



November 2, 2025

NYC Council

[Int 0029-2024](#) - *Sponsored by CM Amanda Fariás* - Requiring a training program for first responders and a public awareness campaign regarding health effects of domestic violence-related traumatic brain injuries.

[Res 0064-2024](#) - *Sponsored by CM Tiffany Cabán* - Enables community health centers to be fully reimbursed for telehealth care services. (S.3359/A.1691)

Dear Councilmembers Caban and Farias,

I am writing in support of INT 0029-2024 and Res 0064-2024.

My organization, Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI), operates violence elimination programs in hospitals, schools, and community spaces. We engage young people who have been both victims and perpetrators of crime. Our practice and external research support the fact that domestic violence is a driver of interpersonal violence and gun violence by young people. Youth who are exposed to domestic violence at home are 100% more likely to be involved in multiple violent incidents throughout their lives without sustained interventions. Research conducted by the School of Health at Johns Hopkins University, the U.S. Department of Justice, Everytown for Action, and many other metric projects demonstrate a strong correlation between domestic violence and other forms of interpersonal violence. Requiring a training program for first responders to effectively engage with victims of domestic violence, as well as those who perpetrate it, is crucial to ensuring that young people do not normalize domestic violence in their lives. With proper training, first responders can serve as the first line of intervention in violent incidents, thereby potentially saving lives.

KAVI also operates two Victims Assistance programs; one is hospital-based, and the other is located in a community center that provides comprehensive services to survivors of crime. Frequently, victims of crime, including domestic violence, exhibit reluctance to seek and receive assistance. The reasons for this hesitation are numerous; however, through public campaigns, organizations including KAVI and elected officials can foster a new norm that encourages survivors to seek help by highlighting the adverse health effects of domestic violence on the brain.

We recognize that this work must be sustained and elevated. As part of this commitment, we have participated in efforts to expand Medicaid funding to support health services, including telehealth and violence intervention programs. Adequate funding is essential for the success of initiatives aimed at preventing domestic violence.

We stand in solidarity with you and remain prepared to collaborate in partnership.



Sincerely,
Ramik Williams
Co-Executive Director

