Legislation Text

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Authorizing the joint City Council Committees on Public Safety and Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings investigating the mapping out of trauma centers across the city and how they are selected when transporting shooting victims.

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, a trauma patient, meaning someone who has sustained a life-threatening bodily injury, such as a gunshot wound, is transported to a hospital that is designated as a trauma center; and

WHEREAS, Trauma centers have the staff, services, and equipment needed to care for those with life-threatening bodily injuries and are staffed by trauma teams 24 hours a day, including surgeons and neurosurgeons; and

WHEREAS, The organization responsible for accrediting trauma centers is the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation. The Foundation has categorized trauma centers into four levels; and

WHEREAS, Level I trauma centers are authorized to treat those most in need of critical emergency care. They require trauma research, a surgical residency program and an annual 600 major trauma patients per year; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, Level I trauma centers include: Einstein Medical Center, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Temple University Hospital, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital; and

WHEREAS, The adequate mapping out of trauma center locations when responding to a trauma patient has an impact on whether the patient receives treatment earlier rather than later. When dealing with critical injuries, transportation to a trauma center that is not closest to where the patient is being transported could jeopardize the patient's life; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, September 27, 2022, a 14-year-old was shot and killed in front of Roxborough High School. The student was transported from Roxborough to Einstein Medical Center, nearly 7 miles away. The student did not survive his injuries; and

WHEREAS, The joint City Council Committees on Public Safety and Public Health and Human Services should evaluate the mapping of trauma centers throughout the city, how many trauma beds are available, and whether the city's current trauma centers need resources to increase capacity to better serve city residents. This hearing should include our partners at the state level, to ensure all resources available are dedicated to this important need; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby authorizes the joint City Council Committees on Public Safety and Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings investigating the mapping out of trauma centers across the city and how they are selected when transporting

shooting victims.