



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

August 4, 2021

Honorable Jamie Gauthier
3rd District Councilmember
City Hall Room 582
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Honorable Rebecca Rhynhart
City Controller
1401 JFK Blvd., 1230 MSB
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Via Email

Dear Councilmember Gauthier and Controller Rhynhart:

Thank you for your letter of July 30th. I was happy to provide you an update on the broad work being undertaken by my Administration to urgently address the current gun violence public health emergency. As I stated in my letter, my team would be happy to meet with you and discuss how the eight objectives listed in your July 22nd letter are already encompassed in the depth of work we are undertaking to combat this crisis. I provide additional information in response to your data requests below:

Request #1: A list of Free Library branches, organized by police district, whose hours have been expanded according to the Roadmap to Safer Communities. Please include the change in hours as compared to FY 2019; A list of Recreation Centers, organized by police district, whose hours have been expanded according to the Roadmap to Safer Communities. Please include the change in hours as compared to FY 2019;

Administration Response: Services and operating hours at both Parks and Recreation Centers and Free Library branches have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting budget reductions. We are in the process of restoring services and expanding our operating hours for both Departments. Currently, Parks and Recreation Centers are open throughout the city Monday through Friday from 9 am to 9 pm and some permitted programs run on the weekends. We are in the process of hiring the necessary staff to restore five-day per-week services at Free Library locations.

A list of Free Library of Philadelphia available programming can be found [HERE](#).

A list of Parks and Recreation Department available programming can be found [HERE](#).

Request #2: The list of summer academic and enrichment programs for students developed by the Office of Children and Families, including program locations and hours of operation.

Administration Response: For Summer 2021, the City of Philadelphia, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia and over 50 other community-based organizations have worked to provide summer enrichment services to over 4000 children. The Office of Children and Families is also supporting almost 6000 youth in a work experience through the Work Ready program. Parks and Recreation is providing over 3500 youth with a

summer camp experience, 275 blocks with Play Streets, 50 Super Streets, 41 pools, 93 Sprinklers and playgrounds and 13 sites with additional water play toys.

[PlaySafePHL](#) contains information on available programs.

A list of OCF OST programs and providers can be found [HERE](#).

Request #3: The timeline for the development of the RFP for violence intervention grants, including when the Managing Director’s Office expects the grants to be distributed

Administration Response: As stated in my July 29th letter, on July 28, 2021, we announced the framework for distribution of this new funding. We will focus the majority of these funds to mid-sized, community-based organizations with grants of up to \$1 million. We expect to release an application for these new grants by August 6, 2021, with grants distributed on a rolling basis thereafter.

Request #4: The anticipated launch date of the READI pilot and any strategies developed to fill the 222 available slots.

Administration Response: Program operator Heartland Alliance, who also manages the highly successful READI Chicago program, has begun the preliminary field scan and is hiring staff for engagement on the ground with Philadelphia. We are working across multiple departments to develop and implement interventions to support individuals with an enhanced risk of being involved in violence. We are focused on those who are at the highest risk of shooting or being shot, those with ongoing engagement with the criminal justice system, and those that have been recently released from prison and are seeking employment.

Request #5: An update regarding the pilot Co-Responder teams, including a schedule for the expansion to a “24-7” citywide operation.

Administration Response: The City is preparing for scaling of the Crisis Intervention Response Team Program (aka Co-Responder Program) to citywide 24/7 coverage by the end of FY22. This will involve expanding from 4 to 6 teams on a single shift by Fall 2021 and adding evening and weekend shifts later in the year. The Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services (DBHIDS) recently posted an RFP for a second behavioral health service provider to enable citywide 24/7 expansion; each provider will cover a separate section of the city. The Police Department will assign officers to the CIRT teams on the same timeline.

Request #6: The timeline for the development and implementation all community engagement strategies listed on page 10 of the Roadmap to Safer Communities.

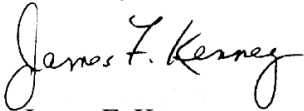
Administration Response: Please see below chart for updates:

Community Engagement Tools Activity		
Item	Description	Status
Targeted Community Investment Grants	Funding to support community-based and community-led violence prevention activities	We are presently reviewing the 4th cycle of applications with awardee to be selected in September 2021.
Community Stakeholders at Roadmap Tactical Meetings	Key partners bring in intelligence about hotspot areas and devise real time solutions	Underway and expanding to include additional Police Districts. This outreach is being led by the Office of Violence Preventions, Director of Programs & Community Outreach.
Next Gen Taskforce	Youth leadership development targeted at neighborhoods vulnerable to gun violence	This group began to meet in Spring of 2021 and has been meeting bi-weekly virtually. Their 2nd in-person event will be Saturday, Aug 14th at Life Do Grow Farm in partnership with Philly Urban Creators

Police Youth Advisory Commission	Youth commission work in partnership with Police Commissioner to advance change	Engagement with youth began Spring 21 in partnership with the Philadelphia Youth Commission to engage and deepen relationship with youth through workshops, summer programming and community meetings
Social Media Influencers	Youth develop public messages on reducing gun violence	Our first influencer will be onboarded no later than Sept 1st.
I Need You To Survive Campaign	Faith community campaign to share messages about reducing gun violence and fostering connection	We will be launching this initiative in the late fall of 2021
Straw Purchasing Public Health Campaign	Public awareness campaign to discourage residents from buying guns for other people illegally	Messaging product is completed. To launch within a month.
Regular Press Briefings:	Updates by City officials, public safety partners, and community leaders	Ongoing

As I said in my July 29th letter, my team is willing to meet with you and discuss the ongoing response and implementation of the Roadmap to Safer Communities, including the objectives you have highlighted.

Sincerely,



James F. Kenney
Mayor

CC: James Engler, Chief of Staff
Tumar Alexander, Managing Director
Vanessa Garrett Harley, First Deputy Managing Director
Danielle Outlaw, Police Commissioner
Erica Atwood, Senior Director for Criminal Justice and Public Safety