

Date: July 6, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia and City Councilmembers

From: Long Beach Community Hispanic Association (Centro CHA Inc.)

Re: Support for Long Beach Violence Interruption Strategy – Agenda Item 25.
20-0638



Since 2000, Centro CHA is the City’s premier Latino-led non-profit organization, our mission and services are rooted in violence prevention and interruption services through workforce development, health and education services, Immigration Integration, Intervention Specialists, Youth Ambassadors Summer Safety initiative, and special cultural arts events programming.

Violence is preventable, not inevitable.

There is a strong and growing evidence base, grounded in research and experiential practitioner and community evidence that supports this fact. Changing the underlying conditions that contribute to violence—in homes, schools, and neighborhoods—prevents violence from occurring in the first place - *Violence Prevention Institute*

Every young person in Long Beach has a fundamental right to live in a safe neighborhood, free of violence, COVID-19 pandemic health and economic impacts, help without fear to Be Counted 2020 Census and the Opportunity to realize a fulfilling adult life. Youth, and the adults who support them, should have access to proper health (both physical and behavioral wellness) services, recreational activities, early and high-quality education and out-of-school-time opportunities, and the opportunity to earn a livable wage in the labor market.

Those youths that become court involved should face a justice system that is compassionate, fair, efficient and swift, prioritizes their long-term wellbeing and, thus, addresses the underlying reasons for trauma and antisocial behavior. Realizing this goal requires that we create a safe environment that supports young Long Beach youth to develop into healthy, thriving, productive citizens.

Marshal resources for Sustainable youth and Violence Interruption Investments (i.e. Tax on Cannabis and Oil, ect)

This necessitates systems-change and long-term funding for a city-wide multi-disciplinary approach that aligns prevention, intervention, reentry, and data & evaluation efforts. The plan will require that youth violence prevention and interruption efforts be embedded in every relevant city department’s mission and reflected in its budget, programs, outcomes and accountability missions. This will include the reprioritization of resources to fund Culturally Appropriate Community Based Organizations that practice evidence-based programs with fidelity.