

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250863)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on Public Safety to hold a hearing to examine whether death by suicide for first responders should be considered as occurring in the line of duty, and to explore mental health initiatives aimed at preventing suicide and supporting the overall well-being of first responders.

WHEREAS, Every day, public safety officers, including police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel ("first responders"), work tirelessly to maintain the safety and well-being of the citizens of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In the course of their duties, first responders routinely encounter highly stressful, dangerous, and traumatic situations, often placing their own lives at risk; and

WHEREAS, These experiences not only expose first responders to physical danger, but also place them at an elevated risk for mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, First responders face significant job-related stressors that have been linked to increased rates of mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, when a first responder is determined to have died in the line of duty, their surviving family members may receive financial and other benefits to help ease the burden of the loss; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing suicide as a possible consequence of the intense psychological toll of performing first responder duties, and classifying these deaths as occurring in the line of duty, would acknowledge the profound impact of occupational stress and trauma, and ensure that affected families receive the support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, It is critical to take decisive action to support the mental health of our first responders before they reach a point of crisis; and

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WHEREAS, It is imperative that the City explore all options to support the families of those who have given so much to the safety and security of our community, and to ensure that first responders receive the care and resources they need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby authorizes the Committee on Public Safety to hold a hearing to examine whether death by suicide for first responders should be considered as occurring in the line of duty, and to explore mental health initiatives aimed at preventing suicide and supporting the overall well-being of first responders.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the ninth day of October, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Jones for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Jones, Gauthier, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Neill, Squilla and Ahmad