

A RESOLUTION

22-518

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 5, 2018

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2016 to require the Mayor to encourage the use of donations to leverage local funds appropriated to fund community violence interruption and prevention and expanded mental health responses to incidents of violence.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Community Violence Intervention Fund Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to ensure the safety of all District of Columbia residents, especially those who live in high crime areas. Violence intervention prevention efforts combat violence before it occurs.

(b) Over the past several months and especially in the past few days, there has been a surge in violent crime across the District. This past weekend there were 4 people left dead following 10 shootings. Compared to 2017, the number of homicides (year to date) in Ward 8 has increased by 72% with 18 homicides having occurred as of this time last year compared to 31 homicides having occurred so far this year. With the summer approaching, there is an immediate need to utilize resources to prevent violence in the District now before these statistics get worse.

(c) Violence interrupters and outreach workers seek to prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community and following up to ensure that the conflicts do not reignite. Trained, culturally appropriate outreach workers work with the highest-risk individuals to make them less likely to commit violence by meeting them and talking to them about the costs of using violence and helping them to obtain social services. Violence prevention workers also engage community members to get involved in violence prevention efforts, making sure they have a stake in ensuring safety in their community as well.

(d) In order to reduce the number of violent crimes in the District, we must continue to invest in efforts that will stop crime before it happens while also encouraging suspected criminals to pursue alternative lifestyles.

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(e) Council approval is necessary to ensure that violence prevention is a priority and that work can be done to combat the increase in violence as soon as possible.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Community Violence Intervention Fund Emergency Amendment Act of 2018 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.