



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
MEMBERS OF THE CITY
COUNCIL

FROM: Vice Mayor Kamei

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3.4 – Violence
Prevention Service Models

DATE: February 2, 2024

Approved:

Date: February 2, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the Report from the Administration; and
2. Direct the City Manager to prepare a Manager's Budget Addendum as part of the 2024-2025 Budget Process that lays out potential options for the City Council's consideration for increasing the City's investment in violence prevention efforts, either:
 - a. in the form of increased investment in the City's existing programs; or
 - b. through the creation of new efforts to prevent violence in San José.

ANALYSIS

The Violence Prevention Research Report considered today summarizes San José's *current* violence prevention efforts through the Youth Empowerment Alliance, and compares these efforts to violence prevention programs other jurisdictions employ elsewhere in the county. However, within its remit as a research report, it includes no specific budget proposals that would enhance violence prevention in San José.

Given the importance and effectiveness of violence prevention as a public safety strategy, I believe considering budget proposals should be our next logical step. In order to appropriately weigh such proposals alongside other City Council priorities in the upcoming 2024-2025 budget process, I recommend that the City Council direct the City Manager to develop such proposals for our consideration as part of the 2024-2025 Budget Process.

Moreover, staff should have the flexibility to develop and supply proposals they believe will be most effective at enhancing our violence prevention efforts. Such proposals may include improvements to our existing programs, or the provision of additional funding for new programs

or strategies. Staff should also evaluate whether the following options are worth pursuing, in addition to any other options they may wish to recommend:

- Increased funding for current efforts that we judge effective, such as the BEST program.
- Investments that could enhance our City’s ability to collaborate with other government agencies or community partners to maximize the effectiveness of our current policies and programs.
- Options for increasing access to our existing recreational and educational offerings for young people, who may struggle to pay user fees, for the purpose of providing positive recreational opportunities as an alternative to high-risk activities that may contribute to violence.
- Opportunities to advance the City’s efforts to reimagine public safety by enhancing our community’s capacity to prevent violence before it becomes necessary to involve the Police Department.
- Opportunities to advance strategies identified in the Children and Youth Master Plan (once this plan has been considered and acted upon by the City Council) that may contribute to preventing violence.

We know that public safety is a persistent top priority for our community. San José has been a leader in developing violence prevention programs—such as BEST and Youth Intervention Services—to keep our community safe. I believe we should continue our leadership on this issue. I look forward to considering proposals for how we can build on and enhance our efforts to prevent violence.