

### **Napier-Sudekum Community Safety Plan: \$300,000**

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**The challenge:** The Napier- Sudekum community is a small area in South Nashville that includes the Napier Place and Sudekum Apartments, as well as a surrounding single-family residential neighborhood. Together Napier Place and Sudekum Apartments include 821 subsidized apartments, which provide housing to more than 2,700 people. Approximately 1,400 of those residents are young people (ages 18 or under). Another 1,300 live in the surrounding area.

Even before the Covid pandemic, the Napier-Sudekum community faced significant public safety challenges. In 2018, 55 percent of residents reported hearing gunshots. That same year, 91 percent of residents reported violence as a problem within the neighborhood. The Covid pandemic has made these challenges worse. Residents and nonprofit employees in Napier-Sudekum reported a sharp increase in the severity of gun violence. Instead of hearing one or two shots in the night, residents and people working in the area reported hearing dozens of shots, sometimes during daylight areas, and seeing groups of masked armed men.

The pandemic also made other problems more acute. The area's many younger residents were not able to attend school and lost access to activities and programs. Experiences of trauma and mental health needs increased. The problems of concentrated poverty, lack of access to affordable and nutritious food, and lack of access to employment were made worse.

To meet these challenges, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority (MDHA) and the Mayor's Office, in coordination with Council Member Freddie O'Connell, assembled a working group composed of the leaders of the Napier and Sudekm Resident Associations, nonprofit and Metro partners to identify problems and prioritize solutions. (Appendix A.) The working group quickly identified traffic calming and lighting priorities, which Metro and NES addressed. Mayor Cooper also proposed a \$500,000 investment in the Napier Recreation Center through the current capital spending plan. If approved, Metro Parks has committed to staff and program the recreation center year-round. The working group has identified additional needs around the Napier Recreation Center and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's community engagement efforts. They also identified the need to provide additional financial support to nonprofits working in the area, particularly those offering out-of-school activities, therapy, and job training.

**The solution:** \$300,000 in ARP funding: \$210,000 for nonprofits working in the area and addressing priority needs to be administered through the Community Safety Partnership Fund; \$60,000 for the Napier Recreation Center; \$30,000 for the MNPD community engagement team for bicycles (for police and residents) and community programming; and \$10,000 to the Pruitt branch of the Nashville Public Library for equipment for additional programming.

## **Napier Sudekum Community Safety Working Group**

<b>Jameka Usher</b> Resident Association President – Sudekum Apartments	<b>Mike Mooney</b> Resident Association President – Napier Place - MDHA	<b>Freddie O’Connell</b> Metro Council, District 19
<b>Pastor Bryan Williams Sr.</b> Senior Pastor- Church of the Messiah	<b>Kinzounza, Raymond</b> Branch Manager – Pruitt Library	<b>Curtis Thomas</b> Executive Program Manager – MDHA
<b>Larry Shelton II</b> Program Coordinator – Napier Community Center - Parks and Recreation Department	<b>Brian Haile</b> CEO - Neighborhood Health	<b>Zachary Grunow</b> Security Coordinator – MDHA
<b>John Buntin,</b> Director of Policy & Community Safety - Office of the Mayor	<b>Ron Johnson</b> Community Safety Coordinator- Office of the Mayor	<b>Amanda Thomas</b> Community Safety Program Coordinator
<b>Lt. Eric Snyder</b> MDHA Task force and Support – Violent Crimes Division - MNPD	<b>Sgt. Matthew Mehaffey</b> Community Engagement Team Coordinator ( Until 11/01) - Hermitage Precinct – MNPD	<b>Sgt. Nicholas McCluskey</b> Community Engagement Team Coordinator ( As of 11/01) - Hermitage Precinct – MNPD
<b>Anthony Johnson</b> Facilitator – Health Department		

Exhibit A  
Napier-Sudekum Community Safety Plan

**Exhibit B**

**Napier Sudekum Community Safety Plan**

**Area Nonprofits**

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**Napier – Sudekum Community Safety Partnership Fund: \$ 200,000.00 requested**

MDHA has identified 18 nonprofits working in the Napier-Sudekum community. The Napier-Sudekum Community Safety Partnership Fund would allow nonprofits working in the area to expand prevention services such as Youth and Family Centered intervention programs, supervised youth recreation, and workforce and development. An application will be posted in early 2022 on hubNashville. Applicants will be selected by working group members in coordination with the Advisory Council of the Community Safety Partnership Fund. Grants will be administered through the Community Safety Partnership Fund.

