

**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

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Trauma Counseling for Children Affected by Violence**

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

6 **Recitals**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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