



STAFF REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

To: Mayor Gavin Buckley

From: Lyn Farrow, Assistant City Manager

Date: July 7, 2020

Subject: Resolution 30-20: Youth Violence

This resolution is a pronouncement that the City Council declares youth violence a public health epidemic and supports the establishment of citywide trauma-informed education and response methods. The resolution's sponsor sees this as a first step in a process that will include ordinances that will authorize the implementation of specific policies and strategies to prevent and reduce youth violence.

Numerous scholarly articles seek to prove that public health strategies should be used to combat violence. In *Youth Violence Prevention: Local Public Health Approach*, Calondra D. Tibbs, MPH; Dedra Layne, MSW, LGSW; Blaire Bryant, MPH; Margaret Carr, BS; Melanie Ruhe, MPH; Sheree Keitt, MPH; Jonathan Gross, MPH, CPH report the following:

The unintended consequences and widespread impact of youth violence make it a critical public health issue.^{7,8} Youth violence is a significant public health problem and is the third leading cause of death for adolescents 15 to 24 years of age in the United States.¹ In 2015, a total of 4891 adolescents aged 10 to 24 years were victims of homicide, and exponentially more adolescents are affected physically and mentally as a result of violence.² Youth violence is characterized by violent acts or behaviors that range from bullying to assault and can result in serious injury or death.³ Exposure to violence can have a lifelong impact, especially on children and adolescents, whether they are the perpetrator, victim, or witness to violence.³

Violence in any form directly affects the health and well-being of communities and increases the risk of additional poor health outcomes.⁴ The short- and long-term consequences of youth violence are extensive, spanning from psychological trauma to physical injury and death.⁵ Youth violence also has an ecological influence that affects families and communities and contributes to premature death, disability, and the overall burden of violence.^{5,6} Moreover, communities that experience youth violence suffer substantial economic impact^{5,6}; youth homicides and assault injuries cost approximately \$18.2 billion in health care and productivity loss.² In addition, the significant economic impact of decreasing property values in areas of high violent crime leads to disinvestment in communities and the disruption of social services.^{5,6}

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References

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