
Violence Prevention in the City of Long Beach

February 16, 2021

VICE MAYOR
REX
RICHARDSON

Background

- 2014: Council passes **Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan**
 - The strategic plan attempts to address violence at its roots, with early interventions to prevent violence in families, schools, and communities
- July 2020: **Violence Prevention Interruption Strategy**
 - City Council unanimously approved Long Beach Violence Interruption Strategy in response to uptick in reported shootings & other violent crime across the City
 - Strategy to include:
 - Full analysis of community-based best practice violence interruption strategies nationwide
 - Direct outreach & funding for community-based organizations w/ expertise in violence prevention
- October 2020: **Long Beach Activating Safe Communities (LBASC) Program**
 - Department of Health & Human Services responded to strategy request w/ announcement of LBASC Program
 - Through a three-year \$1.1 million grant award, LBASC has been launched as a pilot effort in the Washington Neighborhood
 - Goal: to reduce gun violence by 20% in the Washington Neighborhood by June 2023

Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative: Initial Report

- August 2020: City Council voted unanimously to adopt and approve the Initial Report
- Equity Goals & Strategies: Violence Prevention
 - One key goal in the elimination of systemic racism in Long Beach: the need to *design and invest in community safety and violence prevention*
 - A crucial consideration in the development of a violence prevention plan: the identification of violence as a **public health issue**
- Violence Prevention strategies outlined in the Initial Report:
 - Strategy 1: Explore & increase investments in broader continuum of public safety, including community-based violence prevention
 - Strategy 2: Strengthen community-based violence prevention/intervention systems
 - Strategy 3: Increase coordinated re-entry networks to support formerly justice-involved individuals & reduce recidivism

Funding

- Framework for Reconciliation
 - FY 21 Budget included an initial investment of **\$3.2 million** to implement recommendations within Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative Plan → a product of the City Council directed Framework for Reconciliation effort
- Cannabis Revenue - Public Health & Safety services
 - 1 percent tax increase revenue anticipated to generate \$8.6 million in FY 21
 - Revenue will help City maintain approximately **\$4.2 million** of priority health & safety services, including a Violence Prevention Unit
- Long Beach Activating Safe Communities (LBASC) Program
 - **\$1.1 million** Board of State Corrections and Community, California Violence Prevention (CalVIP) grant award to fund pilot effort in Washington Neighborhood

Violence Prevention Ecosystem

Violence Prevention Initiative

a citywide and neighborhood approach to improving safety and well-being

Vision

Creating and sustaining a city where everyone in Long Beach lives in safe communities, attends safe schools, and are contributing neighbors connected to their community.

Goals



**Social
Connectedness**



**Economic
Opportunities**



**Safe & Healthy
Neighborhoods**



**Trauma-Informed
Systems**

BACKGROUND



- July 2020: **Violence Prevention Interruption Strategy**
- August 2020: **Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative - Initial Report**
- October 2020: **Long Beach Activating Safe Communities (LBASC) Program** - Washington Neighborhood Pilot Project
- COVID-19: Uptick in violent crime throughout the City

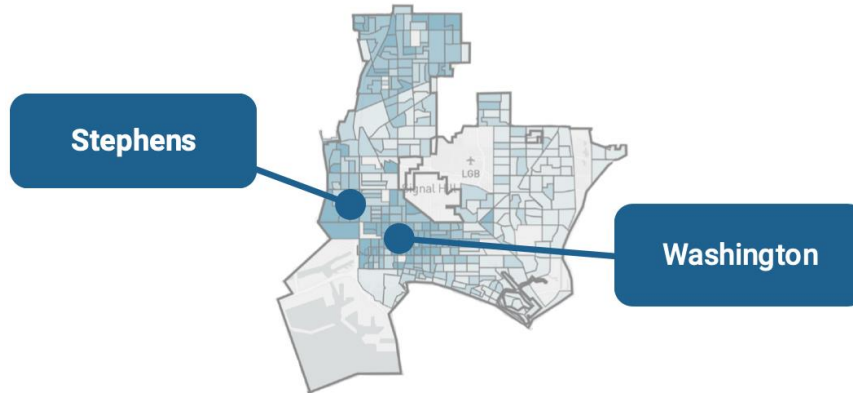
FUNDING



- **Framework for Reconciliation**
 - Funding to implement recommendations from Racial Equity & Reconciliation Initiative
- **LBASC Program**
 - \$1.1 mil grant to fund pilot effort in Washington Neighborhood
- **Measure J**
 - Additional funding opportunities should be identified through Measure J and other sources to expand & accelerate violence prevention efforts across the City

Violence Prevention Ecosystem: Scope

(target of pilot program vs overall crime data)



More Resources Needed to Accelerate Violence Prevention

- COVID-19: Violent Crime
 - Nationwide reports of increasing rates of violent crime during the pandemic
 - Contributing factors:
 - Economic crisis
 - Limitations in crime prevention due to social distancing mandates
 - Lack of community access to violence prevention resources and other protective factors
- More Resources/Measure J
 - Current violence prevention funding (via LBASC Program) limited to the Washington Neighborhood
 - 2020: Los Angeles County voters approved Measure J, which will divert more county money to social services & incarceration diversion programs
 - Additional funding, including stimulus funding, should be explored to accelerate the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan and intervention strategies to meet current citywide needs