



MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Cassandra Kaufman

DATE: August 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Request from City Office of Violence Prevention to Serve as the Pass-Through Entity/Fiscal Agent for \$700K in Grant Funding from the National League of Cities

BACKGROUND

The murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprisings sparked local innovation and efforts to think differently about how to keep residents safe in cities, towns and villages. In the fall of 2021, after months of meetings and listening sessions, the National League of Cities (NLC) Reimagining Public Safety Task Force released two reports to support local action to transform local public safety.

The Task Force, chaired by Mayor Ras J. Baraka of Newark, NJ and Mayor David Holt of Oklahoma City, OK, was launched to provide actionable steps for municipal leaders to take on areas such as alternative and innovative response, violence prevention and reduction, jail use reduction, law enforcement accountability, public safety budgets and, most importantly, racial equity, the role of credible messengers and community engagement. The Task Force was supported by the Vera Institute of Justice, Cities United, Urban Institute, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The Task Force had three major goals:

- Set out a 21st-century public safety agenda for America's communities
- Highlight promising public safety and justice reform practices in municipalities, and identify key areas for improvement and opportunities to scale
- Amplify the voices of local leaders in justice reform and public safety

The Task Force released two reports to support action to transform local public safety, *A Path Towards Safe and Equitable Cities* and *Reimagining Public Safety, a Toolkit for Cities and Towns* (National League of Cities, 2022).

ST. LOUIS CITY JOINS SIX-CITY COHORT

In February 2022, Mayor Jones accepted an invitation from NLC to join the Municipalities Reimagining Public Safety Cohort accepting a \$700K two-year grant to support the creation of a comprehensive safety/violence prevention blueprint that would align with the city's public safety principles of keeping residents physically safe, addressing the root causes of crime, and ensuring a responsive governing structure. Participation in the cohort will enable the city to build on its existing work to improve public safety by engaging in strategies related to the following priorities:

1. Expand existing crisis response work to include a civilian response model
2. Improve coordination of and access to juvenile diversion initiatives
3. Address the root causes of crime

NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

On July 28, 2022 Mayor Tishaura Jones signed Board Bill 65 establishing the Office of Violence Prevention (Office) and dedicated nearly \$13.6M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to community violence prevention and youth programs. The Office will help coordinate services across city departments including resource deployment, violence interruption, and citizen reentry programs in an attempt to streamline the city's efforts to combat violent crime. Housed under the Department of Public Safety, the Office will coordinate public safety resources and community violence intervention programs to make St. Louis neighborhoods safer. Additionally, the Office will explore funding opportunities to help extend programs beyond the expiration of APRA funds in 2026. Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families Director Wil Pinkney will lead the new Office of Violence Prevention, building on his previous work helping lead the city's efforts to reimagine public safety.

Funding from the NLC grant will be used to:

- Create the infrastructure for the newly established Office including hiring a consultant to seek and acquire continuation funding beyond ARPA
- Develop and implement a data collection and measurement system to track and report the impact of the Office's efforts
- Fund the expansion of key violence prevention programs to serve new neighborhoods
- Provide funding for professional development and travel for Office staff
- Include 10% indirect cost for MHB's administrative services as a pass-through entity and fiscal agent for the private grant funding

The two-year grant will provide \$465K in year one and \$235K in year two. Participation in the cohort will include support and technical assistance from the NLC based on the strategies and activities articulated in the two reports released by the task force. The release of year two funding is contingent upon demonstrated progress toward meeting established goals and metrics articulated in the grant agreement. Should the Board approve MHB to serve as the pass-through entity and fiscal agent, MHB would enter into a grant agreement directly with NLC and a subsequent MOU with the City. The proposed budget for the \$700K may be found as an attachment to this memorandum.

REQUEST

Wil Pinkney, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention is requesting MHB to serve as both a pass-through entity and fiscal agent for the \$700K in grant funding from the National League of City's Reimagining Public Safety 6-city cohort. Through the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families and the work of the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC), MHB has partnered with the city government to advance its provision of prevention programs which promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth and strengthen families. As much of the work for VPC and the Office of Violence Prevention strategically aligns, serving as a pass-through entity during the start-up period for the Office may be viewed as an extension of MHB and VPC's existing partnership with the city.

St. Louis City Department of Public Safety – Office of Violence Prevention
National League of Cities Reimagining Public Safety Proposed Budget



Cost Category	Year 1	Year 2	Total Line Item	Budget Narrative
Community Engagement Expenses (e.g., outreach materials, stipends for resident engagement, etc.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Data & Measurement (e.g., data collection, sharing, analysis, and presentation platforms such as dashboards)	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 125,000	Funding will support the acquisition of software and licensing for the Office of Violence Prevention.
Meeting Expenses (e.g., space rental, audio/visual, food and beverage)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	Funding will cover the costs of food and beverage for community and stakeholder engagement.
Program Expansion Expenses (e.g., strategic infusions of resources to expand key programs to new neighborhoods, enlist partners, or to demonstrate efficacy)	\$ 190,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 300,000	Funding will support providing technical assistance to community organizations, public engagement (i.e., radio and print media), and program evaluation.
Staffing (e.g., hiring project coordinator, community outreach coordinator, etc.)	\$ 125,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 175,000	Funding will support the hiring of a consultant to create an infrastructure for pursuing and managing grants. It will also support the hiring of a technology consultant to assist with the new software system for the Office of Violence Prevention.
Training Costs (training for staff, etc.)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	Funding will support professional development for the staff of the Office of Violence Prevention.
Travel Expenses (e.g., air and ground transportation, lodging, etc.)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	Funding will cover travel cost for conference, training and site visits for the staff of the Office of Violence Prevention.
<i>OTHER (Please Describe in Summary)</i>	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 70,000	Other funding will cover the administrative costs for the St. Louis MHB.
TOTAL	\$ 465,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 700,000	