



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00110

Agenda Date: 1/28/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Discussion of Gun Violence Initiative and Request for Direction

Presenter:

Michele Lieberman, County Manager

Description:

Gun Violence Initiative

Recommended Action:

Hear update and receive direction from the Board

Prior Board Motions:

May 6, 2024: Board Motion to direct staff to work with the Children's Trust of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville to explore and put together the budget needs to implement a cure the violence model in Alachua County

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety

Background:

On May 6, 2024, at a joint meeting with the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC), the Commission directed staff to work with CTAC and the City of Gainesville to develop a budget request to conduct an assessment using the Cure Violence Global (CVG) model. County staff started discussions with CVG regarding a potential contract to conduct a readiness assessment, review key gun violence data, meet with community stakeholders, and identify possible community organizations to implement the CVG violence interrupter model.

While working towards this contract, CVG was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant totaling \$3.9 million to work in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Gainesville, Florida. In response, County staff stopped working on the contract and started working with CVG to learn more about the BJA grant and implementation plans. During this process, CVG decided to change course and the County's participation in the grant process was canceled. CVG requested, and County staff provided, additional gun violence-related data in the hopes of continuing with the BJA grant project. The County has been advised that CVG has taken a different path with the grant but has indicated they are willing to work with the County under a separate contract.

In order to further address the issues of gun violence, on May 22, 2024, Alachua County, the City of Gainesville, and Santa Fe College formed a Community Gun Violence Prevention Alliance through a Memorandum of

Understanding. The Alliance was created to enhance cooperation and strengthen efforts to address gun violence by improving systems and collaborative strategies specifically to produce better outcomes related to gun violence and violent crimes. To meet these goals, staff representatives of the Alliance have been meeting regularly and conducting monthly meetings with a broader group of stakeholders. The Alliance has also proposed a plan to use the \$500,000 of funding from CTAC for creating two County-led Youth Steering Committees, providing gun violence prevention grants for local organizations, contracting with a Strategic Planning Consultant, providing violence interrupter training to local organizations, and purchasing Technology Hub Carts to be deployed throughout the County. Discussions related to implementing these strategies are currently underway.