


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-521	Meeting:	November 20, 2023
	Agenda Item:	28	Roll Call:	23-1624
	Submitted by:	Jen Schulte, Assistant City Manager		

AGENDA HEADING:

Renewal Addendum to Agreement with Creative Visions, LLC for Implementation Services for Violence Interruption Project (VIP).

SYNOPSIS:

At the direction of the City Council, staff recommends approval of the following items:

- 1) Renewing an agreement with Creative Visions (Ako Abdul-Samad, CEO, 1343 13th Street, Des Moines, IA 50314) to implement VIP. The renewal agreement is for a total amount up to \$300,000 for the term proposed.
 - a. The term of this agreement is December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

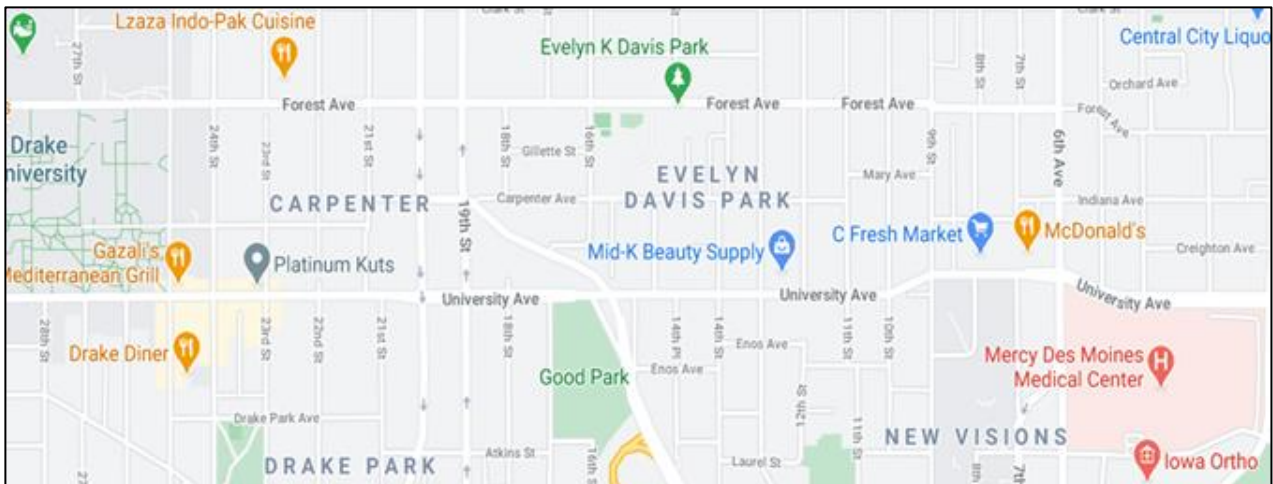
Amount: \$300,000 for a one (1)-year contract renewal with Creative Visions

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Operating Budget, CM001000, City Manager's Office, Administration, Page 30. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been identified to pay for this extension.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines has adopted a new public health approach to preventing violent crime called "Violence Interruption Project". Violence interruption works primarily with high-risk youth ages 14 to 25, through regular individual interactions, conflict mediation, and community mobilization. Using proven public health techniques, the model focuses to prevent violence through a three (3)-prong approach:
 - Identification & Detection
 - Interruption, Intervention, & Risk Reduction
 - Change Behaviors & Norms
- Violence interruption is a data-driven model. Through a combination of statistical information and street knowledge, staff identify where to concentrate efforts, focus resources, and intervene in violence. This data guides staff to communities most impacted by violence. It provides a picture of those individuals at the highest risk for violence and shows staff how to intervene.

- VIP is a behavioral health approach to violence prevention, rather than a law enforcement-based approach. This approach can and does coexist with law enforcement to reach all members of the community who may be at risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence.
- To successfully implement VIP, scope of service deliverables will be required to be followed by the organization. Those scope of service deliverables are the following:
 - Service 1: Implementation of the Cure Violence Model.
 - Detect and Interrupt Potentially Violent Conflicts or Potential Shooting Events
 - Identify and Treat Highest Risk Individuals
 - Community Mobilization/Change Behavioral Norms
 - Continual Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting
 - Program Documentation and Reporting Requirements
 - Service 2: Participant Enrollment. The site must actively identify and enroll participants that are at highest risk for involvement in violence.
 - Service 3: Human Resources Requirements, Deliverables to City, Training, Equipment, and Personnel Monitoring.
 - The primary geographic focus of the program's efforts will continue to be in the Drake Neighborhood and Evelyn K. Davis Park areas.



Successes over the past year include:

- Implemented the hotspot and business community canvassing, conducted numerous mediations to prevent violence, prevented retaliations when shootings have occurred and established Business and Community Ambassadors.
- Development of public education and violence prevention and branded our process, "DRIP" (Detect Respond Intervene Prevent).
 - Creation of project-specific policies and developed an accounting system geared directly to this grant. We've made a presence in the Des Moines Public Schools and have established ourselves to prevent future violent acts by working with the youth at Meyer Hall.

- Both hosted and attended relevant community events and made appearances at press conferences and on local podcasts.
 - Working with local businesses to create employment opportunities for qualified youth and young adults. Participants are meeting their employment goals, and, with the City's support, we can help them remove barriers.
 - Under our direction and guidance. VIP participants are beginning to address their legal issues so they can begin to change their lives for the better.
- A major success of the VIP program has been encouraging individuals with outstanding warrants to voluntarily turn themselves over to law enforcement authorities - a total of seven (7) such actions took place without incident in VIP's initial year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 6, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1863](#)

Action: [An](#) exception to the procurement ordinance competitive procurement requirements for good cause and approving agreement with Cure Violence Global for services related to the Cure Violence Program. ([Council Communication No. 21-532](#)) Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 27, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-0172](#)

Action: [Request](#) to speak from Council Member Josh Mandelbaum regarding gun violence prevention. Moved by Mandelbaum to receive and file comments and refer to the City Manager to schedule a work session on the Cure Violence program. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Anticipated actions include public/community engagement with community members and organizations, and City staff. Potential extended agreement with Creative Visions to continue if performance is satisfactory.

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