

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-23-118 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Renée Grout and Louie Sanchez

1 RESOLUTION

2 DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO COLLABORATE WITH ALBUQUERQUE  
3 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO PREVENT CHILDREN'S  
4 EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA AND VIOLENCE, MITIGATE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF  
5 CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA, AND TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND  
6 AWARENESS OF THIS ISSUE; DIRECTING THE ALBUQUERQUE POLICE  
7 DEPARTMENT, ALBUQUERQUE FIRE AND RESCUE, AND THE ALBUQUERQUE  
8 COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT TO ENACT PROTOCOLS FOR FIRST  
9 RESPONDER SCENARIOS THAT INVOLVE SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH.

10 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, a recent national  
11 survey of the incidence and prevalence of children's exposure to violence and  
12 trauma revealed that 60% of American children have been exposed to violence,  
13 crime, or abuse; and

14 WHEREAS, almost 40% of American children were direct victims of two or  
15 more violent acts; and

16 WHEREAS, older children are exposed to more serious forms of violence  
17 and are more likely to be victims of multiple kinds of violence; and

18 WHEREAS, children exposed to violence and trauma often experience  
19 multiple problems including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder,  
20 isolation, shame, fear, guilt, and low self-esteem; and

21 WHEREAS, traumatic events can include multiple types of disruptions in the  
22 home that require first responder assistance; and

23 WHEREAS, exposure to trauma increases the risk that young people will  
24 perform poorly or drop out of school; and

25 WHEREAS, victims of physical child abuse are approximately 1.7 times more  
26 likely than others to be involved in perpetuating violent offenses; and

1        WHEREAS, a program instituted in some communities throughout the nation  
2 requires first responders to provide notification to schools if a household is  
3 visited by first responders for a reason that may be traumatic to a school aged  
4 person; and

5        WHEREAS, first responders can be trained to identify young people at the  
6 scene and send a confidential message to the school district so school staff are  
7 aware that the young person may exhibit unusual behavior and to handle the  
8 student with care following the event; and

9        WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)  
10 have agreed to institute a “Handle With Care” communication plan so school  
11 staff can better support children in post-traumatic situations; and

12        WHEREAS, no personal information or information about the event will be  
13 shared between first responders and school staff other than the student’s name  
14 and age;

15        WHEREAS, this program promotes safe and supportive homes, schools, and  
16 communities that protect children and helps traumatized children to heal and  
17 thrive; and

18        WHEREAS this program supports young people exposed to violence and  
19 trauma through improved communication and collaboration between first  
20 responders, schools, and other applicable support services and resources  
21 available in the community.

22 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**  
23 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

24        **SECTION 1.**

25        The Albuquerque Police Department (APD), Albuquerque Fire and  
26 Rescue (AFR) and Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Departments shall  
27 make it a standard operating procedure to notify Albuquerque Public Schools  
28 (APS) if a school-aged person is involved in or witness to any traumatic  
29 situation that required first responders. Traumatic situations can include, but  
30 are not limited to:

- 31            1. Family violence;
- 32            2. Drug-related activities within the household;
- 33            3. Medical episodes within the family that require first responders;

- 1           4. The arrest and/or incarceration of a parent, guardian, caretaker, or
- 2           household member;
- 3           5. Neglect within the household;
- 4           6. A family disturbance where first responders are called onto the
- 5           scene;
- 6           7. Structural damage to a family house or place of residence, such as
- 7           fire or gas leak, that require first responder presence;
- 8           8. Experiencing housing instability; or
- 9           9. Self-harm or suicide within the household.

10           **SECTION 2. STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM.**

11           A. The City and the APS shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding

12 (MOU), to establish and further detail operations of the program;

13           B. The name of this collaborative effort will be known as, “Handle with

14 Care” and will be established in standard operating procedures for APS, AFR,

15 and ACS;

16           C. Nothing shared between City departments and APS will violate the

17 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

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