



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Guillermo Cespedes
Chief, Department of
Violence Prevention

SUBJECT: DVP Updates and Successes

DATE: February 17, 2022

INFORMATION

As the new year takes hold, we wanted to share some updates and successes in Oakland's violence prevention efforts. With the expansion of resources and capacity, since the fiscal year began, the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP), in partnership with the DVP Network of community-based partners, has accomplished the following:

- Hosted public convenings to increase capacity of the DVP Network and engage community in dialogue around violence prevention and intervention topics.
- More than doubled the number of violence interrupters working to mediate conflict between groups and gangs to reduce retaliation.
- Increased capacity for gender-based violence (GBV) by hiring our first ever GBV planner and delivering GBV crisis response services at local clinics and hospitals.
- Responded in real time to more than 300 notifications of shootings with injuries.
- Launched Town Nights at 8 sites across the City, drawing crowds out on Friday nights between the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.
- Increased our fund development and grants management capacity.
- On boarded 7 new staff members and are in the process of hiring an additional 13.

Town Nights

Town Nights is intended to disrupt violence using three program components: community outreach/jobs; extended recreational programming/food; and violence interruption with proactive peace-making dialogue. During the first four-week series:

- More than 1,300 Oakland residents attended events weekly
- 1,100 turkeys were distributed on November 22nd
- 1,400 families received toys for their children on December 17th

- 92 part-time positions were created

Initial data analysis indicates that in the **48 hours** following the start time of Town Nights events (6pm—all weekend), there were 14 shootings with injury, compared to 41 shootings with injury during the same days and hours in 2020. This is potentially a **66% reduction**. During the specific hours the events took place, the reduction was 90% over the same hours in 2020. And though these reductions may not be causal, meaning we cannot say with scientific certainty that they are the direct result of Town Nights, we know that they represent an important shift that we hope to maintain when Town Nights summer series begins in June.

Many thanks to TRYBE, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), Roots, Black Cultural Zone, Homies Empowerment, BOSS with Adamika Village, and Urban Peace Movement—in partnership with Hoover-Foster Resident Action Council and Khadafy Washington Foundation—for hosting Town Nights’ successful launch.

Increased Fund Development and Grants Management Capacity

As of October 2021, we are happy to announce the department has hired a budget and grants administrator to solicit and manage outside funding opportunities. A few fund development highlights:

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) - Triangle Incident Response (TIR)-Awarded

DVP was recently awarded a three-year, \$1 million, Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant to deepen and include gender-based violence into the TIR in East Oakland.

DVP has also launched Triangle Incident Response (TIR), a 24/7 crime scene or hospital response to shootings with injury and homicides. This response strategy aims to reduce retaliatory violence, reduce levels of trauma experienced by impacted individuals, and improve relations between community and government partners. Since May 2020, DVP staff and Network partners have **responded in real time to more than 300 notifications of shootings**.

TIR involves a coordinated response from:

- 1. Violence interrupters (VIs)** who assess likelihood of retaliation and implement strategies to interrupt retaliation,
- 2. DVP direct service staff** who coordinate with DVP-funded agencies to connect victims and their families to needed services and resources; and
- 3. Law enforcement officers** who process evidence at the crime scene and share pertinent information with crime scene responders.

Golden State Works FY 2022 to 2025- Awarded

DVP has been awarded \$3,956,522 annually by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to implement the Gold States Works transitional employment and job placement services for Oakland residents on parole for FY 2022-2025

East Bay Community Foundation- Awarded

Received a \$10,000 mini-grant from the East Bay Community Foundation to provide paid mentorship for 10 community engagement team members who provide violence interruption and mediation support in three hotspot neighborhoods hit hardest by gun violence.

California Violence Intervention Prevention Grant Program FY 2022 to 2025- Application Pending

Applied for the California Violence Intervention Prevention Grant Program FY 2022-2025 to receive a total of \$6 million dollars over three years to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including, hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies that seek to interrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults. These initiatives shall be primarily focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population that is identified as having the highest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by violence in the near future.

Gender-Based Violence

The DVP's focus on Gender-based Violence has grown to our first ever GBV program planner who is critically needed to build out coordination and effective services for female identified individuals. Other activities include 24-hour Bedside Advocacy and continuing the series of Town Halls highlighting Gender-based Violence, this time focused on Male Allyship. There was rich conversation at the Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 28, and DVP staff is planning upcoming opportunities to continue the critical dialogue that has begun.

The department is also happy to announce a partnership with Kelli Dillon, the founder and Executive Director of Back to the Basics. She is a survivor of domestic and gang violence. Her professional career in the field of Violence Prevention and Intervention Services spans 13 years, advancing from Domestic Violence (DV) case management to Gender-based Violence (GBV) program development. Kelli is now one of leading advocates, trainers, and champions for GBV awareness in Violence Interruption services and Gender Equity in this professional field.

Training, Capacity Building and Public Engagement

- Graduated the first ever Black Conductors Life Coach Fellowship, a certified life coaching fellowship program dedicated solely to black identified network providers.
- Convened the following public events:
 - DVP Network Wide Convening - Restorative Approaches to Community Safety and Healing
 - Determined to Thrive: Creating a Safer, Healthier Oakland
 - Ending Gender Based Violence: Allyship for Health and Healing

DVP Hiring Progress Since July 2021

On boarded the following seven positions:

- Administrative Service Manager I
- Administrative Analyst II
- Accountant II
- Budget and Grants Administrator
- Data and Evaluation Coordinator
- Program Analyst II (2).

Thirteen hires in progress:

- Public Information Officer III
- Family Support Liaison
- GBV Direct Service Coordinator & Grants Manager
- GBV Case Managers (2)
- GBV Direct Service Coordinator
- Life Coaching Supervisor
- DVP Internal Violence Interrupters (2)
- Life Coaches (2)
- Family Crisis Responders – BCJI Grant Funded (2)

Respectfully submitted,



Guillermo Cespedes (Feb 17, 2022 16:26 PST)

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Chief, Department of Violence Prevention

Please send email to: oaklanddvp@oaklandca.gov for any questions you may have.