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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** May 19, 2026

**TITLE:** Motion Approving Execution of a Contract with The Research Foundation of the City University of New York for Services Related to Group Violence Intervention - \$218,000 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the execution of a contract with The Research Foundation of the City University of New York for services related to Group Violence Intervention (GVI) in the amount of \$218,000.

**Background**

Community violence consists of acts of serious violence that most often involve shootings and assaults that occur in public areas between unrelated individuals who may or may not know each other. The City of Fort Lauderdale has unfortunately seen an escalation in community violence over recent years. To reduce the frequency of these crimes, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) has launched a Group Violence Intervention (GVI) initiative that will build strong partnerships between law enforcement, community leaders, and service providers to deliver clear communication, accountability, and meaningful opportunities that support safer neighborhoods. GVI programs have a strong record of preventing such violence. The strategy is based on a set of core facts: Most people in those communities are not at high risk for either victimization or offending. A very small number of identifiable street groups drive the violence, and the people in them face extraordinary risk and trauma. GVI focuses on the individuals with the highest risk for violent victimization and offending, with the intention to keep those in them alive, safe, and out of prison.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department seeks to contract with The Research Foundation of the City University of New York (CUNY) on behalf of the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College (NNSC) for GVI program services. For three decades, NNSC has worked with jurisdictions to address community violence through GVI programming by bringing together support and outreach, law enforcement, and community partners to deter and prevent violence. The GVI partnership communicates directly with group members, conveying a powerful community message about disapproval for violence and in support of community aspirations; concrete opportunities for both immediate and longer-term assistance and support; and clear prior notice of the legal risks associated with continued violence.

During the November 4, 2025, City Commission Regular Meeting, the City Commission approved acceptance of a State Financial Assistance Award to be used to implement a Violence Interruption Project in the City, via CAM #25-1016. Funds in the amount of \$218,000 have been allocated to contract with CUNY for GVI programming that includes performance of a problem analysis to review the extent of the violent crime within the City, the development of a GVI implementation plan, provision of a GVI stakeholder workshop for key community and law enforcement leaders, and strategic advising focused on developing accountability processes and mechanisms that empower stakeholders.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to the City. Funding for this contract has been allocated under State Financial Assistance Award for the Fort Lauderdale Violence Interruption Project.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)*	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-521-30-3199-25GFDLEVIP	Fort Lauderdale Violence Interruption Project	Services/ Materials/ Other Prof Services	\$310,000	\$91,550	\$218,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$218,000</b>

\* Includes funds in the amount of \$218,000 Committed in PO #16630.

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a *2026 Commission* Priority, advancing the Public Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- The Coastal Management, Community Health and Safety Element
- Goal 4: Coordinate with related partners and agencies (at city, local, county, regional, state, and federal levels) to plan for disaster and emergency management, further the resiliency of coastal areas, and ensure city-wide community health and safety.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 - Agreement between The Research Foundation of the City University of New York and the City of Fort Lauderdale

Exhibit 2 - CAM #25-1016 Motion Accepting State Financial Assistance Award for the Fort Lauderdale Violence Interruption Project State

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Prepared by: Dayna L. Bhaggan, Public Safety Grants Manager, Police Department

Department Director: William C. Schultz, Chief of Police