

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 5, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Violence Interrupter Program Update**

This memorandum provides an update on the status of the violence intervention project as approved in the FY 20-21 Budget.

1. The Senior Project Specialist position closed on February 4, 2021. Candidates are currently being vetted by human resources. The interviews and hiring process is anticipated to be complete in March 2021. This grant funded position will work with the organization hired to provide violence intervention programming in the City of Dallas.
2. The hiring of an organization to provide a violence intervention program for the city is in the procurement process and scheduled as outlined below.
 - Solicitation for proposals posted: January 21, 2021
 - Pre-proposal meeting by Office of Procurement with Office of Integrated Public Safety conducted on February 2, 2021.
 - Proposals due: February 18, 2021
 - Evaluation phase: February 18-26, 2021
 - Council approval process: March 2021
 - **The violence intervention contract scheduled to be awarded: April 2021**

A more comprehensive list of key program milestones for the implementation of violence interruption in the City of Dallas is attached. The goal is to have violence intervention programming in place during the spring and summer when the city experiences the highest volume of violent criminal activity.

Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment: Violence Interruption Program Milestones]

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors

Violence Interruption Program Milestones

August 2019

- Recommendation made by Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities. It was estimated to cost the City of Dallas \$600K per each three-square mile zone. A competitive bidding process was recommended. A funding source for the program was not identified or established.

January 2020

- Focused Deterrence program recommended by DPD in 2020 Violent Crime Reduction Plan

February 2020

- Briefing at Public Safety Meeting to discuss violence interrupters – presentation by Urban Specialist

March 2020

- City of Dallas applies for a COPS Community Policing Development Micro Grant of \$100,000 to reduce group violence in accordance with the DPD Violent Crime Reduction Plan. Funding is to hire a coordinator to administer a violence interruption program.

July 2020

- City receives notice of the award of Micro Grant.
- Staff contacts the Criminal Justice Policy Advisors Network seeking assistance and background on developing violence interruption programs.

August 2020

- Staff meets with Cities of Chicago and Baltimore and National League of Cities (NLC) representatives from the Criminal Justice Policy Advisors Network to learn from the success and challenges for their programs. Discussed assistance, advice, and examples from other cities using violence interruption strategies. Sought to learn how other conducted procurement of violence interruption services, developed contracts, and monitored for results.
- City Manager's Proposed Budget includes proposal to implement a focused deterrence/violence interruption program for FY 21 as part of R.E.A.L Change initiatives.

September 2020

- City Council approves budget of \$ 800,000 that includes partial year funding for violence interruption.

October 2020

- Staff discusses various program options and Dallas' plans for violence interruption with the NLC Criminal Justice Policy Advisors network members.
- City Council approves receipt of Micro Grant money for the hiring of a manger to administer the violence interruption program.
- Public Safety Briefing Memo – COPS micro grant for Violence Interrupters

November 2020

- Staff makes presentation to Public Safety Committee describing implementation plan and timeline for violence interruption programming. April 2021 is provided as the target date for implementation.
- Meeting with procurement to determine the type of proposal needed for solicitation
- Training for preparing a request for confidential sealed proposal

December 2020

- Job description for grant funded manager completed and is in the process of being posted.
- Procurement solicitation documents created and provided to Procurement for pending release.

January 2021

- Provided the Public Safety Committee an overview of current implementation status during discussion of OIPSS Dashboard.
- Solicitation posted and opened for submissions.

February 2021

- Pre-solicitation meeting (Office of integrated Public Safety conducted by Office of Procurement).
- Evaluation Period (February 18-26, 2021).