

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1055

A resolution aimed at addressing and ending homelessness among students that attend Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

WHEREAS, issues that confront a dynamic and growing city like Nashville -- including transit, healthcare, development and affordable housing -- can often overshadow the basic needs of its most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, despite the blessings of multiple attractions, concerts, and cultural events that showcase Nashville, the fact that appreciable numbers of elementary and high school students lack a place to call home leaves an indelible blemish on the city's reputation and calls into question our civic priorities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Metro Nashville Public Schools, approximately two thousand, two hundred (2,200) students attending Metro Nashville public schools are currently considered homeless; and

WHEREAS, in remedying this shameful reality, an initial focus must be placed upon children living in shelters, on the streets, in motels, in automobiles, places not meant for human habitation, or who are seeking temporary residence with friends and families; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council supports the continuing improvement of a coordinated entry system for all homeless populations, including families with children and youth; and

WHEREAS, while many students already face substantial challenges with learning and comprehension, the perils of homelessness -- including greater exposure to violence, drug trafficking, human sex trafficking, and other risks -- substantially magnify these obstacles; and

WHEREAS, despite the magnitude of this problem, the combined efforts of Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, , various departments and agencies of the Metropolitan Government, advocacy groups, and the private sector – acting collectively -- could actually solve this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1: That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as declaring its intent to address and end the problem of homelessness of students attending Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, prioritizing those children living in dire situations.

Section 2: That the Metropolitan Council hereby further goes on record as committing to work, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Metropolitan Social Services, ~~the Metropolitan Nashville School Board~~, various homelessness and social services agencies in Nashville, relevant departments and agencies of the Metropolitan Government, and other interested groups, to understand, specifically address, and to resolve the homelessness of students attending Metropolitan Nashville public schools.

Section 3: That the Metropolitan Council hereby further goes on record as requesting that the Vice Mayor, in conjunction with the Directors of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools and Metropolitan Social Services work with the Continuum of Care of Nashville - Davidson County and its existing committees and workgroups to develop a strategic community plan regarding this issue with the goal of submitting a report to the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Nashville School Board by August 31, 2018. The report should outline specific

recommendations and initiatives that can be taken to address and resolve the problem of student homelessness.

Section 4: The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Directors of Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (Mr. Jim Harbison), Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (Dr. Shawn Joseph) and Metropolitan Social Services (Ms. Renee Pratt). ~~and to each member of the Metropolitan Board of Public Education.~~

INTRODUCED BY:

Jim Shulman
Member of Council, At-Large