

Department Source: City Manager

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Re: Agreement with National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

An authorized contract and appropriation of funds for The National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) for Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA), Violence Reduction Landscape Analysis, Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Creation, and OVP Creation and Implementation Support.

Discussion

The NICJR will provide the following services to the Columbia Office of Violence Prevention (OVP).

Research:

- Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA). NICJR will develop a report that uses detailed data provided by the City to examine fatal and nonfatal shootings in the past 12–24 months. This analysis will identify the specific nature of gun violence in Columbia and the unique characteristics of groups and individuals at highest risk of being involved in gun violence, equipping the City to strategically focus interventions. Conducting a GVPA requires substantial participation from local law enforcement agencies. This includes, but is not limited to, coordinating in-person meetings with individual officers or detectives and/or units to conduct a Group Audit; providing existing electronic shapefiles for geographic analysis of crew and/or shooting dynamics; coordinating interviews with detectives responsible for investigating fatal and nonfatal shootings for Incident Reviews; and providing RAP sheets and other information about criminal histories of shooting victims and suspects. NICJR requests that the City provide feedback on the draft report within five business days of delivery.

- Violence Reduction Landscape Analysis. This analysis will provide a comprehensive portrait of Columbia's existing community violence intervention (CVI) ecosystem, including violence prevention initiatives as well as the services and supports available to those engaged in or at highest risk for engagement in violence, either as victims or perpetrators. Examining both governmental and community-based resources, this analysis is a valuable tool for identifying service gaps and opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration. Both reports will inform the development of the Columbia Violence Reduction Strategic Plan.

Strategic Planning:

- Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Creation. NICJR will support the development of a comprehensive, community-wide violence reduction strategic plan. This will include facilitating a planning process with the OVP team; supporting the team in gathering



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feedback from government partners and community members; and drafting, finalizing, and presenting the Columbia Violence Reduction Strategic Plan.

Technical Assistance:

- **OVP Creation and Implementation Support:** NICJR will support the development of the new office and help the City focus on efforts that effectively reduce violence, support local CVI organizations, manage a citywide strategy, and hold stakeholders accountable. As part of this work, NICJR will help the OVP to identify data management systems that will function best for their work. Additionally, we will provide management report forms, data collection tools, and baseline performance metrics, and we will support the OVP in establishing data-driven performance management processes. NICJR will provide creation and implementation support through consistent coaching, TA, and training to the OVP Director and staff.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Contract not to exceed \$291,280 in two fiscal years.

Long-Term Impact: The budgeted \$500,000 set aside for the development of the office of violence prevention will be reduced to \$88,880 due to the cost impact of the contract.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Authorization of the contract and the appropriation of funds for The National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) for Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA), Violence Reduction Landscape Analysis, Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Creation, and OVP Creation and Implementation Support.