



## City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

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**File Number:** 2025-54

**Agenda Date:** January 16, 2025

**Department:** Gainesville Fire Rescue

**Title:** 2025-54 Children's Trust of Alachua County Funding for Gun Violence Prevention (B)

**Department:** Gainesville Fire Rescue

**Description:** Request for the Commission to accept funding from the Children's Trust of Alachua County to support the City's gun violence prevention programming.

**Fiscal Note:** The Children's Trust of Alachua County has committed to provide \$205,150 to the City.

**Explanation:** The Gun Violence Prevention Alliance was formed in May 2024 as a collaborative partnership to identify and implement gun violence solutions in our area. Meetings of the Alliance have focused on information sharing around what the City and County are doing in the gun violence space; a SWOT analysis of efforts; data sharing from law enforcement; a highlighting of the youth perspective on gun violence solutions; and extensive feedback from stakeholders on funding opportunities, including a funding allocation set forward by the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC).

At the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 joint meeting of the CTAC Board of Directors and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, \$250,000.00 was allocated toward gun violence prevention efforts. Specifically, County staff were directed to work with the City of Gainesville to develop a proposal for the use of the funds in FY24. Soon after, staff were also informed that \$250,000.00 for FY25 would be allocated for the same purpose.

The Gun Violence Prevention Alliance, comprised of Alachua County, the City of Gainesville and Santa Fe College, and a number of other stakeholders discussed the usage of the funds. At the August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the CTAC, a recommendation was given to roll the \$250,000.00 of FY24 funding over to FY25 to result in a total funding amount of \$500,000.00. This recommendation was approved by the CTAC.

At the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 meeting of the CTAC, the Board approved \$433,150.00 toward gun violence prevention and intervention initiatives. In November, the Board approved the reprogramming recommendation of the remaining \$66,850. The City's

portion of the funding includes: \$150,000.00 for the Violence Interrupter Program and Training; \$4,750.00 for an Additional Facilitator for the City's Youth Steering Committee; and \$50,400 for seven (7) Technology Hub Carts for a total of \$205,150.00.

The scope of work for these initiatives is as follows:

**Violence Interruption Program and Support:** The proposed funding includes the continuation and expansion of violence interruption and community outreach work. This would be done through a community-based violence interrupter network to mediate conflict and de-escalate tensions in the community as well as facilitate on-the-ground relationship building with communities most impacted by gun violence. Currently, this work exists primarily within City of Gainesville limits. The available funding will allow the current work to continue past its contracted end date of 1/31/2025 and extend into the greater Alachua County area.

The current contract includes the below objectives:

- Develop a community network to interrupt the cycle of violence.
- Build relationships with the following entities to reach young people:
  - Schools
  - After-school programs
  - Churches
  - Groups for justice-involved individuals
  - Athletic leagues
- Provide warm hand-offs to local social resources to assist with unmet needs of the individual and family unit.
- Educate youth about the dangers of gun violence, appeal to youth to resist gun violence, and offer methods of resolving conflict without resorting to violence.

The funding includes \$100,000 for contracted violence interruption, \$25,000 for community outreach efforts in collaboration with faith leaders and/or community groups, and \$25,000 for training and mental health support of the individuals engaged in violence interruption work. IMPACT GNV would oversee the violence interruption services with regular updates to the Alliance.

**Technology Hubs in Community Centers:** Computer and internet accessibility is a must of modern-day life. Not only do many school-based programs require a computer, but many youth service programs also need devices to ensure access for their students to a variety of resources. This includes completing homework assignments, tutoring, signing up for sports programs, and more. According to the 2024 Alachua County Community Health Assessment, roughly 20% of respondents do not have internet service. The top reasons cited include poor reception/service where they live (8.8%), affordability (5.81%), and lack of access to a personal computer (5.54%).

For these reasons, it is proposed to purchase technology carts with laptops that can be used in community centers or community organization buildings that are in areas with high rates of gun violence. These technology carts are secure and can store and charge up to 36 15" laptops. These carts can be used by youth and family programs that have

reserved the space and on an individual basis when not reserved for programming. There would be a process of capturing who is using the computers, sign-in and sign-out times. Carts will be intentionally placed in centers where relevant programming already exists, or programming could be developed to best utilize the resource.

The budgeted amount includes the cost of 7 carts (\$2,170 each) and 18 laptops per cart (\$279 each).

**Additional Facilitator for the Youth Steering Committee:** The Youth Steering Committee started convening in February 2023 as part of One Nation One Project GNV and guided many project components to elevate youth voices. The group has been and will continue to be managed by the Youth Services Division of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs at the City. In August 2024, the committee provided a discussion summary and recommendations to the City on how to solve youth gun violence, with an emphasis on the arts and well-being activities as key components. The Youth Steering Committee will continue to convene and will connect with the Alliance and Impact GNV to continue their work beyond One Nation One Project. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Staff overseeing the Youth Steering Committee will report YAC activities and deliverables to IMPACT GNV. The Youth Steering Committee will help to elevate youth voices on important topics. Youth ages 16 to 24 from across Alachua County will continue to guide how we can solve youth gun violence, while also helping us find ways we can help youth in our community be successful.

Funding for the Youth Steering Committee member stipends is provided through an agreement between the City of Gainesville and the National League of Cities. This funding will be for an additional facilitator and some materials and supplies.

**Strategic Connection:**

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☐ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☐ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

**Recommendation:** The Commission 1) accept funding not to exceed \$205,150.00; and authorize the City Manager or designee; 2) enter into an agreement with the Children’s Trust of Alachua County to memorialize the funding allocation; and 3) execute necessary documents subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.