

Memorandum



Date: November 22, 2023

To: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor *Daniella Levine Cava*

Subject: Miami-Dade County Peace and Prosperity Plan - Quarterly Update

Executive Summary

This Quarterly Report for the Peace & Prosperity Plan (the “Plan”) includes information on the following: the Year 3 Plan’s budget and expenditures; Office of Neighborhood Safety initiatives; youth development programs; and supplemental initiatives Anti-Violence Initiative/Group Violence Initiative, Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program, Operation Community Shield, Miami-Dade County Community Violence Intervention Initiative, and the Summer Youth Internship Program.

Since the adoption of the inaugural Peace & Prosperity Plan, the County has invested more than \$8.5 million of Anti-Gun Violence and Prosperity Initiatives Trust dollars in youth empowerment and development, community grant, and enforcement initiatives. These investments include but are not limited to the Plan’s flagship program Fit2lead, the Turn Around Police Academy and the Safe in the 305 grant program which was awarded a 2023 National Association of Counties Award in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety category.

The implementation of the Year 4 Plan, approved by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) on September 6, 2023, is underway. The Year 4 Plan continues to put our youth, families, and communities first, with an evidence-based and best-practice driven strategy to address the underlying causes of gun violence and poverty in Miami-Dade County. The Year 4 Plan budget is \$3,254,282 and includes the creation of a Reentry Resource Guide, 500 Fit2Lead summer program internship slots, and funding to complete an independent evaluation of the Plan.

Peace & Prosperity Plan Budget and Expenditures

As of July 2023, \$2,123,840 has been expended on programs administered by the Miami-Dade Police Department (“MDPD”), Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (“PROS”) and the Office of Neighborhood Safety (“ONS”).

Attachment A highlights the Year 3 Peace & Prosperity Plan budget and expenditures for programs, initiatives, and projects for FY2022-2023.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Initiatives: Educational Scholarships and Safe in the 305

Educational Scholarships- ONS Scholars

To date, ONS has awarded \$135,000 in educational scholarships for youth enrolling or attending postsecondary institutions. For a second consecutive year, ONS partnered with the Family and Community Services Division of the Community Action and Human Services Department to provide \$1,500 scholarships to youth that live in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence and in households that meet the Community Services Block Grant federal poverty guidelines. In July, 50 scholarships were awarded to young adults representing 26 universities/colleges. Of the 50 scholarship recipients, 20 are attending Miami-Dade College or Florida International University, 20 are first year students, and 4 are pursuing graduate degrees. Funding is allocated via the ONS general fund budget and awards are paid directly to the educational institutions. A list of the 26 colleges/universities that the 2023 ONS Scholars are attending is provided below:

Alabama State University (1)	Morgan State University (1)
Albany State University (1)	Palm Beach Atlantic University (1)
Bethune Cookman University (2)	Santa Fe College (1)
Broward Community College (1)	Southern University and A&M College (1)
Davidson College (1)	St. Thomas University (1)
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (2)	University of Central Florida (2)
Florida Atlantic University (1)	University of Florida (1)
Florida Gulf Coast University (1)	University of Miami (1)
Florida International University (3)	University of Mount Union (1)
Florida State University (5)	University of North Florida (1)
Florida State University College of Medicine (1)	University of South Florida (1)
Howard University (1)	University of Southern California (1)
Miami Dade College (16)	Yeshiva University (Stern College for Women) (1)

Safe in the 305 Grant Program

During Summer 2023, and in partnership with Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc., ONS completed two rounds of the Safe in the 305 grant program in which 156 proposals were received and \$67,500 in grant funds were awarded to support 56 projects. Proposals were received from individual residents, community leaders, community and faith-based organizations, and grassroots groups. Awards ranged from \$500 to \$1,500. Funded projects include graffiti removal and other initiatives that address neighborhood blight, creating/expanding community gardens, youth development and empowerment initiatives, digital literacy, reentry services, community healing and mental health.

Safe in the 305 is a microgrant program designed to activate community participation in creating safer neighborhoods, amplify the voices of residents and community leaders against violence, build capacity in communities, and bridge gaps with neighborhood stakeholders and government to address quality of life issues. The program was launched in 2022 and has supported 88 proposals to date with more than \$100,000 in grant funding. The inaugural round of Safe in the 305 received 123 applications, of which 32 proposals were awarded funding. Attachment B highlights some of the projects that were funded.

