



**CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**City Council**

**AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET**

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**AGENDA DATE:**

**April 29, 2025**

**DEPARTMENT:**

**Office of Community Safety and Empowerment**

**DIRECTOR or DESIGNEE:**

**LaKenya Middlebrook**

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**AGENDA SUMMARY** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to extend the contract with National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform to manage implementation of Community Violence Intervention programming, provide technical assistance to the City of Knoxville, and provide training on Group Violence Reduction Strategies for the City of Knoxville and community partners for an amount not to exceed \$519,750.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$826,800.00.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED** All Districts

**BACKGROUND** Research indicates that the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs), also known as Group Violence Intervention, Ceasefire, or focused deterrence, has a record of success in reduced gun and group-oriented violence. In addition, Knoxville's problem analysis suggests that the majority of gun violence in the city involves group-affiliated individuals.

The GVRs reduces gun violence by identifying high-risk people and social networks, communicating directly to them the commitment of the police and community members to stop such violence, providing special supports and services, and deploying targeted law enforcement sanctions as a last resort.

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) works to reduce incarceration and violence, improve the outcomes of system-involved youth and adults, and increase the capacity and expertise of the organizations that serve these individuals. NICJR provides technical assistance, consulting, research, organizational development, and advocacy in the fields of juvenile and criminal justice, youth development, and violence prevention. NICJR works with an array of organizations, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropic foundations. In July 11, 2023, Council approved an agreement with NICJR to provide training and technical assistance for City of Knoxville staff, law enforcement and community-based partners to effectively implement Group Violence Reduction Strategies. The proposed contract extension will support management, reporting and training for Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programming, including Outreach, Life Coaching and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), as well as continued technical assistance on sustained implementation of CVI.

**ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE** The project will conclude approximately twelve months from the date of the project start.

**PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW** City Council approved the initial contract on July 11, 2023.

**FISCAL INFORMATION** The project will be funded through the Office of Community Safety Violence Interruption funds in 240036.011116.8399, approved by City Council.