



May 29, 2020

Mayor Steinberg and Sacramento City Council Members,

As Sacramento experiences a steep increase in police and community violence and unrest, the issues of community gun safety and youth violence prevention could not be more urgent than they are right now.

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Black and Brown families are facing disproportionate deaths and economic strife, as well as the trauma of long-standing structural inequities. The results of ignoring these issues and the voices of those who continue to be most drastically impacted are erupting in our city. Accordingly, we are calling for immediate action to expand and deepen the violence intervention and prevention efforts that have and will continue to make our city safer and healthier.

We urge all city and county elected leaders to increase their investment in violence prevention by committing \$2 million to expand effective gun violence prevention, intervention and interruption strategies with CARES Act funding.

Incredibly, over the past 28 months, our city has experienced no youth homicides. This is the result of investments in hard work, deepening trust and a growing public and community collaboration across multiple sectors. The Black Child Legacy and its diverse collection of community partners have been proud to model an effective initiative built on community-led interventions and partnerships. The work around youth gun violence has been a shared success and we want to keep it that way.

With the tension that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased in already vulnerable communities, we need – now more than ever – to act with intention and urgency to expand community-led street outreach and crisis response. As young people and their families enter the summer in precarious health and economic conditions and without access to the usual supports and opportunities, we are deeply concerned about the emotional and physical toll this will take on their health and wellbeing. We are also worried about what we are likely to experience in the weeks and months ahead without prevention and intervention efforts.

To that end, we recommend the following immediate emergency violence prevention funding:

Prevention - \$500,000 Community resources across Sacramento neighborhoods serve whole families, building relationships, addressing needs and reducing barriers to positive and healthy outcomes. These resources need ongoing investment.

Intervention - \$500,000 The infrastructure is in place across multiple sectors and throughout the city to ensure seamless partnership during an incidence of violence. This work must only be done by trusted community leaders with established relationships.

Interruption - \$500,000 Crisis Intervention Workers and partners trained to de-escalate crises work to contain and interrupt further violence. This essential work is proven, effective and needs sustained support.

Youth Workforce and Economic Development - \$500,000 Our young people are willing and ready to work. They want to help support their families and themselves. They need access to workforce skills development and opportunities to work in their own neighborhoods.

These funding recommendations have been developed by a coalition of more than 50 local leaders committed to violence prevention and community voice and health. The funding priority areas reflect the needs we see in our neighborhoods and the network of community leaders and organizations we have ready to address them. The recommendations are in alignment with requests from other allied coalitions working to find solutions for unemployment, domestic violence, affordable housing, economic inclusion and community health.

Thank you for your recognition of the urgency with which decisions like this must be made. We have a proven network of dedicated partners at work who need your support to sustain this important effort. The stakes have never been higher.

Sincerely,

Advance Peace
Advocates for Action Consulting
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Arden Fair Mall
Arthur Hernandez
Brother to Brother
California Urban Partnership
EBAYC
Food Literacy Center
Greater Sacramento NAACP
Greater Sacramento Urban League
Hmong Innovating Politics
Ijeoma Ononuju
Improve Your Tomorrow
Judy Heiman
Justice2Jobs Coalition
Khalil Ferguson
Laura Blosser
Liberty Towers
Lynn Berkeley-Baskin
Mercedes Piedra

Mutual Assistance Network
Oak Park Neighborhood Association
Pastor Dee Emmert
PRO Youth and Families
Public Health Advocates
Robert Azevedo
Roberts Family Development Center
Sacramento Area Youth Speaks
Sacramento Building Healthy Communities
Sacramento Faces Race
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc
Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction
Trades Council
Sacramento Tenants Union
Sol Collective
The Center at Sierra Health Foundation
United Latinos
Vickie L. Gomez
Voice of the Youth
WIND Youth Services