



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

January 24, 2023

Summary and Motions

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m. Committee Members Ellinger, J. Brown, Fogle, Gray, F. Brown, Baxter, Sevigny, and Plomin were in attendance. Council Member Monarrez was absent. Council Members LeGris, Sheehan, Lynch, and Vice Mayor Wu were also present as non-voting members.

I. ONE Lexington Programs Update

Devine Carama, Director of *ONE Lexington* explained that the *ONE Lexington* program is a city initiative that leverages government resources and community partnerships to reduce gun violence impacting youth and young adults (ages 13-29). He mentioned a few of the prevention initiatives which include community forums, interactions with students, scholarships, and strategic planning sessions. Kenneth Payne, Community Outreach Advocate with *One Lexington*, spoke about intervention initiatives that took place in the past year. Each Wednesday, a *Violence Intervention Workgroup* met to discuss gun-related incidents from the week prior. In the last year, they received referrals for and provided services for 50 families that have been impacted by gun violence. Larry Johnson, Community Response Coordinator with *One Lexington*, mentioned the work they have done with Lexington Police Department to coordinate youth mediation and crisis response efforts in 2022. He noted they want to bridge the gap between underserved communities and law enforcement in 2023. Carama spoke about the *It Takes a Village Youth Mentoring Program* which is a weekly summer mentoring program for youth aged 12-17. He highlighted some of the areas the program focuses on including skill building workshops, building relationships, mentoring, and commitment. Carama also described the *We are One* program which is an anti-violence essay & poetry contest for students at Lexington Traditional Magnet School & Crawford Middle School. The goal of this program is to encourage young people to discuss issues that affect them by using platforms to amplify those voices in hopes of inspiring positive change in their community. Payne spoke about crisis response and said the city has contracted 3 crisis response advocates to respond and support crisis situations involving families who have been impacted by gun violence. Johnson spoke about *Cities United* which has assisted with the development of a strategic plan to reduce gun violence among youth and young adults in Lexington. Finally, Carama closed with a review of community partnerships and he discussed next steps.

Carama confirmed the majority of the mentoring takes place at middle schools and high schools, but they are exploring the idea of getting involved with elementary schools. When asked about the partnership with Fayette County Public Schools and if the family resource centers are funded by the school system, Carama said they are, but there are stipulations on what that funding can be used for. Johnson added that currently all schools have a family resource center, but they share the funding which means the schools most in need do not get sufficient funding. When asked about reaching students in the Winburn or Eastland area, Carama said they would like to be in all of the districts, but the bandwidth is too small. When asked what efforts are being made so the community knows who the community partners are, Payne spoke about a website landing page they are working on that will house this kind of information. They are also working on having cards with a QR code that will go directly to the landing page. Speaking about crisis responder training and how those responders are trained, Carama said they are trauma-informed trained. He explained that *Cities United* has a crisis response model that they follow, but they

want to do more. There was conversation about the difficulty with community programs just getting started and struggling to get the non-profit status that would help them get funding more easily. There was some discussion about building relationships with law enforcement and the concern about the lack of neighborhood resource officers. When asked if this year's budget request will be comparable to last year, Carama said they are currently reviewing expenditures and what is left to spend. They will ask for a little more, but not a substantial amount because they can only do what they have the bandwidth to do. When asked if *Safety-Net* is separate from *One Lexington* or if this is a partnership, Carama said *Safety-Net* operates separately but the two programs work hand in hand. When asked to compare and contrast the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) program versus what Lexington is doing, Carama stated GVI is an old school approach to reducing gun violence. GVI operates in a way that puts the community at risk and also puts law enforcement at risk. Outreach components are there, but the difference is what they do and how they utilize law enforcement in a relationship as it pertains to outreach workers. Speaking about the strategic plan, Carama said the strategic plan is a guide for the next four years that shows how to reimagine the relationship between public safety and underserved communities. Carama said the biggest issue for youth programming is peer support and whether those with "lived experience" will be allowed to come into community centers to lead programming. No action was taken on this item.

II. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by Baxter to remove *A Review of Potential Handoff of Juvenile Probation Officers to the State* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by J. Brown. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Baxter to remove *Review of All Social Programs for Potential Duplication with Non-profits to see if there are partnerships that can be enhanced* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Sevigny. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Sevigny to remove *(Ban on) Rental Income Discrimination* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Baxter to remove *Tenants' Bill of Rights* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by F. Brown. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Sevigny to remove *Review of Outdated Civil Defense Ordinance* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by J. Brown to remove *Review of Housing Rehabilitation Grants Program* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Fogle to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.