

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 12

SUBJECT: GUN VIOLENCE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs and to return to the Board within 180 days. On April 5, 2022 (16), staff returned to the Board with a recommendation to conduct a contractor-led, regional gun violence community needs assessment to better understand the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence and to share key findings with the Board upon completion. The recommendation was approved by the full Board and the County issued a competitive solicitation and contracted with Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. (HARC), a non-profit research and evaluation firm.

To complete the community needs assessment, HARC conducted extensive data analysis; issued and analyzed two community surveys; hosted a dozen listening sessions and community forums receiving broad stakeholder input; facilitated numerous meetings with a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group comprised of community stakeholders; and conducted a best practice review of local, state, and national programs and practices designed to reduce gun violence. HARC issued its analysis and findings in a Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report, which summarizes findings from secondary data analysis, community surveys and surveys of practitioners working in jobs that pertain to gun violence, and through virtual and in-person listening sessions. The final report includes recommendations to reduce gun violence in the county. Public Safety Group Executive Office staff have used those recommendations to prepare a Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan.

Today's recommendations are to receive the HARC report, the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan, and a presentation, and to authorize the submission of grant applications that will support violence prevention and intervention programs and services; and to direct staff to return in early 2024 with plans for how gun violence reduction work will be structured and organized within the County.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. Final Report and recommendations.
2. Receive the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan and approve year one actions.
3. Receive a presentation on the gun violence community needs assessment project.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29 Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of applications for, acceptance of, and full cost recovery for grants.

5. Pursuant to Board Policy B-29, authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Public Safety Group and the Health and Human Services Agency Director or his/her designee, to submit grant applications and accept grants that support violence prevention and intervention programs and services through June 30, 2028.
6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in early 2024 with plans for how gun violence reduction efforts will be organized and structured within the County that includes the engagement of the Public Safety Group and Health and Human Services Agency; a proposed evaluation framework for the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan that includes the engagement of the Public Safety Group, Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics, and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice; and an initial update on Work Plan actions.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

According to the American Public Health Association, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States. In San Diego County, from 2017-2022, there were 1,310 deaths by firearm (70.9% were suicide and 28.9% were homicides). From 2016-2020, there were 699 firearm-related hospitalizations and 668 firearm-related emergency department visits.

While gun violence impacts people of all ages, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds, it does not impact people equally. In San Diego County, the firearm-related homicide rate for Black residents is 11 times greater than the rate for Asian residents, who have the lowest rate. Black residents between the ages of 15-44 have the highest rate of firearm-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in the county. Regional suicide data shows that White men over the age of 65 have the highest rates of firearm-related suicide in the county.

By focusing programs, services, and practices on the places and people experiencing the greatest burden of violence and underlying conditions that contribute to risk, the strategies are to have both an immediate impact on preventing violence and to establish long-term solutions. With an emphasis on equity, the goals are to reduce disparities and disproportionality and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents through partnerships, innovation, and active community engagement, which is in alignment with the County of San Diego's Equity Strategic Initiative.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by seeking to meaningfully engage the community, provide just and equitable access to programs and services, and protect the health and well-being of residents. Ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence will impact the communities and populations historically burdened by gun violence by providing better long-term outcomes through investment in community-centered approaches. Extensive community engagement through listening sessions, surveys, forums, and the integration of an Advisory Group of individuals who actively work on gun violence related issues, was a major component of the project. By partnering with community members to identify challenges and opportunities to reduce gun violence, we hope to see long-term improvements in the health and well-being of neighborhoods and residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for year one of the Work Plan are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan in the Public Safety Group. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 for suicide prevention activities and community engagement and outreach. The funding source is Public Safety Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Fiscal impact related to future recommendations will either be included in future Operational Plans for the Public Safety Group or staff will return to the board for consideration and approval of other identified funding sources.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, for the Board of Supervisors to take action as recommended.

- AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer
- NOES: Anderson, Desmond
- ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

(Motion failed due to a tie vote. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board’s Rules of Procedure, this item will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter