

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 16, 2012
9:40 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN

RESOLUTION 120263 - Resolution authorizing
City Council's Committee on Public Safety to
conduct hearings on how Youth Courts could
reduce juvenile recidivism rates, violence in
schools...

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COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

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morning. This is a meeting of the

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Committee on Public Safety and it is

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called to order.

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I note that a quorum is present

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consisting of Councilwoman Blackwell,

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Councilman Henon, and Councilman O'Brien

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and myself as Chair, Curtis Jones.

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On the 19th of June, this

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Committee on Public Safety held an

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intense four-hour hearing authorizing

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Resolution No. 120263 on how supporting

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Youth Courts can reduce juvenile

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recidivism rates, flash mobs, violence in

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classrooms, and bullying, while engaging

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young people through restorative justice

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models and civic leadership in the City

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of Philadelphia.

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It is known by the Center for

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Disease Control that violence is the

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second leading cause of death among young

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inner city youth and the number one cause

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of death of young black and Latino males.

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What we have learned from the

1 10/16/17 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 120263

2 June hearing is that Youth Courts is a
3 plausible model of one -- and within
4 financial reasonability. The model
5 effectively allows peers to hold each
6 other accountable, take responsibilities
7 for their actions, as well as offers
8 direct alternative to expulsion from
9 class and restorative juvenile justice
10 measurements while keeping young people
11 in school.

12 Furthermore, instilling public
13 policy sense by providing anecdotal
14 evidence, results from a data-driven
15 Philadelphia Youth Court justice system,
16 can improve the quality of life of young
17 people that is delicately hanging in the
18 balance.

19 Today's public meeting is to
20 consider approval of the findings and
21 recommendations that came from the
22 testimony in large amounts of materials
23 that we had to sift through, and a draft
24 report was previously circulated to the
25 members of the Public Safety Committee,

1 10/16/17 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 120263
2 placed on file and in the Chief Clerk's
3 Office.

4 I truly, truly, truly
5 appreciate my colleagues for their time.

6 The Committee on Public
7 Safety -- unless any Committee members
8 would like to respond. No?

9 I would look for a motion from
10 the Vice-Chair, Councilman Henon.

11 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman. I move that the draft
13 report be adopted as the Committee on
14 Public Safety's final report and to
15 report the issue to the full Council.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: It has been
18 moved and properly seconded that the
19 report adopted by this Committee will be
20 issued to the full Council body.

21 All those in favor will signify
22 by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: All those
25 opposed?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: The ayes
4 have it and the motion carries. The
5 report has been adopted and will be
6 issued to the full body of Council.

7 Thank you very much, and this
8 closes our public meeting.

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:

10 Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to thank you
11 as the Chairman and your staff for
12 initiating this meaningful and thoughtful
13 conversation about Youth Courts. The
14 field trip to Chester to observe the
15 Youth Court in action and the June
16 Committee hearing illustrate if done
17 right, such courts can improve the school
18 climate and educational experience, as
19 well as encourage student ownership of
20 their school.

21 This mandate of this Committee
22 is very simple - make Philadelphia better
23 and a safer place. I believe that by
24 acting upon these recommendations, we'll
25 work towards that goal for our school

1 10/16/17 - PUBLIC SAFETY - RES. 120263
2 children and our educators.

3 Chairman Jones, my staff and I
4 look forward to working with you and your
5 staff to devise the best way to implement
6 Youth Courts in our schools. Thank you
7 for leading us in this wonderful
8 conversation.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, coming
10 from you, Councilman, having been a
11 trailblazer on the justice system at the
12 state level and continuing such here on
13 this Committee, I thank you for those
14 comments.

15 Thank you. This closes the
16 meeting.

17 (Committee on Public Safety
18 concluded at 9:45 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter on October 16, 2012, and that
this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
transcript does not apply to any reproduction
of the same by any means, unless under the
direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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