

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 100626)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to investigate current procedures and training for emergency personnel who render aid to children and adults with Autism in an effort to develop a training program for first responders who provide treatment to Children and Adults with Autism.

WHEREAS, Autism is a [disorder of neural development](#) that is characterized by impaired [social interaction](#) and [communication](#), and by restricted and repetitive behavior, signs of which begin before a child is 3 years old; and

WHEREAS, Autism affects information processing in the [brain](#) by altering how nerve cells and their [synapses](#) connect and organize; and

WHEREAS, Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are particularly vulnerable to danger, given their lack of awareness regarding their surroundings, their difficulties with communication, and their social delays; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, with ASD prevalence rates soaring to 1 in 110 children, families of children with ASD have flocked to cities such as Philadelphia where services for ASD tend to be more plentiful; and

WHEREAS, As a result, communities in the Philadelphia area are more likely to experience emergencies involving children and youth with ASD than ever before; and

WHEREAS, People on the autistic spectrum may display several behaviors which place them in danger such as a lack of fear, inability to comprehend social cues, elopement, heightened reaction to sensory stimuli such as flashing lights or sirens, and a literal interpretation of language; and

WHEREAS, Since first-responders frequently encounter individuals with ASD, it is vital that they receive training in order to better understand the behavior of people on the autistic spectrum; and

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WHEREAS, On August 9, 2010, a 12 year old boy with autism died in a fire in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, With education, first responders may be to identify people on the autistic spectrum and utilize strategies that could potentially save that person's life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That City Council hereby authorizes the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to investigate current procedures and training for emergency personnel who render aid to children and adults with Autism in an effort to develop a training program for first responders who provide treatment to Children and Adults with Autism.

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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 twenty-third of September, 2010.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Tasco, Sanchez and Miller

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Tasco, Sanchez, Miller, Jones, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Greenlee, DiCicco, Goode, Kenney, Rizzo, Krajewski, O'Neill, Clarke, Green, Kelly and Blackwell