Youth Development Programs: Fit2Lead, Turn Around Police Academy, and Youth Athletics and Mentoring Initiative

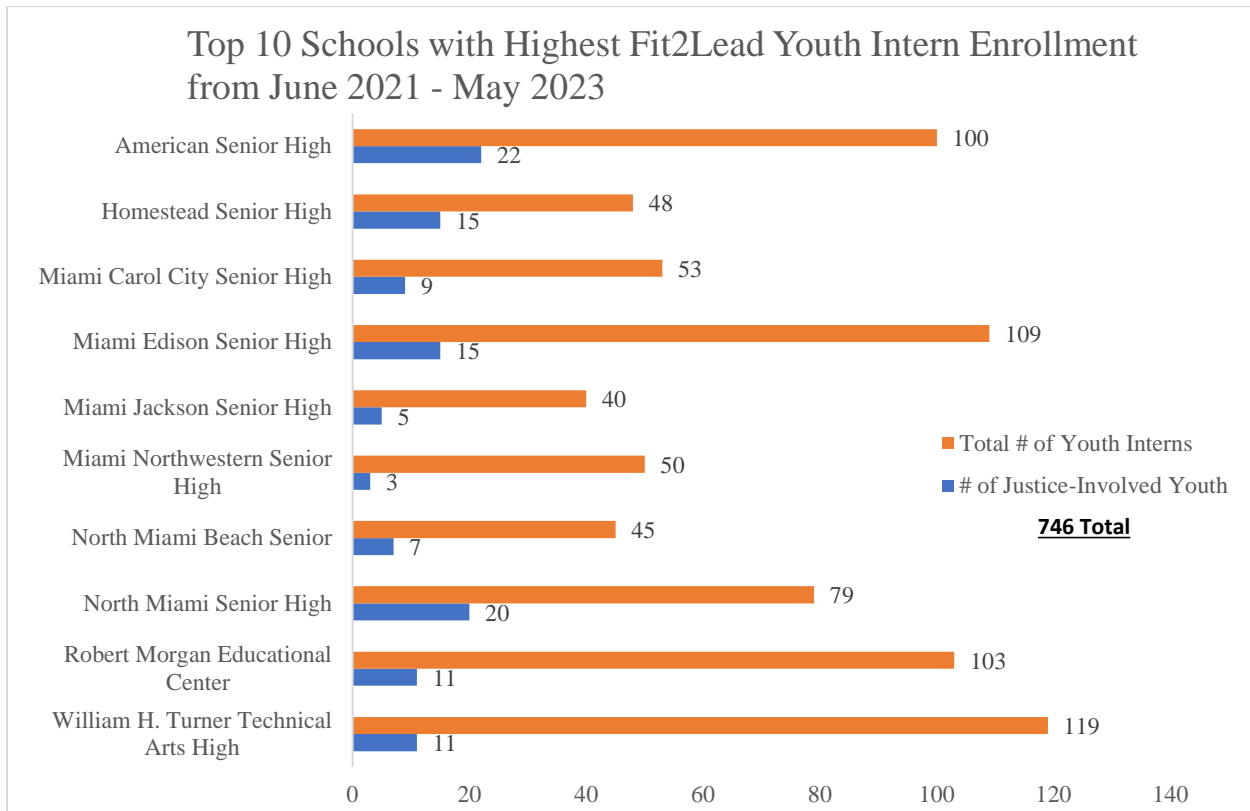
Fit2Lead Afterschool and Summer Internship Program

Since the launch of the Peace & Prosperity Plan Fit2Lead Internship program in June 2021, 1,461 youth have participated in the program (excludes summer 2023 interns). Fit2Lead, administered by PROS, is an evidenced-based program and the flagship initiative of the Plan. To attract and retain the participation of traditionally “hard to serve” youth, the Plan allowed for an increase in the hourly rate from \$9.05 to \$13.88 per hour. Youth continue to be referred to the program through several sources, including Juvenile Services Department (“JSD”), Department of Juvenile Justice (“DJJ”), local law enforcement agencies, PROS staff, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (“MDCPS”), Commission offices, and community-based organizations.

