

City and County of Denver & City of Aurora Youth empowerment compact

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora and the City and County of Denver recognize that youth violence is a public health crisis that knows no borders and that continues to inflict a devastating toll on both communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora and the City and County of Denver recognize that both communities have suffered profound impacts, human suffering and loss and need to work together on a regional strategy to reduce youth violence directed to not only protecting our residents from crime generally, but also to lifting youth out of the conditions resulting in youth violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora and the City and County of Denver seek to develop local and regional programs focused on reducing violence in Denver and Aurora related to and adversely affecting young people in our respective cities. The Cities are committed to building pathways to justice, increased safety, and educational and employment opportunities for our youth through city-supported, community-led, and youth-informed programming; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora and the City and County of Denver are further committed to leveraging opportunities between them for coordination, cooperation, advocacy, and accountability in their respective communities and with their community partners. The Cities will develop a roadmap to implementing long-term action plans by sharing best practices, instituting innovative approaches, understanding how and where to direct resources, and expanding currently operating programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL B. HANCOCK, MAYOR of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, and **MICHAEL COFFMAN, MAYOR** of the City of Aurora, Colorado by virtue of the authority vested in us, have created this Compact between the City of Aurora and the City and County of Denver to declare a mutual dedication and ask our community leaders, families, philanthropic organizations, government officials and other stakeholders to stand with us to reduce youth violence in our communities and set forth their respective commitments through the following statements of shared Values, Needs, Objectives and Plan of Execution:

VALUES

The Cities have the passion needed to establish and maintain healthy, equitable communities where young people can thrive. Both Cities are committed to equity and social justice, and as a result, commit to reducing youth violence as well as serving those social and economic communities disproportionately affected by youth violence.

Local and regional governments are uniquely resourced and as a result positioned to provide the services and programs set forth in this Compact to assist youth. Both Cities recognize, however, the need to work together to streamline decision-making and collaborate to leverage additional grant funding for youth programming. Aurora and Denver therefore commit to conducting outreach to and sharing information, knowledge and data with other local and regional governmental partners to address youth violence and other critical issues affecting youth.

NEEDS

Through prior efforts, studies and community outreach addressing youth violence we have identified the following needs:

- Engagement by Aurora and Denver with residents, and especially with youth, to gain better understanding of community identified issues and solutions to youth violence.
- A collaborative and cooperative approach among communities, which will require the commitment and support of city leadership as well as multiple organizations.
- Collaborative strategies on the deployment of resources between the Cities as well as to other local and regional partners, including but not limited to coordination of public or private grants to fund programming, service providers, consultants or technical assistance for the services described in this Compact.
- Identification and support of those youth most likely at risk of being involved in or being adversely impacted by violence.
- Identification of significant risk and predictive factors associated with youth violence and a public health approach to addressing those factors.
- A collaborative and integrated plan to focus on those neighborhoods or social or economic communities most adversely and disproportionately affected by youth violence.
- Generating public awareness of youth violence as a significant public health issue.
- Acknowledgment of the issues that disproportionately affect certain social or economic groups such as systemic racism; issues of class, gender, and sexuality equity; unemployment and economic hardship; and family issues that can result in youth violence.
- Identification of the barriers in current policies, programs, and practices that disproportionately affect youth.
- Improved communication among the community-based organizations that serve youth with each other and agencies within the respective Cities.
- Development of comprehensive services to support families affected by youth violence.
- Support for the development, growth, and success of students in systemically under-resourced schools.
- Sharing of initial and additional quantitative data analysis, and qualitative assessments of existing and proposed efforts to improve programs.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this regional Compact are as follows:

- Implement and utilize a public health approach to youth violence prevention across city borders, employing best practices and drawing on a full array of knowledge and experience from the Cities and their partners.
- Develop consistent and sustainable approaches for the success of the implemented models.
- Development of evidence-based best practices for continuing programs.
- Provide funding to selected community partners and service providers for program and technical assistance.
- Commitment from the Cities' respective agencies to provide assistance with permitting and other means of access to facilities.
- Engage with partners and stakeholders to identify potential untapped resources.
- Engage other local, regional and governmental partners to join this Compact and its resulting initiatives.

EXECUTION

The cities commit to:

- Creating and implementing a mutually-developed organizational structure and committee(s) for the management of the Safe Zone Pop Up Events project including a procurement committee to collaborate on Request for Proposals to community organizations.
- Leveraging existing resources across public, private, and non-profit sectors and philanthropic and business communities for collaboration on fundraising strategies including grant writing and partnerships.
- Creating grant and other funding tools for programs and services.
- Developing joint or multi-party agreements between the Cities and respective agencies with other public and private service providers to implement strategies and deliver services and programs as needed.
- Committing the Cities' own facilities and assets such as parks and recreation centers for hosting events and providing programs and services.
- Hosting community-led events across both Aurora and Denver communities.
- Coordinating with selected organizations specifically committed to serving youth in neighborhoods experiencing higher levels of youth violence as part of the Safe Zone Pop Up Events project.
- Reporting to the Cities' respective Mayors and City Councils and agencies including specific strategies for improved, continued and expanded programming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City and County of Denver and City of Aurora to be affixed this 2nd day of November, 2020



Michael B. Hancock
Mayor, City and County of Denver



Michael Coffman
Mayor, City of Aurora

