

September 10, 2024

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Manager:

Mayor Rex Richardson
Mary Zendejas, 1st District
Cindy Allen, Vice Mayor, 2nd District
Kristina Duggan, 3rd District
Daryl Supernaw, 4th District
Megan Kerr, 5th District
Dr. Suely Saro, 6th District
Roberto Uranga, 7th District
Al Austion, 8th District
Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, 9th District
Thomas B. Modica, City Manager

The One Long Beach CVIPI Collaborative and The City of Long Beach Advancing Peace Steering Committee appreciates the one time use budget proposals of \$100,000 from the Mayor and \$200,000 from the City Manager to be directed to the Health Department's Violence Prevention Programs. While we appreciate the \$300,000 one-time use investment in the FY 25 Budget, it is a reduction in spending on violence prevention programs within the Health Department from the FY 24 budget period.

After conducting a violence prevention and intervention programs cost analysis the amount needed for a robust and comprehensive public health-focused approach to community-based violence intervention and Prevention (CVIP) Programs within the Long Beach Health Department is 15 million-dollars.

A 15-million-dollar investment would strengthen evidence-based programs such as but not limited to;

- 1 million dollars for Health Department's Violence Prevention Programming
- 1 million dollars for Violence Prevention Community Activations
- 1.5 million dollars for Long Beach School Safe Passage Strategies
- 1 million dollars for Summer Park Safety Initiatives or Be S.A.F.E.
- 2 million dollars for Violence Prevention Trauma Prevention Initiative in partnership with LA County Office of Violence Prevention
- 3 million dollars for Long Beach Activating Safe Communities
- 3.5 million dollars for Increased Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Cambodian, Pacific Islander and Disabled Children and Adults programs
- 1 million dollars for Reentry Integration Programming & Services
- 1 million dollars for Hospital-based Violence Intervention & Prevention

We are calling you all our violence prevention champions on the City Council, and in the Mayor and City Manager offices to make a recommendation to increase the proposed \$300,000 to \$1,200,000 to maintain the impactful violence prevention programs. At the same time, we are partnering with city leadership to identify structural funding revenue for the Health Department to sustain these and other programs outside of one-time use funds, such as an Unhealthy Food and Soda tax.

The \$1,200,000 investment would sustain evidence-based programs such as but not limited to;

- 300 thousand dollars for the current Health Department’s Violence Prevention Programming proposal
- 300 thousand dollars for Violence Prevention Community Activations
- 600 thousand dollars for Long Beach School Safe Passages

The One Long Beach Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Collaborative and The City of Long Beach Advancing Peace Steering Committee are respectfully recommending for the following:

- I. Increase the proposed \$300,000 to \$1,200,000 to maintain the impactful violence prevention programs while we partner with city leadership to identify structural funding revenue intended towards the Health Department to sustain these and other programs outside of one time use funds. Such as an Unhealthy Food and Soda tax.
- II. Structural violence prevention and intervention program funding and investments of 15 million dollars will:
 - a. Include evidence-based, data-driven, and culturally centered strategies in geographic historical, disinvested communities of color
 - b. Prioritize hotspot neighborhoods and zip codes (e.g., 90802, 90804, 90805, 90806, 90810, 90813)
 - c. Engage culturally appropriate representatives of communities of color
 - d. Include lead agencies that possess a minimum of 3 - 5 years of CVI experiences and a track record of demonstrated effective outcomes
 - e. Engage trusted organizations and leaders with lived experiences
 - f. Prioritize transparency and an inclusionary process for organizations to apply for violence prevention and intervention funding
- III. That the City of Long Beach Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Manager support community-based organizations and leaders in violence prevention by collaborating on a strategic initiative emphasizing the importance of these initiatives’ impact, fidelity, and sustainability.

We look forward to solidifying a valued partnership between the City of Long Beach and community-based organizations that can be instrumental in enhancing and supporting community violence intervention and prevention funding, programs, and resources.

Sincerely,

One Long Beach CVIPI Collaborative and The City of Long Beach Advancing Peace Steering Committee Partners

The One Long Beach Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Collaborative has an extensive history of violence prevention and intervention initiatives and experiences in our community. This initiative seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders. Given our success in addressing violence, the revived strategy must produce a more robust system to tackle the political, economic, and social determinants of violence in the City of Long Beach. We would be remiss if we did not utilize this opportunity to reframe expectations for budgetary outcomes from the viewpoint of violence prevention.

One Long Beach CVIPI Collaborative Partners:

Community-Based Organizations		
Centro CHA	African American Cultural Center of Long Beach	United Cambodian Community
EM3 Dignity Health dba St. Mary Medical Center- Families in Good Health (District 6)	Success in Challenges	Interval House
	The LGBTQ Center- Long Beach	
Latinos in Action, California (District 1)	Love Beyond Limits	Hoops After Dark – California Youth Empowerment Services
Justice for Murdered Children	Women Shelter of Long Beach	Long Beach Community Action Partnership
Puente Latino Association Inc.	23 Seeds of Greatness	Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion
Members at Large:		
Lydia A. Hollie, JD/MAED Community Advocate Member, One Long Beach CVIPI Collaborative, District 6	James (Blue) Marks Violence Prevention Leader	Aarti Harper Violence Prevention Leader & Long Beach Resident
Jerelene Tatum Violence Prevention Leader	Billy Brown F.O.C.U.S. and Violence Prevention Leader	Andrew Mandujano Books & Buckets
		Senay Kenfe Long Beach District 6 Resident

For more information about the One Long Beach CVIPI Collaborative, please contact Cindy at cindy@centrocha.org or call 562.612.4180 Ext. 1018

The City of Long Beach Advancing Peace Initiative is a citywide and neighborhood approach to improve safety and well-being for everyone. This initiative aims to create and sustain a city where everyone in Long Beach lives in safe communities, attends safe schools, and contributes to neighbors connected to their community.

Long Beach Advancing Peace Steering Committee Members:

<p>Christopher Covington (Co-Chair) <i>Violence Prevention Leader</i></p>	<p>Maleka Chris (Co-Chair) <i>Executive Director</i> Love Beyond Limits</p>	<p>Dr. Dinesa Thomas <i>Vice President of Programs</i> Habitat for Humanity</p>
<p>Pastor Gerald Johnson <i>Pastor</i> Greater Harvest Church</p>	<p>Hilda Gaytan <i>Executive Director</i> Puente Latino Association Inc.</p>	<p>James Marks <i>Violence Prevention Leader</i></p>
<p>Jesus Esparza <i>President</i> Washington Neighborhood Association</p>	<p>Keith Lilly <i>Executive Director</i> Developing Future Leaders</p>	<p>Kristopher McLucas <i>License Clinical Social Worker</i></p>
<p>Marha Cota <i>Executive Director and Founder</i> Latinos in Action- California</p>	<p>Paula Wood <i>Executive Director and Founder</i> Success in Challenges</p>	<p>Sithy Bin <i>Executive Director and Co-Founder</i> Made New Foundation</p>
<p>Travis Scott <i>Violence Prevention Leader</i></p>	<p>Cindy Sahagun <i>Community Violence</i> <i>Intervention & Prevention</i> <i>Program Coordinator</i> Centro CHA</p>	

"I support the FY25 Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Budget Recommendation for Safer Communities in the City of Long Beach."

