

9/12 Action Review:

Council will receive an update on progress to data related to the Alternatives to Violence program. Additionally, staff will request Council action on approving a \$1.0m grant from the Department of Justice to expand the Alternatives to Violence program to two new locations.

Background:

Framework to Address Violence

In response to an increase in violent crime over the course of 2019 and 2020, the City worked with GovEx (Bloomberg Philanthropies-funded project to support cities in developing data-driven culture) and Johns Hopkins University to review violent crime data and identify opportunities of focus. Out of the work came the Framework to Address Violence, adopted by Council in March 2020. Each of the five pillars guides the City’s holistic work in viewing violence as a public-health issue that requires cross-organization and community collaboration to address.

Alternatives to Violence

The City partnered with Cure Violence Global (CVG), to develop and implement a Charlotte-specific violence interrupter program, inline with the pillars of the Framework to Address Violence. The CVG methodology leverages trusted messengers from the community to interrupt and prevent conflicts from escalating into violence.

The Alternatives to Violence program launched in the Beatties Ford Road corridor in August 2021, leveraging Youth Advocate Programs as the local implementation partner. The City and County each contributed \$250,000 for the first year of programming. Since that time, the City has received \$1.0m from Wells Fargo and \$0.2m from the Greenlight Fund to continue programming.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

Since January 2022, the City has partnered with Atrium Health to deploy a hospital-based violence intervention program, whose focus is on preventing retaliatory violence for those who enter the emergency room as a victim of violence. The secondary goal of the program is to address social determinantes of health through having patients identify goals; of which a majority of patients are seeking job training and employment opportunities.

Framework to Address Violence

Purpose: City, County, Partners, and Community work together to reduce violence, increase economic opportunity, and build healthier, more resilient communities.				
Intergovernmental Collaboration	Invest in Community-Led Efforts	Interrupt Violence	Community Collaboration in Priority Areas	Use Data and Evidence
PROGRAMS		POLICY		PRACTICE

SAFE Charlotte Grants

The City launched the SAFE Charlotte Grants in April 2021, and since then have committed to invest \$3.0m in community organizations to address violence. The current cohort of recipients are focusing work along the corridors using a collaborative model where multiple groups with different disciplines co-deliver programming.