



**City of Kansas City, Missouri
Health Commission**

*Achieving a city-wide collaboration and partnership of
organizations and individuals to work together
to build a healthier community.*



Public Health

July 22, 2020

To: Mayor Lucas and City Council
From: City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Commission

RE: Letter of Opposition for Ordinances 200239 and 200240

The City of Kansas City Health Commission opposes Ordinances 200239 and 200240 which would remove evidence-based, public health focused violence prevention funding and further exaggerate the gap between community-based, violence prevention funding and violence prevention funding with a criminal justice focus. This action would have a devastating impact on the Aim4Peace Violence Prevention Program and contradict recommendations from the KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, using a public health approach is essential to preventing violence¹. The Aim4Peace: Violence Prevention Program is the only known evidence-based, public health model in Kansas City, MO. While Aim4Peace has shown positive outcomes, more significant outcomes have been attained by similar programs in other cities when properly funded. Kansas City's violence prevention program has never been funded to engage across the entire City. As such, it is unfair and inappropriate to judge the program based on city-wide outcomes or outcomes in zip codes where the program does not operate.

Violence Prevention requires a cross-disciplinary approach². The KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention which was requested in 2017 by the Commission on Violence Crime, was adopted as an objective in the KC Community Health Improvement Plan (KC-CHIP), is the only cross-disciplinary, citywide plan for violence prevention in Kansas City, Missouri. The proposed Ordinances, if passed, would remove resources to implement the KC Blueprint, which has been a request for the City of Kansas City Missouri since 2017

The Health Commission feels strongly that the community-based, public health approach represented by Aim4Peace is the only violence prevention approach that also responds to the racial inequities that are driving much of the violence in the Kansas City region. The criminal justice approach to violence prevention has in many communities exacerbated

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/publichealthissue/publichealthapproach.html>

² Contagion of Violence: Workshop Summary, Forum on Global Violence Prevention.

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/13489/contagion-of-violence-workshop-summary>



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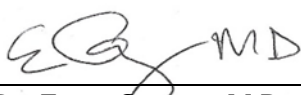
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racial inequities by increasing the number of minorities forced into the criminal justice system. Reallocating funds from Aim4Peace, a public health, community-based approach to violence prevention, removes public health from the equation of curing violence in Kansas City, Missouri. Additionally, this action restricts implementation of the KC Blueprint for Violence Prevention, which contradicts the KC -CHIP, the KCMO Citywide Business Plan and prior recommendations/requests from City leadership and residents.

It was by a unanimous vote that Health Commission takes this stand, and recommends that funding for Aim4Peace and violence prevention be increased, not decreased.

Sincerely,



Dr. Erica Carney, M.D.
KC Health Commission Co-Chair



Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw
KC Health Commission Co-Chair



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