



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
Senate Majority Leader
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike Gipson
Chair, Assembly Revenue and
Taxation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6210
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Josh Lowenthal
Assembly Speaker pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Funding for the California Violence Intervention & Prevention (CalVIP) Program

Dear Senate Majority Leader Gonzalez, Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Lowenthal, and Assemblymember Gipson,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I am requesting your support in advocating for one time funding of \$198 million in the upcoming budget negotiations to fully fund the California Violence Intervention & Prevention (CalVIP) grant program. This critical investment will help expand proven violence reduction strategies across our state and create safer communities for all Californians.

The data demonstrates CalVIP's remarkable success:

- Communities that implemented CalVIP-funded programs saw an average 30% reduction in gun violence within the first 24 months
- Every \$1 invested in violence intervention programs saves taxpayers \$18 in criminal justice and healthcare costs
- Cities with comprehensive violence intervention programs have experienced up to 45% fewer violent crimes compared to cities without such programs
- CalVIP grantees have successfully mediated over 3,000 potentially violent conflicts in the past three years

In Long Beach, CalVIP funding was used to implement the Long Beach Activating Safe Communities program and expand the Gun Violence Response Protocol to north and central-east Long Beach. This allowed for increased interventionist and peacekeeper engagement with high-risk youth, individualized supportive services and economic opportunities for youth and families impacted by gun violence, and 15 neighborhood activation events to increase social cohesion and connectedness.

Current funding levels will only allow CalVIP to support programs in a small number of eligible jurisdictions. This leaves many high-need communities without access to these proven interventions and will force other communities to reduce current opportunities. We cannot afford to underinvest in proven violence prevention strategies.

If you have questions or would like additional information about CalVIP's impact in Long Beach, please contact Sarah Patterson, Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, at Sarah.Patterson@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach