



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

Legislation Text

File #: 0208X-2018, Version: 2

This resolution creates the Commission on Black Girls to study and assess the quality of life of Black girls in Central Ohio. The Commission will develop and implement recommendations to ensure opportunities, successful futures, and the achievement of a high quality of life for Black girls in Columbus. Focusing on girls ages 11-22, the Commission will first participate in fact-finding and education to learn more about the current quality of life Black girls in Columbus. Meetings of the Commission will be held monthly for the first six months and quarterly thereafter and, in addition, the Commission will hold listening sessions with members of the community. The Commission will exist until December 31, 2020, unless, prior to that date, City Council enacts legislation to make the Commission permanent.

To create and establish a Commission on Black Girls to study and assess factors that impact the quality of life for Black girls in Columbus and make recommendations that will ensure successful futures and achievement of a high quality of life, and to declare an emergency.

WHEREAS, in 2013, 43 percent of Black women without a high school degree were living in poverty compared to 28 percent of White women with the same levels of education; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 over 15,000 Black girls in Franklin County were living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, 1,700 Black women were served in shelters in Franklin County between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that Black girls are 5.5 times more likely to be suspended from school than White girls; and

WHEREAS, Black girls comprise about 30% of overall enrollment in Columbus City Schools and during the 2013-2014 school year 16.9% of Black girls were given suspensions compared to 8.5% of White girls; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the homicide rate among Black girls and women ages 10 to 24 was higher than for any other group of females and because, locally, homicides were tied with accidents as the leading cause of death for Black girls ages 15-24; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that, to change the trajectory of the lives of Black women, **Councilmember Tyson is creating the Commission on Black Girls to change the trajectory of the lives of Black women and it is understood that Black girls must be given the resources and benefits to improve their quality of life; and**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, has the responsibility to ensure opportunities for success for all its citizens, including Black girls and women; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

Section 1. City Council does hereby create and establish a Commission on Black Girls of no more than twenty-five voting members to study and assess factors that impact the quality of life for Black girls and make recommendations that will ensure opportunities, successful futures, and the achievement of a high quality of life.

Section 2. Members of the Commission are to be appointed by the City Council to serve as members without pay until December 31, 2020. It is recommended that the Commission be comprised of individuals or representatives of non-profit organizations, education, health care providers, juvenile justice, behavioral health organizations, business interests, labor, human service providers, Black girls, and other individuals, organizations and associations as may be necessary to inform the Commission's mission.

Section 3. That the Commission shall meet monthly until December 31, 2018 and then quarterly thereafter. City Council staff shall provide support to the Commission and ensure that meetings are publicized to other parties interested in the promotion of Black girls in the community.

Section 4. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is made a part hereof, this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and approval by the Mayor or ten days after adoption if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.