

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 250927)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on Public Safety to hold a hearing to examine the City of Philadelphia's strategies, laws, and policies for protecting victims of abuse and domestic violence within the justice system, including the Courts, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

WHEREAS, This legislative body declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the strong network of advocates, survivors, supporters, and organizations working to end relationship abuse and foster a culture that ensures survivors find the help they need; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Philadelphia Police Department responds to more than 100,000 domestic violence related calls. Despite this volume, many cases brought to court are ultimately dismissed or withdrawn, leaving victims without legal resolution or protection; and

WHEREAS, This was the case for the late Kada Scott. In January 2025, the defendant in her case was arrested for alleged kidnapping, but subsequently released after the complaining witness failed to appear in court; and

WHEREAS, Community based partners such as Women Against Abuse, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Love Shouldn't Hurt, Madre Tierra, Lutheran Settlement House's Bilingual Domestic Violence Program, and Women In Transition continue to provide services and support for survivors, yet their efforts must be reinforced by a justice system that functions effectively and equitably; and

WHEREAS, It is critical for the City of Philadelphia to explore comprehensive strategies and structural reforms to prevent domestic violence cases from falling through the cracks and to ensure the safety of all individuals interacting with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, While this hearing alone will not guarantee that all domestic violence cases proceed to trial, it is an important step toward identifying gaps in the system, strengthening inter-

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agency coordination, and advancing policy changes aimed at preventing future tragedies; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, The Committee on Public Safety to hold a hearing to examine the City of Philadelphia's strategies, laws, and policies for protecting victims of abuse and domestic violence within the justice system. Including the Courts, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

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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 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, Phillips, Thomas, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll and Ahmad