

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 170223)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings on strategies and methods to help meet the need for available school crossing guards throughout the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, To ensure the safety of children walking to school, the position of School Crossing Guard was established in 1952, and now there is a formalized Crossing Guard Unit under the supervision of the Philadelphia Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's school crossing guards are entrusted with protecting and ensuring the safety of our children as they are escorted across streets during school hours at hundreds of locations throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, There are presently 1000 guards assigned to public, private, and charter school crossings Citywide; and

WHEREAS, Crossing guard positions are government by the City's civil service rules, and candidates are required to take an open-competitive civil service exam which is given every two years; and

WHEREAS, The Crossing Guard Unit loses about 100 guards annually through retirement and resignations and does not have the personnel capacity to process, screen, and train new hires in an expeditious manner; and

WHEREAS, The six-month probationary period for new crossing guards prohibits them from holding additional employment, both full and part-time, which has contributed to high turnover rates and exacerbated the problem of inadequate manpower; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 170223 continued

WHEREAS, Police officers are often called on to leave their posts to cover crossings when guards are not available, thereby diverting critical city resources from other parts of the City; and

WHEREAS, The constraints of civil service regulations, budget shortfalls, and slow hiring procedures has made it difficult for the city to fully staff the Crossing Guard Unit, which has the potential to seriously compromise the safety of children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Authorizes Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings on strategies and methods to help meet the need for available school crossing guards throughout the City of Philadelphia.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 170223 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 170223 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the second of March, 2017.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Bass

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Bass, Gym, Green, Jones, Squilla, Johnson
and Oh