

## **Cure Violence and Community Safety: \$1,060,000**

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The Covid-19 pandemic has sparked a nationwide increase in homicides. Unfortunately, Nashville has not escaped this national trend. Last year, homicides in Nashville increased by over 30 percent. Homicides this year have risen by approximately 14 percent. Metro has taken a number of steps to respond to this pandemic-driven surge in violence. The three requests below will further support evidence-based community solutions to violence.

**Challenge #1:** Earlier this year, the Metro Council allocated \$1 million to support a Cure Violence pilot in North Nashville, to be administered through the Community Safety Partnership Fund (CSPF). In keeping with national best practices, the CSPF Advisory Board recommended that the pilot include an independent evaluation; ongoing training and professional development for violence interrupters; and a commitment to professional standards from grant recipients. (See attachment A for advisory board members.)

Practitioner, academic experts, and former government officials in Los Angeles and Chicago strongly recommended that the pilot run for 18-24 months. They also recommended allocating \$100,000 for an evaluation and \$150,000 for training and professional support. However, the current level of funding allocated for the Cure Violence does not provide adequate funding for a two-year pilot that includes an independent evaluation and training.

**The solution:** \$750,000 for the Cure Violence pilot in North Nashville. This will allow for a two-year pilot that includes best practices in three areas identified as areas of opportunity for violence interruption efforts – 2400 Buena Vista Pike, 2715 Whites Creek Parkway, and Cumberland View.

**Challenge #2:** Earlier this year, in response to a surge in gun violence driven by the coronavirus pandemic, Metro has launched a Community Safety Partnership Fund (CSPF). Its purpose was to support nonprofits working to reduce violence. The CSPF has issued 21 grants to date. It is currently preparing for another round of larger grants in early 2022. These grants come with reporting and monitoring requirements. Community Safety Coordinator Ron Johnson currently has no dedicated project management support. The Community Safety Coordinator needs contract and relationship management experience before the next Metro budget cycle.

**The solution: \$240,000 for a project manager and contract management assistance.** This would provide funding for 2-3 years for a project manager and for any other contract management needs.

**Challenge #3:** Researchers from the National Network of Safe Communities at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York are preparing to conduct a detailed analysis of gun violence in Nashville, with support for Everytown for Gun Safety, one of the nation's leading advocacy group. However, Everytown for Gun Safety is not providing funds for researchers to meet with civic and community leaders.

Exhibit A

Cure Violence and Community Safety Request

**Solution: \$70,000 for community engagement and community organizing.** This request would make it possible for the Community Safety Coordinator to bring researchers to Nashville in early 2022 to share findings with community leaders, with the goal of developing a community-driven action plan to reduce and prevent gun violence that connect individuals involved with gun violence to programs and services.

**Exhibit A**  
**Community Safety Advisory Board**

**Members**

**Community Safety Partnership Fund Advisory Board**

<p><b>Sharon Roberson, Chair</b> President and CEO, YWCA <i>Policing Policy Commission representative</i></p>	<p><b>Tene Franklin</b> VP of Health Equity &amp; Stakeholder Engagement at Health Leads <i>Chair, Board of Health</i></p>	<p><b>Christiane Buggs</b> Manager, Literacy Partnerships, United Way <i>Chair, MNPS Board of Education</i></p>
<p><b>Dr. Chris Jackson</b> Senior Pastor, Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church <i>President, Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship</i></p>	<p><b>Katina Beard</b> CEO, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Clinic <i>Chai, Mayor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council</i></p>	<p><b>Andres Martinez</b> Policy and Communications Director, Conexion <i>Chair, Community Oversight Board</i></p>
<p><b>Judge Sheila Calloway</b> <i>Juvenile Court Judge</i></p>	<p><b>Tom Turner</b> President and CEO, Downtown Partnership</p>	<p><b>Nawzad Hawrami</b> Salahadeen Center of Nashville <i>Chair, Public Safety Committee, New American Advisory Committee</i></p>
<p><b>Council Member Erin Evans</b> <i>Chair, Health and Safety Committee</i></p>	<p><b>Council Member Jennifer Gamble</b> Founder and CEO, Nelson PR and Communications</p>	<p><b>Ron Johnson</b> <i>Community Safety Coordinator-Office of the Mayor</i></p>