

To: Councilwoman Katheryn Shields, Chair
Heather Hall, Vice-Chair
City Council: Finance, Governance, and Public Safety Committee
From: City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Commission

RE: Support for Ordinance 230160

The KCMO Health Commission supports the \$30 million funding allocation for violence prevention.

One of the goals in the KC-Community Health Improvement Plan (KC-CHIP) is to “expand community based, restorative, and transformative justice programs within education, community, and law enforcement. This is an example of a multisector approach where collective impact to prevent violence could be successful if significant funding were allocated to these types of efforts.

Homicides are expensive. In the state of Missouri, the cost of gun violence is approximately \$5.5 billion¹. Kansas City, Missouri has experienced 505 homicides at the time this letter was written. The economic cost of 505 homicides is striking.

The investment of \$30,000,000 far outweighs the economic costs for violence and will show a significant return on investment as the increase of violence prevention efforts occur.

The Health Department is poised to manage this fund, and for supporting the proposed RFP process.

Sincerely,

KCMO Health Commission
cc. Violence Free KC Committee

¹ Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. 2016.