Fit2Lead offers a thirty-five-week afterschool program that allows youth interns to work up to 12 hours per week, and a seven-week summer program, where youth can work an average of 25 hours per week. Nine County departments/offices, one Commission District, and 18 community organizations and businesses provide more than 170 Fit2Lead worksite locations across the county.

In addition to a paid work experience, Fit2Lead interns participate in enrichment classes and experiential learning opportunities, including music (Guitars Over Guns), entrepreneurship (Dream Team Concepts), sailing (Fly Pelican Fly), fishing (Mahogany Youth), environmental and conservation education (PROS), communication skills, self-care, mental health assessments and linkages to community-based services (JSD).

The 1,461 youth interns attended 84 schools in Miami-Dade County, with 51% (746) of all interns attending the following 10 schools.



Fit2Lead interns select job assignments that are of interest and/or convenient to home or school. Work locations include several County departments and offices, such as Animal Services, CAHSD, Cultural Affairs, Homeless Trust, JSD, Mayor’s Office, Miami-Dade Audit and Management Services, MDEAT, MDPD, Miami-Dade Public Library System, PROS, Public Housing and Community Development, and Solid Waste Management. The Boys and Girls Club, Big Ideas, Empowering Youth, Hope for Miami, The Resource Room, Overtown Optimist, Mahogany Youth, Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center, and Arts for Learning are just a few of the many community partners that play a significant role in providing meaningful mentorship opportunities and work locations for interns. To expand work placement opportunities and mitigate transportation challenges experienced by some interns, PROS and Miami-Dade County Public Schools are completing an affiliating agreement to have select high schools serve as after school and summer Fit2Lead work locations.

Of the 1,461 youth interns, 231 (16%) were justice-involved and 447 (31%) youth have participated in two or more of the four Peace & Prosperity Plan funded afterschool or summer session. Fit2Lead youth intern enrollment by Commission District is provided below.

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District	Commissioner	Total Youth Served	Justice-Involved Youth	Youth Participated in More Than 1 Session
1	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	286	57	72
2	Marleine Bastien	308	52	106
3	Keon Hardemon	368	31	89
4	Micky Steinberg	27	5	5
5	Eileen Higgins	18	2	3
6	Kevin M. Cabrera	14	1	5
7	Raquel A. Regalado	11	6	4
8	Danielle Cohen Higgins	104	23	47
9	Kionne L. McGhee	227	46	83
10	Anthony Rodriquez	37	3	13
11	Roberto J. Gonzalez	19	0	9
12	Juan Carlos Bermudez	25	1	7
13	Rene Garcia	17	4	4
Total		1461	231	447

This past summer 367 youth participated in the program, interns were employed, and worked a total of 49,725. The 2023-24 afterschool program started on October 2, 2023, with 296 youth interns currently enrolled and working, and 185 youth pending background screening or employment onboarding. The Plan funds 202 afterschool slots and additional slots are funded by PROS ensuring that youth are not turned away from the program. A breakdown of current youth enrollment, by district, is provided below.

District	Commissioner	Allocated Year 4After School Slots	Youth Enrolled
1	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	36	41
2	Marleine Bastien	43	77
3	Keon Hardemon	48	80
4	Micky Steinberg	3	4
5	Eileen Higgins	13	0
6	Kevin M. Cabrera	8	2
7	Raquel A. Regalado	2	0
8	Danielle Cohen Higgins	17	27
9	Kionne L. McGhee	19	50
10	Anthony Rodriquez	1	4
11	Roberto J. Gonzalez	4	2
12	Juan Carlos Bermudez	4	8
13	Rene Garcia	4	1
Total		202	296

Turn Around Police (“TAP”) Academy

In partnership with JSD, MDPD’s TAP Academy engages at-risk and justice-involved youth in an 11-week program that offers prevention techniques designed to instill positive youth behaviors, discourage at-risk behaviors, and encourage community service. TAP sessions are facilitated by law enforcement, County departments, and community-based organizations including the Village, GATE Program, CareerSource of South Florida, Gang Alternative, and MDEAT, to foster socio-emotional skills. TAP provides a holistic approach to intervention through mentoring and advocacy to improve community experiences with the police while increasing awareness of the consequences of negative behaviors. Law enforcement “mentors” work in partnership with JSD case managers to address psychosocial needs and link the family to supportive services, if needed. TAP participants are between the ages of 13 to 17.

