

To: Councilwoman Katheryn Shields, Chair
Heather Hall, Vice-Chair
City Council: Finance, Governance, and Public Safety Committee
From: City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Commission

RE: Resolution 230129

The KCMO Health Commission supports Resolution 230129.

A plan to address violence in Kansas City, MO has been a recommendation through various City entities, including the Citizen's Task Force on Violence, Kansas City Commission on Violent Crime, the City-Wide Business Plan, the 2016-2021 KC Community Health Improvement Plan (KC-CHIP), and the 2022-2027 KC-CHIP.

The KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention was presented to the Health Commission in June 2020. The Health Commission fully supported its adoption and implementation. The City Council adopted the KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention soon after in July 2020. Since its adoption, the plan has not been fully funded.

The KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention aims to promote greater health equity in Kansas City, Missouri by providing methodologies to address historical and present-day factors that produce health inequities associated with violence. KC Blueprint is prevention focused, and emphasizes coordination, collaboration, and a complete public health approach, which has shown to be effective and complimentary to criminal justice approaches.

Like other health inequities, violence disproportionately affects groups that have been marginalized due to their race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, geographic location, or some combination of these factors¹. Funding the KC Blueprint will show our Kansas City, Missouri residents that City leadership is dedicated to acknowledging and addressing the discriminatory practices that foster violence.

Sincerely,

KC Health Commission
cc. Violence Free KC Committee

¹John Jay Research and Evaluation Center, City University of New York