



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER
TERRY TAPLIN
DISTRICT 2

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.¹

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 2019.²

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

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

² <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.”³

Ceasefire programs are credited with major reductions in homicide rates in cities that have implemented them, including Stockton⁴ and Richmond.⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

CONTACT PERSON

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

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

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