

Memorandum



Date: March 30, 2016

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Subject: Youth and Community Safety

My top priority as Mayor of Miami-Dade County is the safety and security of our residents. Recently, shootings involving our youth have become more pronounced. This is unacceptable and we must put an end to it. As a result, I have directed my administration to develop strategies to combat this issue.

The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), the Juvenile Services Department (JSD), and the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS), as well as CareerSource South Florida (CareerSource), are combining their efforts and resources in order to enhance youth and community safety. We are also collaborating with Florida International University (FIU), University of Miami (UM), community based organizations, and members of the community to develop comprehensive and effective solutions.

These collaborative efforts have yielded proposed enhancements to the County's services to help mitigate youth violence. It is my intent to prioritize these programs and direct available resources to immediately implement solutions to make our children safe:

1. Youth Outreach Unit (YOU): The YOU will work in partnership with the JSD, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), and community-based organizations to develop a level of trust and legitimacy in the targeted communities. The YOU will be responsible for gaining trust and establishing legitimacy in the targeted communities by combining community oriented policing practices and social service connections in a non-traditional policing manner. A component of this plan will include targeting a small group of at-risk juveniles with the purpose of establishing rapport, fostering a nurturing environment, and serving as a role model and mentor for these children to look up to. The YOU will not only target the juvenile offender but also the family unit as a whole, and attempt to identify areas in which social service partners can provide interventions to stabilize the affected families. These services may include family counseling, job placement, substance abuse treatment, and the fostering of an environment where everyone in the family unit feels they have a duty to be a guardian of the children within the community. Officers assigned to the YOU will also engage neighbors and seek to address quality of life concerns for the neighborhood. MDPD will utilize existing funding from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF) in the amount up

to \$500,000 per year to fund this unit, subject to the Board of County Commissioners' (Board) approval.

2. Double Up on Drugs Tips: MDPD will match dollar-for-dollar, up to \$2,000, any drug arrest and seizure paid by Crime Stoppers. MDPD will utilize LETF funding, estimated to be up to \$250,000 per year, for these tips, subject to Board approval.
3. Stop Youth Gun Violence: MDPD will utilize funding to enhance reward monies currently paid for crime tips leading to arrests. The incident must have occurred within unincorporated Miami-Dade County and the victim must not be a suspect in the investigation. Up to \$20,000 is awarded per case. MDPD will utilize LEFT funding, estimated to be up to \$200,000 per year, for these tips, subject to Board approval.
4. Enhance Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program: MDPD will, in collaboration with MDCPS, seek to expand the number of schools serviced by the DARE program.
5. Gun Buy Back and Gun Bounty: MDPD will enhance its Gun Bounty campaign by leveraging Gun Buy Back events. Gun Bounty tips aim to reward anonymous tipsters with \$1,000 for an arrest and seizure related to an illegal firearm.
6. License Plate Readers: MDPD will seek to deploy license plate readers in high crime areas to identify vehicles involved in crimes. LETF funds, estimated to be up to \$1.2 million to deploy these readers, will be used, subject to Board approval.
7. Community on Patrol (COP) Application: Use of the COP smart phone application will allow citizens to send tips, and upload video and photos to the MDPD's Real-Time Crime Center anonymously, breaking through the "no snitch" barrier. COP will be launched in April 2016.
8. Acoustic Gunshot Detection Solution: Gunshot detection devices deployed in high crime areas will help to expeditiously identify shooting locations and assist with investigations. It will cost MDPD an estimated \$610,000 to deploy these devices in the first year. This program is funded through the budget and is currently going through the procurement process.
9. Early Identification of High-Risk Juvenile Offenders: Greater communication and collaboration will be established between the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) and law enforcement agencies to facilitate coordinated services and supervision to identify the youth most at-risk of reoffending beginning in April 2016.
10. Fit2Play: PRO's Fit2Play program provides afterschool activities such as sports, dance, music, tutoring, leadership building, and health components to at-risk youths in high crime areas through a collaboration between PROS, FIU, and UM. This initiative is an enhancement included in the current fiscal year's budget.

11. Fit2Lead: PROS's Fit2Lead program will provide a free mentorship program for 400 at-risk youths between the ages of 12 and 14. PROS, UM, FIU, and JSD have also developed the curriculum for an internship serving 100 at-risk youths between the ages of 15 and 17 residing in Liberty City and South Dade. Both programs will launch in April 2016. This initiative is an enhancement included in the current fiscal year's budget.
12. Family Functional Therapy (FFT): Additional slots will be provided to the FFT, which is operated by the Institute of Child and Family Health (Institute), in order to help at-risk youth build a foundation of respect for individuals, families, and cultures. FFT is currently funded by the Youth Crime Task Force. These additional services are estimated to be \$65,850 to create 25 new slots.
13. Community Action Team (CAT) Program: CAT, which is operated by the Institute, will work with at-risk youth with a mental health diagnosis who are at risk of future out-of-home placement due to a history of failed treatment, hospitalizations, involvement with law enforcement, problems in school, or other circumstances. These additional services are estimated to be \$375,000 to create 50 new slots.
14. Juvenile Weapon Offenders Program (JWOP): Additional slots will be created for JWOP, which is an intensive 3-6 month program for male offenders with weapon charges that is delivered in a trauma setting. It includes psycho-educational groups and peer counseling. JWOP is currently funded by the Youth Crime Task Force. These additional services are estimated to be \$54,000 to create 15 new slots.
15. Stop Now and Plan (SNAP): Additional slots will be provided to SNAP, which is operated by the Institute. SNAP focuses on reducing police contact and/or involvement with the justice system of at-risk boys 12 years of age and younger who are engaging in continued criminal activity. SNAP is currently funded by the Youth Crime Task Force. These additional services are estimated to be \$72,400 to create 20 new slots.
16. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP): SYEP, which is operated by CareerSource, will provide approximately 1,849 at-risk youths between the ages of 14 and 17 within 20 targeted zip codes with work experience, educational growth, and life skills. This program requires a total funding of \$3 million, which will be provided by CareerSource.
17. Ready-to-Work (RtW): RtW, which is operated by CareerSource, will provide approximately 410 young adults between the ages 18 and 27 within 20 targeted zip codes with work experience, educational growth, and life skills. This program requires a total funding of \$1.9 million, which will be provided by CareerSource.

I am confident that this additional programming will enhance the safety of every youth in our community and make Miami-Dade County a safer place for all. My administration will continue to identify opportunities to implement innovative programs and options for funding enhanced

services. To the extent these services cannot be provided within existing budgeted resources, requisite budget amendments will be brought to the Board for consideration.

If additional information is needed, please contact Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor, at (305) 375-5141.

- c. Abigail Price Williams, County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
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Chris Agrippa, Clerk of the Board