Weekly sessions consist of topics such as gangs and gun violence, drug and alcohol addiction, social media challenges, and consequences of violence and homicides. Sessions also focus on career planning, resume building, the job application process, peer-to-peer interviews, and dressing for success. Participants also engage in family counseling and community service projects.

Through JSD’s administration of evidence-based tools, assessment results indicate that 38% of participants have substance abuse issues, 36% have family issues, and 55% have mental health issues. As a result, participants have been linked to community-based organizations that address their service needs. To date, 78% of TAP participants that have received assessments have completed their JSD treatment plans.

Since the program’s launch in September 2021, five cohorts of youth have completed the program. The most recent cohort began with 24 youth of which 19 completed the program. Participants were identified by JSD and the Department of Juvenile Justice for offenses such as battery, theft, and trespassing. TAP also includes at-risk youth receiving prevention services from JSD or MDPD Youth Outreach Unit. Eligible graduates were referred to Fit2Lead and supported with the application process.

Youth Athletics and Mentoring Initiative

The goal of the Youth Athletic and Mentoring Initiative (“YAMI”) is to engage youth in positive programming in their community. The program aims to instill the power of making positive life choices, choosing education, and participating in sports, while exploring the consequences of destructive decisions and the negative outcomes associated with criminal activity, including involvement in “gang life”. MDPD’s Community Affairs Bureau’s Youth Outreach Unit successfully launched two YAMI summer camps this past summer. The camps were located at Jefferson Reaves Sr. Park (Northside District) and Modello Park (South District). Approximately 50 campers from both sites engaged in traditional weekday summer camp activities, participated in field trips to Venetian Pool, Pinto Farms, Super Wheels Skating Center, Zoo Miami, Launch Doral, Bird Bowl Bowling Center, the Miami History Museum, and Dave & Busters. Each camper received a camp t-shirt, water bottle, drawstring bag, baseball cap, sun block, and a daily meal. Participants shared their days alongside law enforcement personnel who continue to build trust

and strengthen the relationships between youth and police. The YAMI summer camps were provided at no cost to participating families.

Supplemental Initiatives

Supplemental Initiative: Anti-Violence Intervention/Group Violence Intervention

The County's Anti-Violence Initiative ("AVI")/Group Violence Intervention ("GVI") Program was implemented in 2019 and is designed to reduce violence. AVI consists of four primary components: (1) Prevention, (2) Intervention, (3) Suppression, and (4) Re-Entry. The Four organizations participating in AVI/GVI with "boots on the ground" include Ummah Futures International LLC, Circle of Brotherhood, Johnny Barber Ministries, and Community Youth Against Violence.

GVI reduces homicide and gun violence, minimizes harm to communities through a deterrence approach, and fosters stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. A significant amount of group-related incidents occur in or around public housing communities and low-income housing developments. Street Outreach Workers and Case Managers are not limited to those areas; thus, responding to shootings anywhere in MDPD's Northside District, South District, and Intracoastal District. MDPD along with the AVI Project Manager, Faith-based Coordinator, Jackson Health System Data Coordinator, and a Hospital-based Violence Intervention, ("HVIP") Social Worker have conducted a total of 119 custom notifications to potential group/gang members and victims of gun violence. Custom notifications are individualized communication that enables quick, tactical, direct communication with group members. Custom notifications articulate that group members are valued members of the community, give individualized information about their legal risk, and offer opportunities for assistance. They effectively interrupt group "beefs," thwart retaliation after incidents, calm outbreaks of violence, and reinforce the GVI message. Between January and August of this year, the Street Outreach Team has responded to 145 shooting incidents and 745 shooting incidents since the inception of the program.

