



City of Racine, Wisconsin

COMMON COUNCIL

AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM (ABM)

COMMITTEE: Finance Committee

LEGISLATION ITEM #:

AGENDA DATE: July 11, 2022 Finance and Personnel
July 19, 2021 Common Council

ABM Prepared by: Chief of Staff Shannon Powell
Reviewed by: Finance Director Kathleen Fischer
Approved by: City Administrator Paul Vornholt

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason requesting permission to apply for and accept the state of Wisconsin American Rescue Plan Grant allocation in the amount of \$784,000 to be allocated for the use of violence prevention and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter in agreements to allocate funds as outlined

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

With an increase in gun beginning this spring and with a couple high profile incidents, Governor Evers reached out to the Mayor and offered to lend financial resources to City to support our violence mitigation efforts locally. The Mayor made a request that supports ongoing community efforts, that allows new initiatives to take place, and that directly support initiatives of the Racine Police Department.

Request and their description is as follows:

- Safe and Sound Program (\$225,000) is a Milwaukee based program which operates in at least 11 Milwaukee neighborhoods. Safe and Sound was founded with the theory that improvements in public safety require the combination of law enforcement, community organizing and youth development. They hire neighborhood residents to conduct outreach, build trust, and enhance the community oriented policing model. Former Chief Howell hired Bree Spencer of Safe and Sound to write the "COP House Playback." The funding from the State would allow Safe and Sound to staff a neighborhood with a COP House with 3 local residents to run programs, engage with neighbors and community partners, and support the Racine community oriented policing model.
- The Credible Messenger Program (\$50,000) is a County run program in collaboration with the Racine Family YMCA, which hire local residents who were in the criminal justice system or a part

of gang activity to work with law enforcement, human services, the school district, and many other partners to reduce gang activity. Credible Messengers are trusted community members that help mentor youths, intervene and de-escalate situations, and connect community members to resources and alternatives to violence, gangs, or criminal activity. The State funding would support hiring an additional Credible Messenger for the program.

- Flock plate reader cameras (\$114,000) to be used by the Racine Police Department to support investigations as well as find stolen vehicles
- Mounted cameras in high-crime areas (\$95,000) to aid in investigations
- Officer overtime (\$50,000),
- A Racine version Blueprint for Peace initiative (\$100,000). A Blue Print for Peace was a community driven process that lead to an action plan on how to address gun violence in the City of Milwaukee. The initiative was lead the Office of Violence Prevention in the City of Milwaukee and viewed through the lens of gun violence being a public health crisis. Through a robust engagement process with community and stakeholders to use evidence based solution to reducing gun violence. This State funding would allow the City to pay for a similar process for locally
- Violence Interruption Coordinator (\$150,000) would fund an LTE position to help facilitate the process of creating a Racine version of a "Blue Print for Peace"

Total Funding Amount: \$784,000

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommendation is to approve the request to apply for and accept the state of Wisconsin American Rescue Plan Grant allocation in the amount of \$784,000 to be allocated for the use of violence prevention and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter in agreements to allocate funds as outlined

Fiscal Note: Grant amount is \$784,000. No City Match Required

Grant Control Number:
