



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER
TERRY TAPLÍN
 DISTRICT 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
 Oct. 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin

Subject: CalVIP Grant Application Authorization

RECOMMENDATION

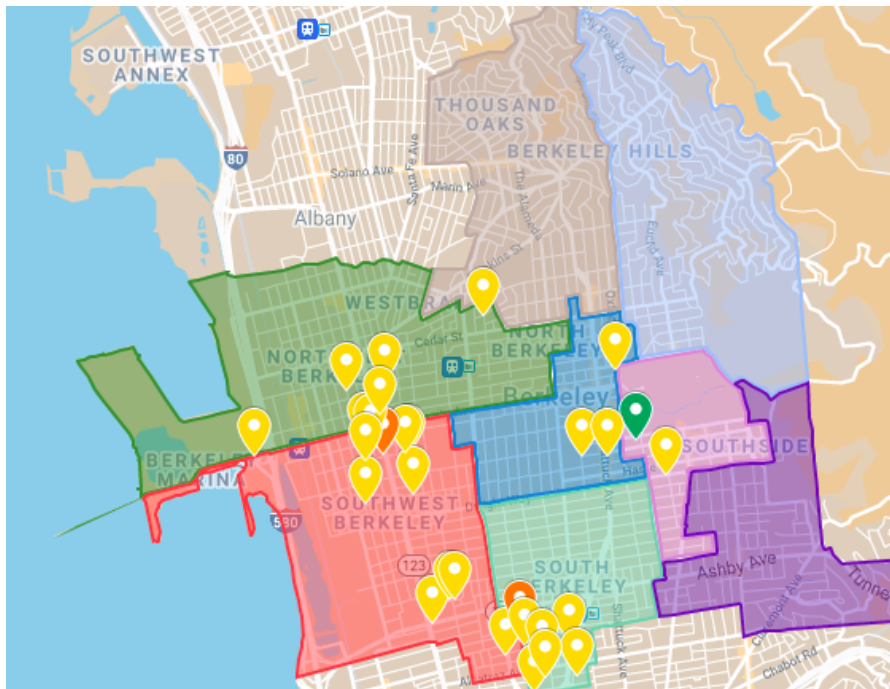
Authorize the City Manager to respond to Requests For Proposals (RFPs) and submit applications to the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program in future funding cycles in order to provide resources for community safety initiatives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

According to the Berkeley Police Department, there were 29 shootings in 2021 as of September 6, compared to 22 shootings by the same date in 2020.



2021 Berkeley Gunfire Map¹

¹ Raguso, E. (2021). The 2021 Berkeley Gunfire Map. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved Sept. 13, 2021 from <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/05/22/2021-berkeley-gunfire-map>

On July 14, 2020, the Berkeley City Council passed an omnibus resolution to Reimagine Public Safety, which included a referral to the City Manager to “identify the expertise needed for non-police responses to calls, taking into account comparable approaches including CAHOOTS and other existing programs that might be expanded...” On October 27, 2020, the Berkeley City Council referred the creation of an Interjurisdictional Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Program a.k.a. “Operation Ceasefire” to the Community Engagement Process for Reimagining Public Safety. On December 15, 2020, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) to conduct research, analysis, and use its expertise to develop reports and recommendations for community safety and police reform.

The City Manager’s office lacks sufficient staffing and resources to scale up its response to the ongoing increase in gun violence while implementing the community engagement process that the City Council has set forth in its omnibus Reimagining package. The City Manager has informed this office that there are insufficient resources to create an Operation Ceasefire program, a gun buyback program, or any other robust and community-based gun violence prevention program that has been recommended in the past. Even policies already under consideration will need additional funding to be implemented.

Funding community safety programs through CalVIP grants is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

BACKGROUND

The State Legislature established the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2017-18 to replace the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) CalGRIP grant program. CalVIP provides funding for cities to reduce violence in the city and adjacent areas through community interventions.

In 2019, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1603 by Asm. Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), which adds Section 14130 to the California Penal Code, codifying the establishment of the CalVIP Grant and the scope of administrative responsibilities for the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

Pursuant to AB-1603, the purpose of CalVIP is to “improve public health and safety by supporting effective violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence, particularly group-member involved homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults.” According to the BSCC, CalVIP grants shall be used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives,

including but not limited to hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies.

Cities with populations of similar sizes to Berkeley, such as the City of Vallejo, have successfully applied for grants to fund violence prevention programs. The City of Vallejo received a \$1.5 million grant in Fiscal Year 2020 for Operation PEACE, in partnership with the local nonprofit Advance Peace for focused deterrence and street outreach “with the goal of reducing overall violent crime without relying on heavy handed policing tactics and mass incarceration.”

The City of Richmond received a \$1.5 million grant in the same year for its Office of Neighborhood Safety, which oversaw a 61% reduction in gun violence in the five years following its inception in 2007.² The City of Oakland also received a grant of approximately \$1.5 million in 2020 for its Department of Violence Prevention, in partnership with several community and faith groups, to implement Oakland Ceasefire, with \$1.74 million in matching funds from the City. Ceasefire is credited with the major drop in homicides Oakland saw over the previous decade.³

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

² http://ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/27569/Innovative-Government-Solution_ONS2013?bidId=

³ Harris, H. (2013, Dec. 31). Oakland sees biggest drop in homicides since 2004. *Mercury News*. Retrieved from <https://www.mercurynews.com/2013/12/31/oakland-sees-biggest-drop-in-homicides-since-2004/>