To date, 122 mentoring sessions, offered to 5,432 inmates and 2019 children of inmates, have been held in-person at the Everglades Correctional Institution and Miami-Dade County Metro West Pretrial Detention Center, and virtually by Community Youth Against Violence. Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring (PPLM) is delivered in partnership with the JSD and the Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline Foundation, Inc. (E-SToPP). PPLM empowers at-risk and incarcerated individuals to become positive peers and "credible messengers" that can impact, in a good way, the lives of "wannabes" and youth who are already gang involved. Positive peers are provided with advocacy skills, so they have the capacity to affect public policy. As an activity of PPLM, AVI hosts In-Prison Gang Prevention Summits where individuals who were once drivers of violence are elevated in strategy discussions with policymakers and other community leaders on how to reduce violence in Miami-Dade County. A total of 1,032 individuals, including community members and incarcerated men, have participated in one of the five summits held to date. The Walking One Stop, another AVI intervention, is a community collaborative against violence that mobilizes a team of elected officials, faith leaders, social and economic service providers along with criminal justice personnel and community activists to bring federal, state, and local resources

to the doorstep of residents who have experienced recent or persistent incidents of gun violence. Walking One Stop is a trauma-informed response that supports healing, police legitimacy, and reconciliation. More than 1,553 households countywide have been referred or connected to services since March 2019.

Supplemental Initiative: Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program

Launched in December 2021 as a component of the Miami-Dade County AVI/GVI , led by the JSD, and in partnership with Jackson Health System and Ummah Futures International LLC, the HVIP has provided those affected by group violence the opportunity to receive continuous lifesaving support, intervention, and care during critical times of need. HVIP is an intervention model that meets victims of gun violence (and their loved ones) in the hospital to provide support to the families, and to intervene/disrupt potential retaliatory acts of violence. In December 2022, the program was expanded to include a Registered Nurse that provides compassionate personalized nursing care in the homes of victims of gun violence by assessing and evaluating their physical and emotional needs. The nurse works in coordination with a multi-disciplinary team of case managers, social workers, violence prevention coordinator, and a team of medical and administrative professionals at Jackson Health System Ryder Trauma regarding discharge planning, wound care, education, and follow-up medical appointments. To date the nurse has conducted 75 in home visits.

Since the launch of HVIP, 457 individuals have received 1,436 services including 171 relocation assistance, 24 Fit2Lead placements, 144 assessments through the administration of the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs and Adverse Childhood Experiences screening tools, 393 mental health linkages, and assistance with 704 applications for Medicaid, disability benefits, victim services, rental assistance, basic needs support, childcare, summer camp, as well as repairs to homes and automobiles affected by gunfire.

Supplemental Initiative: MDPD's Operation Community Shield

Operation Community Shield ("OCS") is a joint gun violence reduction initiative that brings together MDPD with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial agencies. The efforts of OCS between June 4, 2021, and July 31, 2023, have resulted in 8,085 felony arrests and the confiscation of 2,735 firearms from our streets. Furthermore, 1,731 investigate leads were generated based of firearms evidence in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, a computerized database that links same gun cases. Additionally, OCS recovered \$3,159,340.65 in currency and 1,035 stolen vehicles. A substantial amount of illegal substances have also been recovered including 243.55 kilograms of cocaine, 6.72 kilograms of heroin, 533.41 kilograms of marijuana, and 177.51 kilograms of methamphetamine.

MDPD has continued to show a measurable impact in reducing shootings. During the period From January 1, 2023, to July 2023, overall shootings in unincorporated MDC are down by 10% with specific decreases of 2% in the Northside District, and 32% in the South District, and an increase by 34% in the Intracoastal District, when compared to the same period in 2022. Furthermore, when you compare the aforementioned period in 2023 to the same period two years prior in 2021, shootings in unincorporated areas of MDC are down 26% overall with a decrease of 8% in the Northside District, 17% in the Intracoastal District, and 50% in the South District.