**Private & Non – Profit Organizations**

Rocketown  
Youth Encouragement Services  
Elijahs Heart - Papa Joe  
Raphah Institute  
Jamont Family Foundation  
Nashville Strong Babies  
Neighborhood Health & Pruitt's Pharmacy at Napier Clinic  
Recycle & Reinvest  
Wayne Reed Christian Childcare Center  
Harvest Hands  
*Madeas Foundation*  
*Tech Adventurers*

**Faith-based Organizations**

The Bridge Ministry  
Church of the Messiah  
Lindsley Avenue Church of Christ  
St Luke's Primitive Baptist  
Midtown Fellowship (Napier Kitchen Table)

**Napier Community Center Improvements: \$ 60,000.00 requested**

The Napier Sudekum community is a young community, per the 2020 Census the average age in the general area is 14.9. In the Napier Place and Sudekum Apartments there are over 1,400 children under the age of 18 that live in the two properties (over 400 at Napier and almost 1,000 at Sudekum). If you combine the two properties, the average resident of Napier and Sudekum is 22-years-old. Analyzed separately, Napier is 25, and Sudekum is 20. This creates a community with limitless potential and the opportunity for new thought when given the right support.

Unfortunately, during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, many of these youth lacked access to structured environments and programming. Many residents believe crimes have increased during times when children are not at school. In-person school options are now available to most students; however, out-of-school activities are lacking. So are programs to engage out-of-school youth and others young adults involved in anti-social behavior.

**Solution:** Equip the Napier Community Center with additional resources to meet the current needs of the young people in the community. Youth who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely than non-participants to have higher self-esteem, greater levels of academic achievement, and lower incidences of delinquency. Furthermore, at-risk youths have been found to especially benefit from guided recreation programming. Low-income, at-risk youth experience improved test scores in both reading and math after they begin participation in after-school programs. Data has also shown that students who reported spending no time in afterschool extracurricular activities were 57 percent more likely to drop out of high school, 49 percent more likely to use drugs, and 27 percent more likely to have been arrested than students who spend as much as four hours in structured activities.

Specific upgrades include the following:

***Year 1 (2022): \$ 30,000.00***

- Facility Upgrades
  - Furniture
  - Cooking Equipment
  - Technology Enhancements
  - Score Board
  - Sound System
  - Gaming System
- Aquatic Supplies
- Community League Development & Enrollment
- Art Supplies

## Exhibit A

### Napier-Sudekum Community Safety Plan

- Athletic Equipment
- Monthly Programming Supplies
- Youth Incentives
  - Breakaway Rims
  - Bleachers
  - Set of Skates
  
- ***Year 2 ( 2023 ) : \$ 30,000.00***
  - Aquatic Supplies
  - Community League Fees
  - Art Supplies
  - Athletic Equipment
  - Monthly Programming Supplies
  - Youth Incentives

**Expansion of MNPD Community Engagement Budget: \$ 30,000.00 requested**

Preliminary results from a community safety needs assessment that is currently underway have found that over 40 percent of Napier-Sudekum residents reported that they had witnessed a crime in the last 12 months. Of that group, only four percent said they had completed a police report. The issue of inconsistent police reporting makes it difficult for police to provide effective and timely policing to the community. It also speaks to the urgent need to build trust. Trust is the foundation of effective policing, and trust is something that develops over time with positive interactions.

With this in mind, the MNPD has placed a considerable amount of officer-hours and funding in non-enforcement community engagement activities in the Napier Sudekum community. In particular, the department has made an effort to have a daily presence of officers during the hours of 9am -5pm. To support this effort, MDHA has invested in an incentive program that pays officers overtime to be visible in the community. The working group wanted to match this investment of time with investments in rich interactions and programming.

Toward that end, the Working group has recommended providing an additional \$ 30,000.00 to the MNPD – Hermitage Precinct to support community engagement efforts in the Napier Sudekum Community. These funds will be spent in the following manner:

- **Bicycle allotment - \$15,000**
  - 30 Neighborhood Bicycles
  - Bike Rodeo
  - Safety Course
  - Helmets
  - Bikes for neighborhood residents
  
- **Monthly Programming - \$5,000**
  - 8 months per year
  - Field/fitness day(s)
  - Movie nights
  - Food, drink, incentives
  
- **Community Center Involvement -\$10,000**
  - Weekly scheduled inclusion
  - PAL Resources

in

Exhibit A  
Napier-Sudekum Community Safety Plan

**Exhibit E**  
**Napier Sudekum Community Safety Plan**

**Nashville Public Library - Pruitt Branch**

**Nashville Public Library - Pruitt Branch Technology Enhancements: \$ 10,000.00 requested**

The Pruitt Branch of the Nashville Public Library has historically filled in the gaps, providing a safe space for young people to be when school is out. During the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Pruitt facility reduced its hours and capacity in order to keep the community safe. An unfortunate side effect of this was to deprive young people of safe, supervised recreational activities.

Since reopening, the Pruitt branch has provided a monthly language group, help with homework, tutoring in adult literacy, and the computer, and a reading program. However, it lacks amenities that would attract many younger residents to a safer and more supervised environment.

**Solution:** Equip the Pruitt Library Branch with additional resources to meet the current needs of the young people in the community.

Specific upgrades include the following:

- Sound System Panel with HDMI & USB Port
- Bluetooth Speaker
- 4 Gaming Consoles
- Games
- Lock Cabinet
- Mounted Flat Screen TV(s)
- Monthly Programming Supplies
- Youth Incentives