

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 10, 2023

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee  
TO Adam McGough (Chair), Cara Mendelsohn (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Jesse Moreno,  
Jaime Resendez, Casey Thomas, Gay Donnell Willis  
SUBJECT **Community Violence Intervention Program Expansion**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the expansion of violence intervention programming managed by the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions (IPS).

## Background

In April 2021, the City contracted for two years with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) to provide a comprehensive suite of violence intervention solutions in select focus areas in the Dallas. IPS regularly assesses all contracts for service delivery quality and whether they are meeting the needs of the community. An analysis of the City's current violence intervention program has shown that a broadening of initiatives will provide improved service to our residents and quantifiable outcome measures.

An evidence-based review of violence intervention programs demonstrated that program effectiveness is highest when multiple components are operated separately and managed collectively. The plan below details initiatives that will broaden our existing model and increase service delivery to residents.

## Community Violence Intervention Program Initiatives

As part of this expansion, IPS will implement four new initiatives as the City's community violence intervention program. City departments and community-based organizations involvement in program design and implementation will ensure the program is comprehensive and holistic and serves vulnerable and at-risk populations equitably.

First, IPS will contract with a community-based organization that employs credible individuals to provide rapid and empathetic responses to victims of or those at-risk to acts of violence or retaliation. This effort will provide direct services to youth and young adults and serve as a direct linkage to social services and healing following traumatic events. A primary outcome of this initiative will be direct response to hospitals for victims of gun-crimes.

Second, IPS will offer summer enrichment programming by contracting with a community organization to provide summer activities, retreats, and mentoring to high-school aged youth. This initiative will provide social and emotional learning opportunities for students who have been exposed to traumatic stressors and face social, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional challenges. By providing these services and activities, youth will be afforded summer opportunities outside of their normal environment that create positive

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experiences and teach valuable life experiences to prepare for future success. IPS are collaborating with the Dallas Independent School District on this initiative that will complement DISD's Becoming a Man & Working on Womanhood (BAM/WOW) program.

Third, IPS will deliver a 12-week program that invests in the parents of youth. The goals of this program are to equip parents with the tools to:

- Learn and practice specific prevention and intervention actions for de-escalating destructive behaviors.
- Learn to never argue with your child;
- Improve school attendance and performance;
- Prevent alcohol and drug use; and
- Stop gang involvement

The City, led by IPS, will design, implement, and facilitate this parent investment program to address adolescent challenges and enable parents to apply learned principles at home. This program will be delivered to parents, once per week for 12 weeks, by credible voices from community-based organizations juvenile justice professionals, school district leaders, faith-based community leaders, and social service professionals. Similar programs have successfully impacted school attendance, parent involvement, and reduced community & family violence.

Finally, the Focused Deterrence model introduced in the Dallas Police Department's Violent Crime Plan will be supported by IPS through a new partnership that will offer direct access to social services for participants. This model will assist in supporting implementation and operation of Focused Deterrence by providing additional support to those at highest risk of interaction with the criminal justice system. The overarching goal of this support will be to lower instances of recidivism.

### **Timeline for Implementation**

IPS has solicited quotes for services to provide direct support to victims of violent crime and their families. Providers are being evaluated based on experience, price, and proven community involvement in Dallas. The best evaluated vendor will be contracted with and begin services in March 2023.

Currently, Youth Guidance, through the "Becoming a Man & Working on Womanhood" (BAM/WOW) program, serves at-risk youth at six Dallas Independent School District schools during the operating year. IPS is coordinating with DISD and the Office of Procurement Services to contract for the proposed summer enrichment programming. This effort directly supports Mayor Johnson's [recommended expansion](#) of the BAM/WOW program to further support violence prevention efforts. Summer enrichment programming will begin in the 2023 Summer.

The Parent Investment Program launch was authorized by City Council as part of the FY23/24 during the biennial budget. A grant award to the City will allow for launch of this program this fiscal year. IPS and DPD are collaborating to hire staff for the program and launch the first cohort before the end of the fiscal year.

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Finally, IPS is presently positioned to support DPD's focused deterrence initiative. An existing contract with Metrocare Services of Dallas provides a comprehensive suite of behavioral and mental health support to residents. Use of this contract is being made available to DPD to provide significant support implementation of the focused deterrence program.

### **Conclusion**

IPS will continue implementation efforts for each of the four initiatives detailed in this memorandum as part of Dallas' community violence intervention strategy. Each of the four components in this memorandum can be implemented without additional general fund budget commitments. IPS expects this model to comprehensively serve Dallas residents year-round and deter acts of violence in the community. This plan directly invests in youth, parents, and victims of gun crimes. Further, the plan provides valuable social service resources towards DPD's focused deterrence crime reduction strategy.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kevin Oden, Interim Director of the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions at [kevin.oden@dallas.gov](mailto:kevin.oden@dallas.gov).



Jon Fortune  
Deputy City Manager

### **[Attachment]**

- c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
- Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager  
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors

## Community Violence Intervention Program Initiatives

### *Initiative #1: Direct Services to Victims of Gun Crimes*

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**Scope of services:**

- Provide support at hospitals to persons victimized by violent gun crimes
- Streamline the eligibility process for survivors
- Develop a comprehensive well-coordinated model of care that includes mental health, physical health, psychosocial services and legal advocacy and to do so in a manner which increases access to services
- Discourage retaliation by victims

**Outcomes:** Facilitate healing for survivors of trauma, violence, and loss through an innovative model that blends comprehensive care, advocacy and outreach.

**Timeline:** March 2023

### *Initiative #2: Summer Enrichment Programming*

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**Scope of services:**

- Serve up to 600 DISD students 5 days per week during summer break at community centers
- Provide field trips and experiences to students
- Provide social and emotional skill building on the topics of: Integrity, Self-determination, Positive Anger Expression, Accountability, and Goal Setting

**Outcomes:** Equip participants with knowledge, skills, and tools that will support their academic, professional, and personal growth and success.

**Timeline:** Provide services in Summer 2023

### *Initiative #3: Parent Investment Program*

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**Scope of services:**

- Learn and practice specific prevention and intervention actions for de-escalating destructive behaviors.
- Learn to never argue with your child;
- Improve school attendance and performance;
- Prevent alcohol and drug use; and
- Stop gang involvement

**Outcomes:** Parents meet one night per week for 2 to 3 hours per night

- Delivery of an activity-based curriculum allowing parents to learn and practice behavior management techniques at home.
- Parent support groups are formed.

**Timeline:** Launch First Cohort Summer 2023

### *Initiative #4: Focused Deterrence Support*

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**Scope of services:**

- Education, job training, housing, mental health services, employment (business leaders; employment opportunities), & mentorship/life coaching
- Family members: part of the 'moral voice' to reinforce the message
- Victims of crime
- Street outreach workers (i.e. violence interrupters) can help contact offenders, provide encouragement/support, connection to services

**Outcomes:** Change behavior(s) (i.e., reduce violence) by intervening with a targeted, collaborative strategy supported by law enforcement agencies and community partners.

Provide a clear and consistent message of deterrence and alternative opportunities, supported by legal actions

**Timelines:** Currently supporting efforts