

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Intergovernmental Relations Department

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009
To: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair
Referral to: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Amend the City of Minneapolis' Federal Legislative Agenda

Amend the City of Minneapolis' Federal Legislative Agenda to reflect new policy positions regarding youth violence prevention.

Recommendation:

- Amend the City of Minneapolis' Federal Legislative Agenda to reflect new policy positions regarding youth violence prevention.
- Insert the following language on page 11, after the section entitled "Restore Federal-Local Relationship on Crime Prevention" of the City of Minneapolis' 2009 Federal Legislative Agenda.

Youth Violence Prevention

From 2003 to 2006 Minneapolis experienced a surge in violent crime. That spike was in large part due to a significant rise in violent crime involving young people, with approximately half of the total arrests citywide involving juvenile offenders.

In response, the City of Minneapolis developed the "Blueprint for Action," a comprehensive, multifaceted, community-based plan to prevent youth violence. The Blueprint emphasizes the need for an array of community-based prevention programs, along with increased law enforcement efforts to prevent youth violence in Minneapolis.

Recent evaluations indicate that the Blueprint is having an impact on youth violence. In 2008, there was a 43-percent reduction in youth violence in the targeted areas from the high recorded in 2006.

The City of Minneapolis supports the following federal legislative initiatives and principles:

1. Designate youth violence as a national priority and a preventable public health issue, and align new and existing resources accordingly.
 - Create a mechanism for effective policy coordination and strategy alignment for youth violence issues with state and local governments, tribes, school, community groups, faith communities and other supportive entities.
 - Refocus attention on policies and programs intended to prevent youth from engaging in the criminal justice system.
2. Enhance the capacity and infrastructure for local, state and federal public health administrations to address youth violence as a preventable public health issue.
 - Establish a funding stream or appropriations line item for youth violence prevention programs and activities to an appropriate agency.
 - Direct the determined agency to distribute funds to local and state public health administrations to support youth violence prevention programs and activities such

as program development and evaluation, building infrastructure, and technology to improve coordination and monitoring efforts.

Previous Directives:

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Approved by: Gene Ranieri, Director of Intergovernmental Relations

Presenters in Committee: Melissa Reed, Intergovernmental Relations

Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis and its *Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis* has become a state and national model for preventing youth violence before it occurs by relying on a comprehensive, multifaceted, community-based approach. The Blueprint emphasizes the need for an array of community-based prevention programs, along with increased law enforcement efforts to prevent youth violence.

Recent evaluations indicate that the Blueprint is having an impact on youth violence. In 2008, there was a 43-percent reduction in youth violence in the targeted areas from the high recorded in 2006.

The City of Minneapolis seeks to share the strategies, methods and lessons learned through the development and successful implementation of the Blueprint with other communities in Minnesota, and across the country. The City recognizes that the federal government, through funding initiatives and policy alignment, is a vital partner in the work to prevent youth violence nationwide. Therefore, the City of Minneapolis is amending its federal legislative agenda to urge the federal government to establish youth violence as a preventable public health issue, and align its policy and funding priorities accordingly.