MDPD District Shootings January 1 to July 2023	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	2023	<u>% Change</u> 2021 vs 2023	<u>% Change</u> 2022 vs 2023
Intracoastal District	76	47	63	-17%	+34%
Northside District	133	124	122	-8%	-2%
Northwest District	7	13	13	+86%	0%
Midwest District	16	21	9	-44%	-57%
Hammocks District	31	40	33	+6%	-18%
Kendall District	35	15	20	-43%	+33%
South District	161	117	80	-50%	-32%
Totals	459	377	340	-26%	-10%

Supplemental Initiative: Community Violence Intervention Initiative

Through a partnership with the Carrie Meek Foundation (the “Foundation”) with oversight from ONS and the Office of Management and Budget, the Miami-Dade County Community Violence Intervention Initiative is providing \$7,155,560 to community organizations to lead efforts in violence intervention and prevention. On April 5, 2023, the Foundation released the Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting nonprofit organizations, including small grassroots groups, to apply for \$7,155,560 in grant funds for initiatives centered around prevention, reentry services, high-risk intervention work, mental health, trauma, and wellness services for individuals impacted by gun violence. The RFP closed on May 12, 2023, with 246 proposals received and a total ask of approximately \$87 million. After a robust review, scoring and selection process, the Foundation has announced awards of 82 proposals (33% of proposals received). The Foundation has executed agreements with the awardees and community-led prevention, intervention, and reentry CVI work is underway.

Supplemental Initiative: Summer Youth Internship Program (“SYIP”)

SYIP is a partnership with the Children’s Trust, Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the South Florida Workforce Investment Board d/b/a CareerSource South Florida, Kenneth Griffin Charitable Foundation, and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, that sponsors student internships annually at a variety of organizations and businesses over the course of the summer. This year, the Kenneth Griffin Charitable Foundation became a new partner and donated \$1 million to the program. SYIP has been recognized as a national model for summer internship programs.

In its 8th year, the County allocated \$1 million to SYIP for its 2023 summer program. SYIP interns earn a stipend of \$1,500.00, paid in two installments during the internship period. In April, the program partners embarked upon an aggressive outreach and marketing effort resulting in the

employment of 3,060 youth, and the participation of more than 705 employers representing various sectors. Employers included Miami-Dade College, Miami-Dade County, Florida International University, EdTech, Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce, Dade County Federal Credit Union, Florida Foot and Ankle Associates, and Kids for Kids Academy, to name a few. Summer 2023 highlights include:

- 4,657 youth applied;
- 3,060 were enrolled and completed 418,843 hours;
- 2,218 (73%) qualified for free/reduced lunch and 937 (31%) were youth with exceptionalities;
- 473 youth were dual enrolled and received Miami-Dade College credit, the highest number since the inception of SYIP, the highest number since the inception of SYIP; and
- 79 schools participated, including 14 Charter Schools (the first-year charter schools were included in the program).

Other important student demographic information includes: 50% were in the 11th grade; 33% were Black and 60% identified as female. Additionally, 36 youth interns were homeless, 166 were English Language Learners, 6 are justice-involved, and 26 in foster care.

Conclusion

The Peace & Prosperity Plan and its supplemental efforts continue to have a positive impact on reducing violence for our youth, families, and our County. Through the Office of Neighborhood Safety and the Miami-Dade Police Department, my Administration continues to leverage resources and opportunities to further strengthen Miami-Dade County's infrastructure to combat gun violence and create safer neighborhoods for all. This strategic partnership has resulted in a 2023-24 State Appropriation award of \$3.9 million to expand anti-violence efforts in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence by providing community based mental health, reentry, and high-risk intervention services. These efforts combined with the Miami-Dade County Community Violence Intervention Initiative help to further realize the overarching goal of creating a safer and more prosperous Miami-Dade where all residents can thrive.

Should you require additional information, please contact Annika S. Holder, Director of the Office of Neighborhood Safety, at (786) 469-4716 or annika.holder@miamidade.gov.

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Peace & Prosperity Plan Attachment A



