

- k. A Resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville recognizing April 27 - May 3, 2025, as National Youth Violence Prevention Week in the City of Knoxville.



CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

City Council

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA DATE: April 29, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Office of Community Safety and Empowerment

DIRECTOR or DESIGNEE: LaKenya Middlebrook

AGENDA SUMMARY A Resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville recognizing April 27 - May 3, 2025, as National Youth Violence Prevention Week in the City of Knoxville.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED All Districts

BACKGROUND National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) is a week where students, parents, teachers, and officials can focus and collaborate to prevent youth violence. As defined by the CDC, youth violence is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten to harm others by young people ages 10-24, including bullying as well as other physical forms of violence. Often teenagers fear for their lives in school, relationships, and with their friends. Violence leaves lasting scars on youth and in some cases ends their lives prematurely. Youth violence is preventable and something no teenager should experience. NYVPW is dedicated to improving the lives of young people and preventing further youth violence through education and building communities.

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

FISCAL INFORMATION

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE RECOGNIZING APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2025 AS NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK IN THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE.

RESOLUTION NO: _____
Office of Community Safety &
REQUESTED BY: Empowerment

PREPARED BY: MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: _____ **PAGE** _____

WHEREAS, youth violence, as defined by the CDC, is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten harm to others by young people ages 10-24; and

WHEREAS, young people experience and perpetrate many forms of violence including but not limited to physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, dating or interpersonal, domestic, gang-related, firearm-related, and substance misuse-related; and

WHEREAS, youth violence can impact development, decision-making skills, and increase learning challenges; and

WHEREAS, National Youth Prevention Week was founded in 2001 by Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club; and

WHEREAS, the movement for National Youth Violence Prevention Week gained traction after the Sandy Hook School Shooting in 2012, which highlighted a growing concern towards violence, specifically in schools; and

WHEREAS, youth violence has been on the rise in Tennessee since 2020, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, 30,638 juveniles under the age of 18 committed a crime in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the majority of gang members in Tennessee are aged 13-24, with the majority entering gang life from the ages of 17-18; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks # 3 in the nation for opioid abuse, with a reported 80% of crimes relating to drug use or operations, and 31% of youth taken into custody by the Department of Children's Services due to parental substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 12 high school students in the United States report experiencing physical violence from a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee consistently ranks among the states with the highest incidence of reported teen dating violence cases, and

WHEREAS, the Knox County Health Department states that 1 in 10 children in the U.S. will be sexually abused before age 18, and 20% of victims are abused before age 8; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, nearly 400 sexual assaults were reported in Knox County; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recognizes that 40% of the total number of homicides worldwide are considered youth homicides; and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that homicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for young people in this country; and

WHEREAS, firearms were the leading cause of death among children and teens, ages 1-17, in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's rate of firearm deaths among children is more than 36% higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the City Council passed a Resolution recognizing the growing need for firearm legislation to pass in the Tennessee State Legislature to reduce gun violence in the wake of the Covenant School Shooting, therefore advocating for violence reduction; and

WHEREAS, exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences during childhood can significantly increase the risk of youth violence; and

WHEREAS, trauma can create a cycle where individuals who have been exposed to violence are more likely to engage in violent behavior themselves; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Knoxville recognizes National Youth Violence Prevention Week as an essential week calling attention to the factors that lead to youth violence, and the resources we have available to prevent it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Knoxville hereby goes on record as recognizing youth violence as a prevalent issue impacting our youth today and calls on this governing body to acknowledge National Youth Violence Prevention Week, designated as April 27 – May 3, 2025, as an essential time to focus and recognize the impact that youth violence has on our individuals and communities, while highlighting the resources available to youth in Knoxville to reduce youth violence and the lasting impacts it can have.

SECTION 2: The City of Knoxville and its partners will continue working towards averting youth from experiencing or being involved in youth violence with the resources and relationships present in the City.

SECTION 3: This Resolution will take effect from and after the date of its passage, the welfare of the City requiring it.

Presiding Officer of the Council

City Recorder