

# City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 060867)

## RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Council Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings regarding Child Abuse Deaths in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, And according to various articles in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the issue of child abuse deaths has been a difficult and ongoing concern; and

WHEREAS, The issue of child abuse deaths is a multiple faceted concern and various parties and agencies including but not limited to the City's Department of Human Services ("DHS") and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare are responsible for identifying remedies and solutions to this problem; and

WHEREAS, To address this problem, DHS has a goal to ensure that the City's child welfare system is flexible and effective at preventing child maltreatment while supporting children and families and assisting them in achieving nurturing home environments; and

WHEREAS, DHS, through internal discussions, national research, and external consultants has begun a reform process to improve its ability to achieve its goal and address problems such as the City's child abuse death rate; and

WHEREAS, And in response to *The Philadelphia Inquirer* articles, the Administration has replaced the DHS Commissioner and created a review panel to investigate the City's child abuse deaths; and

WHEREAS, And as Philadelphia's principal oversight body, City Council has a duty to investigate the total scope and nature of this problem and review how the City has addressed child abuse deaths, how reforms have been proposed or implemented, and how new ideas are being initiated and developed; now therefore

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*RESOLUTION NO. 060867 continued*

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Committee on Public Health and Human Services is authorized to hold hearings regarding child abuse deaths in the City of Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee on Public Health and Human Services is authorized to issue subpoenas as may be necessary to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents to the full extent authorized under Section 2-401 of the Home Rule Charter.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 060867 continued*

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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 sixteenth of November, 2006.

Anna C. Verna  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Tasco, Reynolds Brown and Miller

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Miller, Goode, Rizzo, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Blackwell, Kelly, Clarke, DiCicco and O'Neill