Department	Program Name	Program Term	Funding Source	FY 2021-22 Actuals*	FY 2022-23 BCC Approved Budget W/ Carryover	FY 2022-23 YTD Actuals as of July 31, 2023	Comments
Juvenile Services	Fit 2 Lead	October 1, 2022	Trust Fund	-	\$ 100,000	\$ -	Carried Over to Year 4 Plan
Miami-Dade Police Department	MDPD Youth Athletic and Mentoring Initiative	October 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	195,598	25,000	19,435	
Miami-Dade Police Department	MDPD Turn Around Police Academy	October 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	109,455	106,000	38,872	
Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces	Fit2Lead	September 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	2,982,498	1,987,277	1,487,291	
Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces	Fit2Lead	October 1, 2022	CDBG Funding	-	500,000	474,971	Reimbursement pending
Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces	Fit2lead	October 1, 2022	Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade	-	475,000		
Community Action & Human Services	Safe in the 305 Community Grant	October 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	48,750	75,000	74,375	Includes \$1,250.00 in Year 2 Funding paid in FY 2022-23.
Miami-Dade Police Department	Project Greenlight	October 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	-	200,000	15,220	
Miami-Dade Police Department	Youth Outreach Unit	October 1, 2022	Anti- Gun Violence and Prosperity Fund	-	75,000	13,676	
Non-Departmental	Independent Evaluation	October 1, 2022	FTX Foundation	50,000	100,000	-	Funding will not be realized
Total including PHCD				\$ 3,386,301	\$ 3,643,277	\$ 2,123,840	

* Additional carryover (not accounted for in the Year 3 Plan) will be allocated in the Year 4 Plan

** Includes \$1,250.00 in Year 2 Funding paid in FY 2022-23.

Safe in the 305

Safe in the 305 is a microgrant program, administered by the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), that is designed to encourage resident leaders and organizations to promote peace and prosperity across communities, by funding community-driven actions that make neighborhoods safer.

Safe in the 305 program goals are to:

- **activate** community participation in creating safer neighborhoods;
- **amplify** the voices of residents and community leaders against violence;
- **build** capacity in communities; and
- **bridge** gaps with neighborhood stakeholders and government to address quality of life issues.

In its inaugural round, ONS received 123 proposals and funded 32 projects. The projects were diverse in crime prevention methodology, encompassing neighborhood clean-up and beautification efforts, mental health and wellness, bridging literacy gaps, youth engagement, second chance services, and more. Awards ranged from \$500 to \$1,500.



South Dade Beautification Project - \$1,500

Organized by Mothers Fighting for Justice in collaboration with Moms Demand Justice, more than 50 volunteers from Perrine Gardens public housing gathered to beautify their community by planting flowers, painting gates, and collecting debris along the residential building and main streets.



Project T.H.U.G - \$1,300

With the use of mindfulness exercises, yoga, and other techniques, Project T.H.U.G brought teens together to participate in mental wellness workshops and engage in conversations about topics affecting them and their community.



Become One - \$500

Organized by Survivors Affected By Violence, mothers of victims of gun violence gathered in Liberty City to commemorate their loved ones through symbolic tree plantings, a dance recital, and a recognition of community volunteers.



Playing to Our Strengths - \$1,000

Through afterschool academic and athletic programming, the Optimist Club of Overtown provided families with support to enroll their children in safe and structured programming. The Safe in the 305 grant was used to provide scholarships for registration fees that ranged from \$20-\$150 per family.



Little Haiti's Lil Library - \$700

To promote reading and increase literacy, the Little Haiti's Lil Library project utilized the frequented Toussaint Louverture Statue Park to encourage the community to stop and take an interest in their free community library. Stocked with books for all ages in Creole, English, French, and Spanish, the Lil Library encourages anyone in the community to access books whether they are spending time in the park or taking one home.



Green Haven Project-Community Garden Learning - \$1,500

With the growing season approaching, the Green Haven project expanded a community garden by creating 18 vegetable rows that will help address food insecurity in Overtown. The project provided a hands-on educational opportunity for families to grow healthy and fresh foods, further empowering the community to create innovative solutions for food deserts.



A Successful Back-to-School for Our Children - \$1,300

At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, Be Strong International, Inc. created a tailored approach in meeting the individual needs of families. While some families received school supplies such as headphones and backpacks, other needs were met by providing free haircuts and hygiene products.



Be Seen, Be Safe in the 305 - \$700

By providing free light reflectors for pedestrians and cyclists, Coral Gables Crime Watch ensured community members would stay safe while walking and cycling, and also reducing the risk of traffic incidents.



Mano a Mano (Hand in Hand) - \$600

Through surveys and community outreach, Healthy Little Havana identified a crucial gap in positive community interactions with law enforcement. The organization utilized its Safe in the 305 grant award to host a community event that brought community members and City of Miami police officers together with the goal of building trust, sharing information, and addressing concerns related to immigration status and crime reporting.

