

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 110158)

RESOLUTION

Calling on the City Council Committee on Education to hold hearings on Prayer in Philadelphia Public Schools.

WHEREAS, Students are free to pray alone or in groups as long as the activity is not disruptive and does not infringe on the rights of others; and

WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the Constitution requires that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; and

WHEREAS, Students have the right to initiate religious activities with other students including prayer, religious forums or discussions and faith-based clubs; and

WHEREAS, Schools should respect the right of students to engage in religious activity and discussion; and

WHEREAS, Prayer can promote more virtuous living and may have a positive impact on student behavior in schools; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging students to not only pray for themselves but to pray for others can cause students to think more of their fellow classmates than of themselves, to lead lives of thankfulness; and

WHEREAS, Exercising compassion and understanding when engaging with other faith communities is important to achieve harmony and right relationships with others including students, teachers, parents, school administration and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, The late Reverend Marguerite Handy, former Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives worked tirelessly to bring religious leaders of all faiths together for positive collaboration; and

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WHEREAS, We support students who have an interest in their faith; and

WHEREAS, We encourage all students to use their faith in their daily living and when necessary to keep a positive attitude and give their best in school to ensure a bright future.

WHEREAS, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Education Calls to Hold Hearings on Prayer in Philadelphia Public Schools.

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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 tenth of March, 2011.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Blackwell

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Blackwell, Goode, Reynolds Brown,
Greenlee, Jones, Rizzo and Clarke