

Piloting a Crisis Response and Trauma Informed System of Care

Since the global COVID-19 pandemic hit Los Angeles County in 2020, residents have been reeling with the devastating and unequal effects of COVID-19, including economic devastation on top of the tragedy of the loss of family and friends.

Unfortunately, our communities are now being hit with another layer of trauma, resulting from gun and gang-related violence and homicides that have increased between 20 to 48% in LA County according to several sources.

These senseless acts are leading to significant death and, tragically, deaths of people who have fallen victim to misidentification or being caught in the crossfire between two rival gangs, as in the heartbreaking case of Gabriela Elizabeth De Haro Perez from West Covina. Gabriela’s life was cut short too soon and unfairly due to gun violence. She joins far too many other victims. Recent shootings in the First District have increased – and it has made clear the need to invest further in the San Gabriel Valley, where more resources and more investments are needed.

MOTION

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That reality is despite the fact that Los Angeles County has invested significant resources over the years to support residents and address gang violence. For example, since 2018, LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis has invested more than \$20 million in the First District through the Sheriff's Department's Community Policing (COPS) Bureau, funding for community programs in prevention and intervention strategies to address gang violence in the neighborhoods, and other supports for residents.

At a time like this, during one of the most unprecedented periods in our history, when longstanding inequities have been brought to the surface by the disproportionate impact of the pandemic and increases in gang-related and gun violence, we must continue to support and advance community driven public safety solutions.

The Board of Supervisors established the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) in the Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate efforts based on a public health approach to prevent violence and promote healing. As outlined in DPH's memorandum, submitted to the Board on January 27, 2021 in response to the recent Crisis Response Violence Intervention Program (CRVIP) Board Motion, the OVP's proposed implementation plan contains six key priorities, including establishing Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions in each Service Planning Area, implementing crisis response and trauma informed systems of care, shifting the public narrative as it relates to violence, increasing access to violence data through an open data portal, and expanding the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI). TPI, which has been implemented in the Second District since 2015, has built an infrastructure to promote place-based, community-driven public safety solutions starting with a needs assessment that included an analysis of available data and the input of multiple community-based and county

stakeholders. TPI strategies include:

- Hospital Violence Intervention, which provides case management to victims of violence in trauma centers.
- Street Outreach and Community Violence Intervention, which employ gang interventionists to promote proactive peacemaking, conflict mediation, and incident response to reduce retaliatory violence.
- Long-term community engagement through stakeholder groups to facilitate shared decision-making and collaborative support networks.

OVP's implementation plan recommends expansion of TPI strategies into other areas of the County, and given the increased violence in East Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, and other hard-hit regions in the County, OVP's expertise is needed to facilitate an inclusive planning process in partnership with community stakeholders. Additionally, the County has a responsibility to develop to pilot and adapt TPI and other relevant strategies to these communities and expand these efforts to target regions hit the hardest by gun and gang-related violence in LA County.

These crises require a comprehensive, public health approach, investing in local community leadership and innovative partnerships. With the partnership of the County, other government entities, community and faith-based organizations, law enforcement, survivors, and those most impacted, solutions to address the violence and trauma in our communities will result.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, in collaboration with relevant County

departments including the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, Department of Arts and Culture, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Mental Health, Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, Department of Health Services' Youth Development and Diversion Division, the Human Relations Commission, the District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services, LA Sheriff's Department's Community Partnerships (COPS) Bureau, and community and faith-based organizations, as well as survivors and impacted residents, to develop and report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing in 30 days with a robust and comprehensive plan, with strategies and recommendations, to address gang-related violence and trauma for those regions in LA County that have been the most impacted by gun and gang-related violence, including:

- An analysis of data to identify communities with the highest rates of violence.
- Asset mapping to assess existing resources and gaps within the identified communities.
- Identification of a comprehensive array of prevention and intervention strategies to prevent violence and address the unique needs of most impacted communities.
- Recommendations for a protocol for regional coordination across jurisdictions, including cities and unincorporated communities, schools and law enforcement agencies, and government agencies.
- A draft implementation timeline identifying short-term and long-term activities, lead agencies and partners, and recommended policy and systems change efforts.

- A draft budget identifying public and private funding sources to support violence prevention and intervention work.

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