

Date: October 5, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **California Violence Prevention and Intervention Grant Program (CalVIP) – Long Beach Activating Safe Communities Grant Award**

At its July 7, 2020 meeting, the City Council requested the City Manager to explore the creation of a Long Beach Violence Interruption Strategy. This memo serves as an update on this strategy.

The Health and Human Services Department (Department) applied for a California Violence Prevention and Intervention grant in early June. The Department was notified that it had been awarded the funding on September 10, 2020. The focus of the funding is to establish a collaboration across departments and community institutions to reduce gun violence in Long Beach. Using a collective impact approach, the Department will launch the Long Beach Activating Safe Communities (LBASC) Program to address gun violence. The LBASC Program will be funded through a three-year \$1.1 million Board of State Corrections and Community, California Violence Prevention (CalVIP) grant award.

The LBASC Program will work in partnership with multi-sector stakeholders and system leaders, including various City departments (Police, Economic Development-Pacific Gateway, and Parks, Recreation and Marine), LBUSD, nonprofit community-based organizations, and community residents. Collective impact offers a systematic approach to reducing gun violence, focused on equity, authentic community engagement, using data for continuous learning and improvement, and building a collaborative culture that fosters trust and respect.

The LBASC Program will begin as a pilot effort focused in the Washington Neighborhood. The Washington Neighborhood is defined as a two by two block grid from Magnolia Avenue (West) to Long Beach Boulevard (East) and Pacific Coast Highway (North) to Anaheim Street (South). The Police Department identified the Washington Neighborhood as having among the highest concentration of firearm assaults. The Washington Neighborhood falls within Beat 4 of the Police Department's West Division. In 2018, the West Division contributed to 40.2 percent of the City's firearm assaults and murders in the City. The pilot will test the development and implementation of a gun violence coordinated response system with the intent that the model be sustained for citywide use. The LBASC Program goals include: (1) creating a comprehensive, coordinated, and equitable City of Long Beach Gun Violence Response System (CLB-GVRS); and, (2) reducing gun-related violence through an effective street outreach and intervention program as well as activating safe community spaces to provide programs, resources, and services in the Washington Neighborhood. The LBASC projects

seek to reduce gun violence by 20 percent in the Washington Neighborhood by June 2023. Activities include:

- Establishing a coordinated gun violence response system;
- Contracting with a community-based organization to implement an effective street outreach/interventionist program to prevent and interrupt gun-related violence and de-escalate community violence;
- Providing case management services to at least 30 justice involved and foster youth;
- Providing life coaching and mentorship to at least 75 at-risk youth through Pacific Gateway's Success Track Program;
- Hosting quarterly community engagement events that engage at least 700 residents to strengthen community social connectedness and community safety and well-being; and,
- Supporting the Be Safe Program at Seaside/14th Street Parks in partnership with Parks, Recreation and Marine by engaging at least 300 youth and families.

The LBASC Advisory Council, which consists of representatives from the Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention, Pacific Gateway Workforce Development, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Urban Peace Institute, Ascent, the Washington Neighborhood Association, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach Police Department and Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, and a local evaluator will assist with the implementation and continuous quality improvement measures to support staff in meeting and measuring the performance outcomes mentioned above.

The LBASC Program is a project of the City's Safe Long Beach violence prevention plan, which leverages existing resources and community relationships to improve the quality of life of Long Beach residents. The Safe Long Beach violence prevention plan encompasses the community informed Racial Reconciliation Framework goals related to violence prevention. Community Impact Division staff continue to forge relationships with funders, community residents and organizations to implement these strategies. In the immediate, the LBASC will begin the hiring and procurement processes this month with the intent to launch the project in January 2021.

For additional information, please contact me at (562) 570-4016 or by email at kelly.colopy@longbeach.gov.

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