



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

March 17, 2026

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Tom Eblen, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, and Whitney Elliott Baxter were in attendance as voting members. Council Members James Brown, Emma Curtis, and Dave Sevigny were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Morton for approval of the February 17, 2026 Committee Meeting Summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

II. ONE LEXINGTON YEAR-END UPDATE

ONE Lexington Director, Devine Carama, presented the 2025 year-end update. ONE Lexington is a city initiative focused on reducing gun violence among youth and young adults (ages 10–29) by addressing root causes through prevention, intervention, enforcement, and re-entry strategies.

In 2025, Lexington saw notable reductions in shootings and gun-related homicides, including among youth, compared to four-year averages. The program reached over 5,600 youth through outreach, mentoring, and school-based efforts, while also providing direct crisis response and support to victims and families.

Key efforts include the *It Takes a Village* mentoring and summer programs, violence interruption and crisis response coordination, and significant financial investment in prevention, including over \$450,000 in grants and scholarships and substantial direct support for affected families.

The initiative emphasizes strong cross-sector partnerships and real-time coordination to prevent retaliation and support communities. Moving forward, ONE Lexington plans to expand survivor support, workforce pathways, mentoring for system-involved youth, and long-term organizational stability through increased funding and structural alignment. No committee action was taken on this agenda item.

III. PARTNERS FOR YOUTH ANNUAL UPDATE

Partners for Youth Executive Director Shanreka Shackelford presented the annual update on the program. Partners for Youth is a long-standing Lexington nonprofit focused on positive youth development and juvenile delinquency prevention through programming, grants, and community partnerships. Over 30 years, PFY has built a broad service network that now reaches approximately 3,400 youth annually.

PFY delivers impact through several core strategies:

- Direct programming (after-school programs, STEM, leadership, and workforce training)
- Financial support (grassroots grants and scholarships)
- Community collaboration (partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and local organizations)

Key programs include the Summer Youth Job Training Program, which serves roughly 300 youth annually with paid work experience, and the I DO Initiative, which has connected over 7,000 youth to community

resources since 2019. Partners for Youth has also distributed more than \$2 million in grassroots grants, impacting 40,000 youth since 2002.

Additional initiatives—such as Metro C.A.T.S. (STEM education), Digital Scholars (digital literacy), and the Neighborhood Youth Council—focus on skill-building, civic engagement, and career exposure. Partners for Youth also provides post-secondary scholarships and hosts long-running community events, such as Spotlight on Youth.

Looking ahead, Partners for Youth aims to:

- Expand youth job placements into higher-skill industries (healthcare, engineering, finance)
- Increase scholarship funding and recipients
- Grow programming into additional neighborhoods and parks
- Address transportation barriers limiting program access
- Scale successful initiatives like *Be an Elf* and *Adopt a Park*

Overall, Partners for Youth serves as a key connector between youth, community partners, and workforce pathways, with a strong emphasis on expanding access, scaling partnerships, and increasing long-term youth outcomes in Lexington. No committee action was taken on this agenda item.

IV. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.