235R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Welch, President Young, and All Members

Introduced and read first time: June 1, 2015

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: July 20, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Trauma Counseling for Children Affected by Violence

FOR the purpose of calling on the Mayor and the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools to act to ensure that all of Baltimore's children who have been affected by the recent violence have access to trauma counseling to help them move past this difficult time in their lives.

Recitals

Baltimore's recent civil unrest, followed by an ongoing and unprecedented surge in gun violence throughout the city, has made the last several weeks harrowing and traumatic for far too many Baltimoreans. As hard as it has been for many adults, this violent spring has doubtless been even more difficult to process for our children.

Children impacted by violence have been shown to be more prone to developmental and emotional issues and more likely to act violently themselves. This is a vicious cycle that must be stopped before it can mar the lives of another generation.

In the immediate aftermath of the April rioting, the school system announced that it would make trauma counselors available to those students struggling to deal with what they had seen and experienced. This was a commendable effort that should be continued and expanded to make counselors available to all youths who have been affected by our city's recent violence.

The City should spare no effort to make mental health resources and trauma counselors available to affected youths in schools, rec centers, and other appropriate spaces. To do otherwise, and risking leaving our most innocent and vulnerable citizens struggling to cope with the mental scars caused by a situation beyond their control, is not an acceptable option.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on the Mayor and the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools to act to ensure that all of Baltimore's children who have been affected by the recent violence have access to trauma counseling to help them move past this difficult time in their lives.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of Recreation and Parks, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.