



CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 31, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Taplin  
Subject: Budget Referral: Ceasefire Program Staffing

#### RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$1,000,000 (\$1M) to the budget process to provide full staffing for a Berkeley Ceasefire program.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$1 million in General Fund costs per annum in FY 23-24 biennial budget.

According to the Everytown Economic Cost of Gun Violence Calculator Tool, a single gun homicide directly costs state taxpayers \$1 million, and costs Californians \$9 million when including externalities imposed on family members, survivors, and the community at large.<sup>1</sup>

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley Ceasefire is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

Gun violence is increasing at an alarming rate in the city of Berkeley. In 2021, there was a 30% increase in reported gun violence in Berkeley, with 52 confirmed shooting incidents compared to 40 in 2020. In 2021, the Berkeley Police Department recovered a total of 118 firearms, an increase of 38.8%. In 2021, 33 of the firearms seized were ghost guns compared to 6 in 2020 and 8 in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

On November 9, 2021, the Berkeley City Council unanimously approved a budget referral for \$200,000 in consulting costs to begin developing a multi-jurisdictional Gun Violence Intervention (GVI) program, a.k.a. Ceasefire, in Berkeley. On May 5, 2022, the City Council approved an omnibus budget referral to pursue a phased approach to the Reimagining Public Safety process, which included an additional \$200,000 for Ceasefire.

#### BACKGROUND

<sup>1</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/report/economic-cost-calculator/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/2022-02-22%20Item%2033%202021%20Year%20End%20Crime.pdf>

David Muhammad, Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice (NICJR), has provided the following cost estimates for a fully staffed Ceasefire program in Berkeley:

- Full time Director: \$120-\$140k
- Program Manager/Supervisor: \$80-90k
- 5 Life Coaches: \$70k each - \$350k
- 3 Outreach Workers - \$62k each -- \$186k
- Fringe (25%): \$190,250
- Gun Violence Problem Analysis: \$35k

Total: \$986,250

The National Network for Safe Communities defines GVI programs as “a partnership of law enforcement, community members, and social service providers with a common goal but distinct roles,” each role “conveying a powerful community message about disapproval for violence and in support of community aspirations; concrete opportunities for both immediate and longer term assistance and support; and clear prior notice of the legal risks associated with continued violence.”<sup>3</sup>

Ceasefire programs are credited with major reductions in homicide rates in cities that have implemented them, including Stockton<sup>4</sup> and Richmond.<sup>5</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin      Council District 2      510-981-7120

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<sup>3</sup> <https://nnscommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/GVI-Issue-Brief-1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Braga, A. A. (2008). Pulling levers focused deterrence strategies and the prevention of gun homicide. *Journal of criminal justice*, 36(4), 332-343.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.advancepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AP-Richmond-Impact-2019.pdf>