

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the City and Travis County are working to build a community-rooted public safety ecosystem that addresses the root cause of violence and emphasizes healing, prevention, and community trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the City established the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) through Council Resolution No. 20190822-069, following local advocacy and recommendations from the Gun Violence Task Force and Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, aligning with a national trend toward health-based violence reduction strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Travis County have already demonstrated a strong commitment through Community Violence Intervention initiatives, youth-focused programs, hospital-based interventions, and partnership with community-based organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, local and national leaders in violence prevention, such as the Cities United Organization, have recognized that the City and Travis County have made progressive strides towards building foundational components in place and have a strong opportunity to transition into a formal multi-year strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, institutionalizing violence prevention as a core City function reinforces the City's long-term commitment to equitable public health and safety, allowing for policy continuity across administrations; and

**WHEREAS**, cities such as Oakland, California; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St Louis, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Denver, Colorado have demonstrated the importance of institutionalizing violence prevention office via charter or ordinance, securing dedicated funding and embedding public health

frameworks, which have contributed to sustainable and measurable reductions;  
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to work with the OVP and Travis County to enter a memorandum of understanding to solidify shared responsibilities, coordinate strategic investments, and align communication and implementation efforts across jurisdictional lines.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to work with Travis County, Austin Public Health, Austin Police Department, the OVP, community-based organizations, public health experts, and justice stakeholders to build a formal, comprehensive public health and safety plan guided by nationally recognized community violence intervention organizations, such as, but not limited to Cities United and Community Justice. This plan shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Define a long-term vision with shared goals, performance indicators and timelines;
2. Include disaggregated data tracking by race, geography and outcomes;
3. Include evaluation mechanisms to assess progress, review data and recommend adjustments to strategy and investments annually;
4. Strategies to build robust community partnerships with support given to trusted local organizations that have demonstrated effectiveness in violence prevention and healing-centered approaches, ensuring shared ownership and cultural responsiveness;
5. Implementation of a public health framework in alignment with national models, training community violence as a preventable health issue and

addressing its root causes through prevention, early intervention, and trauma-informed care;

6. Develop and implement a formal schedule for quarterly reporting to executive leadership. This schedule should outline responsible parties, reporting formats, specific data, and progress metrics aligned with the comprehensive public safety plan; and
7. Establish a cross-jurisdictional and cross-departmental communications team that includes the Public Information Office, community partners, local officials, and public health and safety stakeholders. This team will be responsible for designing and executing strategic communications plans to share progress, amplify community voices, and elevate the visibility of violence prevention efforts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to explore ways of elevating and institutionalizing the OVP by ensuring sustainability, structural permanence, and accountability beyond political transitions. Including but not limited to the exploration of the following:

1. Explore the current governance structure, identify internal barriers, and recommend changes to improve communications to the Council and City Manager; and
2. Identify and secure a dedicated, recurring funding source for the OVP, including, but not limited to the exploration of designating portion of the City budget, an interlocal agreement, or intergovernmental corporation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager shall report back to the Public Safety Committee and Public Health Committee with findings, recommendations, and implementation framework by December of 2025.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2025    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Erika Brady  
City Clerk