

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/27/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0793

LOG NAME: 35ARPA ONE SECOND COLLABORATIVE

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Contract with the United Way of Tarrant County to Implement the One Second Collaborative to Address Youth Gun Violence

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with United Way of Tarrant County to implement the One Second Collaborative to address youth gun violence.
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DISCUSSION:

This Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize a contract with United Way of Tarrant County to use of up to \$4,411,0800.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subtitle M (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)) funding to reduce gun violence in the City of Fort Worth (City). ARPA Section 9901, Subsection 603(c)(1)(A) provides funding to improve the public health of the City through gun violence intervention programs. Providing matching funds for eligible joint projects with other agencies was also determined to be a qualified priority by City Management for ARPA funding as approved by the City Council in Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) 21-0445 on June 22, 2021. ARPA funds must be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

In coordination with United Way of Tarrant County and Tarrant County, Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) proposes to establish the One Second Collaborative. The One Second Collaborative is a joint effort to strategically and comprehensively disrupt gun violence among young adults and teenagers in targeted zones across our community. The collective mental health of the community has been significantly strained due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shootings involving children and teenagers have been on the rise in recent years. Experts say idleness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shares the blame with easy access to guns and disputes that too often end with gunfire.

Our community has lost more than 100 young people of middle or high school age over the past six years. Just last year, 29 young people ages 12 to 18 were shot and killed in Tarrant County, the most in at least the last 10 years (Source: Star Telegram). Black teenagers are disproportionately shot and killed in Tarrant County. Despite being only 18% of the total county population, black teenagers make up more than half of the shooting victims and deaths.

Together, FWPD, United Way of Tarrant County, the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County and countless additional stakeholders are coming together to address the escalating issue of youth gun violence. The goal is to reduce youth gun violence based upon assessment data from TCU/Rutgers and input from community.

Community leaders unite, acknowledge problem of gun violence and need to support FWPD in efforts to address issues, launch One Second Collaborative, announce Steering Committee

1. **Steering Committee forms**, establishes agreed upon formal structure (law enforcement, criminal justice, schools, social services, community-based groups, faith-based organizations, affected members of community, local government all represented)
 - a. Executive committee, oversight committee, implementation committee, evaluation committee established
 - b. Governance policies adopted
 - c. Administrative structure developed and initiative partners identified
 - d. Steering Committee facilitator selected
 - e. MOUs drafted and executed among members
 - f. Define scope of work for research partner
 - g. Develop community involvement strategies to support initiative
 - h. Identify Lead Agency
 - i. Prepare, agree upon position description for Project Director
 - j. Select Intervention Team members
 - k. Ensure UniteUs case management platform is properly rolled out, training received for all community partners to ensure consistency in tracking, reporting
2. **Conduct community assessment** to detail the nature and scope of the youth gang problem leading to the identification of a target community or communities and population(s).
 - a. TCU and Rutgers University conduct all **research** focused on gang activity and youth gun violence
 - i. Demographic (who is involved in gang activity)
 - ii. Location (where are the hot spots)
 - iii. Identify current services and service gaps

- iv. School data
 - v. Community perception (parents, community leaders, at-large community)
 - vi. Written report, community presentations of results
 - vii. Continuous problem assessment
 - viii. Monitor project performance
3. Steering Committee **develops One Second Implementation Plan** that outlines
- a. Targeted Community
 - b. Targeted population for intervention, prevention, suppression
 - c. Types of youth gun violence and gang-related crime
 - d. Patterns of change in youth gun violence and gang incident rates
 - e. Locations of gang crime and shootings
 - f. Increases/decreases in numbers of gangs and gang members
 - g. Level of citizen concern about youth gun violence and gang activity
 - h. Community perceptions of youth gun violence and gang activity
 - i. Gang-related activity in schools
 - j. Changes in community demographics
 - k. Prioritization of most urgent issues to be addressed
4. Steering Committee **develops administrative structure** for management of
- a. Research partners (responsibilities noted above)
 - b. Project Director (.7 FTE for 30 months) – responsibilities include day-to-day project management, management of Steering Committee facilitator, coordination of funded community-based agency partners, development of contracting protocols, developing evidence-based program policies and procedures, management of Intervention Team, coordinator of training/education about initiative to civic organizations, businesses, schools, management of initiative partners/vendors (legal, training, outreach), annual Single Audit
 - c. Lead agency – responsibilities include all administrative framework for hiring and managing staff as directed by Steering Committee, securing UniteUs data management and reporting platform, administering community partner grant funds and contracts, monitoring and tracking partner activities (Program Coordinators 1.4 FTE for 30 months)
 - d. Intervention Team – responsibilities include oversight of case management targets, identification of additional prevention, intervention and suppression activities needed in targeted areas, coordinate with grant-funded community-based organizations who are making referrals to the team
 - e. Initiative activities – development of community resource matrix
 - i. **Prevention** – funding service providers to create one-stop support center and case management for targeted youth, especially high-risk males ages 10-14 and their immediate family members, establishing teen zones at targeted partner agencies with an environment and services focused on the targeted demographic identified through assessment, tutoring, mentoring and afterschool care programs among other strategies highlighted by assessment – 21 prevention program community grants funded over 30 months - \$598,748
 - ii. **Intervention** - funding service providers focused on anger management/mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, job training and placement, education continuation (GED, higher ed), mentoring, youth recruitment – 20 intervention ambassadors/community partners funded over 30 months - \$410,520
 - iii. **Suppression** - funding service providers that work closely with law enforcement to track/report school attendance and grades, track project participation, expand neighborhood watch teams in targeted areas, monitoring/engaging parolees, aggregate level data gathering, analysis and sharing with initiative partners, law enforcement, criminal justice partners – 25 suppression outreach coordinators funded over 30 months - \$477,773
 - iv. **Reentry** – funding service providers that provide job training and certification scholarships, outreach team coordination prior to release, transportation
5. Steering Committee begins the process of One Second Collaborative program sustainment
- a. Lead Agency staff to seek statewide partner opportunities that leverage state and federal funding opportunities
 - b. Lead Agency and Collaborative partners seek local business support for internships, intervention team members, outreach workers
 - c. Lead Agency organize and host routine sustainability planning sessions with grant-funded partner agencies

Upon execution of the Agreement, the City will make available a payment in the amount of \$1,764,432.00 to United Way of Tarrant County from the City's ARPA SLFRF funds for expenses related to eligible uses associated with the One Second Collaborative program. Following the receipt of a 12-month report, a second payment of \$1,764,432.00 from the City's ARPA funds for eligible expenses associated with the program will be provided to United Way. Following a final 30-month report a third payment of \$882,216.00 will be provided for a total amount of \$4,411,080.00. Tarrant County has committed \$1,930,000.00 in matching ARPA funds. The proposed program is expected to take 30-months. .

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, of the Grants Operating Federal Fund American Rescue Plan Act project, and that upon approval of the above recommendation, funds will be available in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the One Second Collaborative project. The Police and Financial Management Services Departments shall be responsible for ensuring that only expenditures allowable under the American Recovery Plan Act are charged to this funding source. This is an advance grant.

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Expedited