

1 **..Title**

2 **Youth Violence** - For the purpose of declaring youth violence a public health epidemic; and  
3 supporting the establishment of City-wide trauma-informed education and response methods.

4 **..Body**

5 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**  
6 **City of Annapolis**

7  
8 **Resolution 30-20**

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10 **Introduced by: Alderman Gay**

11 **Co-sponsored by:**

12  
13 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

14  
15 **Youth Violence**

16  
17 **FOR** the purpose of declaring youth violence a public health epidemic; and supporting the  
18 establishment of City-wide trauma-informed education and response methods.

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20  
21 **WHEREAS,** youth across the city are committing acts of violence against one another and  
22 throughout their communities; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS,** violence is defined as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or  
25 actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which  
26 either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological  
27 harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS,** the Center for Disease Control reports that many people survive violence and are  
30 left with permanent physical and emotional scars, and that violence erodes  
31 communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting  
32 social services; and

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34 **WHEREAS,** in 1985, former United States Surgeon General C. Everett Koop declared violence  
35 as a public health issue and called for the application of the science of public health  
36 to the treatment and prevention of violence; and

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38 **WHEREAS,** an individual's characteristics, experiences, and environmental conditions during  
39 childhood and adolescence are an indicator of future violent behavior; and

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41 **WHEREAS,** ages 15 through 18, the ages that students spend in high school, are the peak years  
42 of offending; and

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44 **WHEREAS,** there is concern about high school dropout rates, academic performance, and  
45 violence in schools across this city based on what happens in city neighborhoods;  
46 and

1  
2 **WHEREAS**, the homicide rate among Black male youths between 10 and 25 years old is nearly  
3 20 times higher than the rate among White male youths; and  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, due to the violence epidemic, youth suffer from either primary or secondary trauma.  
6 Primary trauma is trauma associated with the violent death of a loved one.  
7 Secondary trauma results from exposure to violence present within their  
8 community; and  
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10 **WHEREAS**, exposure to violence in families and communities, as well as exposure to homicidal  
11 death, can lead to youth-specific post-traumatic stress disorder with complex  
12 effects as well as homicidal grief; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, trauma is not easily visible within youth because it requires proper assessment and,  
15 due to the amount of violence youth are currently exposed to, measures should be  
16 taken to properly assess the issue; and  
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18 **WHEREAS**, a trauma-informed approach suggests that violence is not symptomatic of bad  
19 people but, rather, is a negative health outcome resulting from exposure to  
20 numerous risk factors. The public health approach to violence focuses on  
21 prevention through addressing the known factors that increase or decrease the  
22 likelihood of violence; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the experience of trauma impacts children of all situations and conditions across  
25 this city.  
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the  
28 City Council declares youth violence a public health epidemic and supports the establishment of  
29 City-wide trauma-informed education and response methods.  
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31  
32 **EXPLANATION**

33 Underlining indicates matter added.

34 [~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken.  
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