



CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

City Council

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Office of Community Safety and Empowerment

DIRECTOR or DESIGNEE: LaKenya Middlebrook

AGENDA SUMMARY A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to enter an agreement with the University of Tennessee Social Work Office of Research and Public Service to conduct a comprehensive community violence assessment to evaluate the implementation of place-based strategies (Project TLC), its impact on violent crime in identified areas, and levels of community trust and perceptions of safety in identified areas, in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED All Districts

BACKGROUND The City of Knoxville Office of Community Safety and Empowerment seeks to partner with the University of Tennessee's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) to conduct a comprehensive community violence assessment. This assessment will help identify where and why violence is occurring, uncover service gaps and barriers, and support the implementation of evidence-based, community-informed strategies. The research partner will be an active member of violence prevention working groups, use an action research approach to guide implementation, tailor strategies to local needs, and track key performance indicators through ongoing process and outcome evaluations.

Under the leadership of Principal Investigator Jeff Vomund, SWORPS will evaluate the City's place-based anti-gun violence initiatives in East Knoxville, Montgomery Village, and Western Heights using a difference-in-differences research design. The work will include establishing a community advisory board, conducting crime data analysis, deploying neighborhood safety and trust surveys, and hosting stakeholder focus groups. Findings will be used to inform strategy adjustments and will be shared publicly through a Community Dashboard to promote transparency and sustained community engagement.

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE Project funding will support programs between July 2025 through June 30, 2026.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

FISCAL INFORMATION The total amount will be funded through the Office of Community Safety Violence Interruption Funds.