

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 23-0195R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes
Introduced and read first time: October 16, 2023
Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore Police Department, Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Addressing Youth Violence in Baltimore City**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Baltimore City Police Commissioner; the State’s Attorney for
4 Baltimore City; the Chief Academic Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System; the
5 Deputy Commissioner of Youth Wellness & Community Health from the Baltimore City
6 Health Department; the Chief of Police for the Baltimore City School Police; the Director of
7 the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; the Director of the Mayor’s
8 Office of Children and Family Success; the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment
9 Development; the Director of the Mayor’s Office of African-American Male Engagement;
10 the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Performance and Innovation; and interested members of
11 the Baltimore City Youth Commission to come before the City Council to discuss the
12 increase in youth violence across the city; and the risk factors that are driving these incidents.

13 **Recitals**

14 Within a three day span in September 2023, a 12-year old boy was shot while attending a
15 football game at Dunbar High School while a 14-year old girl was shot while walking down
16 Presstman Street in West Baltimore. Over the last 15-years, there have been approximately 220
17 youth under the age of 18 killed as a result of violence in Baltimore City. In 2021 more than 40
18 youth under the age of 18 were victims of non-fatal shootings with many of the perpetrators of
19 these crimes being members of the same age cohort. Research released in 2023 from the State
20 Department of Juvenile Services found a significant increase in violent gun crime committed
21 against young people, with a particular emphasis on Baltimore City.

22 Studies show that there is a gradual progression of delinquent behavior for youth and young
23 adults who end up in the criminal justice system. Home and school-based behavior can be used
24 as early warning signs of potential delinquent or criminal acts. A report generated by the
25 Maryland Department of Education showed that during school-year 2021–2022 5.3 percent of
26 students enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools were suspended or expelled.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 Globally, 84 percent of youth homicide victims are males, and most perpetrators are males
2 too. For every young person killed by violence, even more sustain injuries that require hospital
3 treatment. Statistics show that firearm attacks end more often in fatal injuries than assaults that
4 involve fists, feet, knives, and blunt force objects. Youth homicide and non-fatal violence not
5 only contribute greatly to the global burden of premature death, injury, and disability, but also
6 have a serious, often lifelong, impact on a person's psychological and social functioning.
7 Preventing youth violence requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the social
8 determinants of violence, such as income inequality, rapid demographic and social change, and
9 low levels of social protection.

10 In this hearing the City Council would like a briefing on:

- 11 1. The prior year statistics relating to homicides, non-fatal shootings, arrest, and other
12 part one crimes concerning youth 17 years of age and younger;
- 13 2. How we can build early warning systems to identify at-risk youth and young adults
14 between the ages of 9 through 14 years old;
- 15 3. How we can strengthen home and school-based violence prevention programs;
- 16 4. How we can create a Youth Coordinating Officer within each police district;
- 17 5. Creative ideas on how to re-establish the Police Athletic League program through
18 Public - Private partnerships;
- 19 6. The content being discussed, and the performance metrics being established for
20 YouthStat meetings so that partnering agencies can pinpoint critical issues affecting
21 youth and young adults; and
- 22 7. What programming will be put in place to mitigate against these issues.

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
24 Baltimore City Council invites the Baltimore City Police Commissioner; the State's Attorney for
25 Baltimore City; the Chief Academic Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System; the
26 Deputy Commissioner of Youth Wellness & Community Health from the Baltimore City Health
27 Department; the Chief of Police for the Baltimore City School Police; the Director of the
28 Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; the Director of the Mayor's Office of
29 Children and Family Success; the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development;
30 the Director of the Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement; the Director of the
31 Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation; and interested members of the Baltimore City
32 Youth Commission to come before the City Council to discuss the increase in youth violence
33 across the city; and the risk factors that are driving these incidents.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Police
2 Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department; the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City; the
3 Chief Academic Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System; the Deputy Commissioner
4 of Youth Wellness & Community Health from the Baltimore City Health Department; the Chief
5 of Police for the Baltimore City School Police; the Director of the Mayor’s Office of
6 Neighborhood Safety and Engagement; the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and
7 Family Success; the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development; the Director of
8 the Mayor’s Office of African-American Male Engagement; the Director of the Mayor’s Office
9 of Performance and Innovation; and interested members of the Baltimore City Youth
10 Commission and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.