



ANC 6A RESOLUTION NO. 2022-001

Resolution regarding ANC 6A support for increasing the funding of Cure the Streets, the DC Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and violence interrupters at large

WHEREAS, ANC 6A has supported criminal justice reform including passing a resolution in July 2021 in support of all 90 recommendations of the DC Police Reform Commission.¹

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021 a representative of Cure the Streets (CTS), under the auspices of the DC Office of the Attorney General (OAG), spoke to the ANC 6A Community Outreach Commission on the importance of violence interrupters in addressing gun violence.

WHEREAS, in 2021, there was a 14% increase in homicides in the District of Columbia, the highest overall number since 2003.

WHEREAS, Recommendation Section IV2(b) of the DC Police Reform Commission states “The Council should fund the strategic expansion of violence interruption initiatives, enabling these programs to serve more neighborhoods that experience elevated and/or quickly rising rates of gun violence. This expansion should occur in tandem with increasingly rigorous efforts to assess their effectiveness, understanding that programs of this kind can take five to seven years to mature and bear fruit. Expansion should also involve a concerted effort to reach more deeply into communities, forging new or stronger partnerships, including with faith-based organizations that for decades have been at the forefront promoting peace.”

WHEREAS, The report further states “in communities with elevated rates of gun violence, those risks also include violence by police—actual uses of force and the ever-present threat of police violence that many Black residents feel. Even as gun violence is increasingly understood as a public health problem occurring in epidemic proportions, it continues to drive and erroneously justify aggressive policing strategies and tactics that range from officers routinely pressuring boys and young men of color to lift their shirts and show their waistband, to adrenaline-fueled, confrontational encounters like the one that ended Deon Kay’s life at age 18.”

WHEREAS, the Report quotes sociologist Patrick Sharkey who has studied the steep decline in crime that followed the peak of violence in the 1990s, research that has captured attention nationally. In his retrospective look at cities around the country, Sharkey found that for every 10 new organizations formed to address violence and build stronger communities, there was a nine percent drop in the murder rate.

WHEREAS, according the DC Police Commission Report, there was an estimated 31.5% reduction in gun homicides citywide in Oakland; a 30% reduction in shootings in Philadelphia neighborhoods with some of city’s the highest levels of gun violence; 55% fewer deaths and hospital visits, and 43% fewer crimes in Richmond, California; and as much as a 50% reduction in gun injury rates in targeted New York City neighborhoods.

¹ <https://dccouncil.us/police-reform-commission-full-report/>

WHEREAS, the District now has a permanent agency to support community-based solutions to violence, the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and a DC gun violence prevention coordinator (GVPC), a senior-level official reporting directly to the city administrator, and a gun violence emergency operations center (EOC).

WHEREAS, In DC today there are a variety of violence interruption initiatives. There are credible messengers funded through the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services who act as mentors and mediators to promote positive youth development and prevent violence. There are roving leaders affiliated with the Department of Parks and Recreation, and more than 40 faith organizations working through the East of the River Police Clergy Partnership to keep the peace. There are violence interrupters based in hospitals funded by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG). The District also has two signature violence interruption initiatives: CTS operating in ten neighborhoods, and ONSE violence interrupters active in 25 sites.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 6A urges the DC Council and Mayor to substantially increase funding of Cure the Streets, the DC Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and other violence interrupter programs in the FY 2023 budget.

Attested by:



Amber Gove Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A January 13, 2022

This Resolution was approved by a vote of 8-0-0 on January 13, 2022 at a public meeting of ANC6A at which a quorum was present.