


Dr. Debra Y. Brooks

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Debra Y. Brooks, Ed.D., Executive Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success Room 345, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 22-0111R – Informational Hearing – Addressing Violence in Baltimore City		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

August 18, 2022

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success is herein reporting on City Council Bill 22-0111R – Informational Hearing – Addressing Violence in Baltimore City, the purpose of which is inviting representatives from various city agencies to discuss youth violence and the risk factors that are driving these incidents.

Background

The Mayor's Office and Children & Family Success (MOCFS) is charged with radically improving the lives of Baltimore's children and families by ensuring access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed and thrive. Specifically, MOCFS works to organize city and state agencies and community and nonprofit partners to deliver an ecosystem of support that lifts up youth, with a particular focus on boys and young men of color, and strengthens families by improving educational attainment and socioeconomic mobility.

Programmatically, MOCFS is engaged in the critical work of supporting our youth and curtailing the risk factors of violence. For instance, we facilitate the Baltimore Children's Cabinet which convenes city and state agencies and key external partners to align, focus, and increase the city's collective investment in our children and youth. The cabinet is staffed by MOCFS, and seven priorities guide our work: 1) Increase early childhood development, 2) Decrease youth food insecurity, 3) Decrease youth homelessness, 4) Increase youth literacy, 5) Increase trauma-informed care for youth, 6) Increase youth diversion practices, and 7) Break down historical barriers to success for black boys and young men. These priorities are grounded in the unacceptable odds that some of our children face.

Additionally, through our youth engagement platform, we work with partners across the community to connect youth to the resources they need to succeed and thrive, and to create leadership opportunities that place youth voice at the center of discussions and decision making that affect them most.

MOCFS welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this very important discussion on addressing youth violence, the needs of the children and families that we support, and how we collectively can address this important issue.

Conclusion

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success will attend the hearing for this resolution and respond to any subject matter inquiries.

cc: Faith Leach
Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis