



City of Grand Rapids

**Overview of
Public Safety Engagement
and Reform Initiatives**

June 21, 2022

Police Chief's Departmental Review

- **Chief Winstrom's Departmental Policy and Procedure Review**
 - Findings and recommendations to be presented publicly to City Commission on July 26

Public Safety Engagement Initiatives

- **Refugee and Immigrant Community Engagement**
 - Community listening session (May 1) in partnership with A Glimpse of Africa; heard questions and concerns
 - Follow-up (May 17) answered questions and provided info about board and commission opportunities
 - Pursuing additional opportunities for engagement, including with Congolese pastors specifically
- **SAFE Task Force**
 - SAFE gathering: listening session for community partners involved in violence prevention efforts
 - Organizing gun buyback; completing Pitch awardee projects; anticipating future Pitch night
- **Cure Violence GR**
 - Partnership with the Urban League; has provided housing and economic security wrap-around services
 - Focused community outreach and engagement
 - Interacting with at-risk individuals, including diffusing immediate conflicts

Public Safety Engagement Initiatives (continued)

- **Community-Informed Training**

- Newly funded in FY2023 adopted budget
- Will be co-created; topic areas may include, without limitation, cultural competency, understanding immigrant and refugee experiences, bias reduction, impacts of racism on building trust, and history of policing in America

- **Communitywide Engagement**

- Pursuing partnership with National Civic League and NCL Fellows along with WMCAT/Public Agency to conduct a series of discussions around race and safety within each Ward this summer
 - Status update to be provided during July 12 Committee of the Whole or July 26 Public Safety Committee
- OPA engagement efforts: Know Your Rights, Let's Talk About It, T.R.U.E. Action, listening to community including strategic conversations with community leaders
- GRPD engagement efforts: Police Chief's Advisory Team, Clergy on Patrol, Explorers, Boys & Girls Club, OnBase, numerous meetings including faith leaders, refugee community, LINC Up, Grand Rapids Housing Commission, Business Leaders, Alpact)

Public Safety Reform Initiatives

- **Oversight and Public Accountability Enhancements**

- FY2023 adopted budget transferred administration of body-worn camera contract from GRPD to OPA
- Awarded \$600,000 Federal Earmark to Support Cure Violence
- \$150,000 increase to focus on engagement with community regarding public safety – including intentional engagement with immigrant and refugee communities
- \$100,000 in funding to support the implementation of trainings to be co-created with community
- Secured a \$750,000 grant from W. F. Kellogg to help expand OPA's capacity to increase accountability and transparency over three years
- Secured a Harvard-Bloomberg Fellow to help implement traffic stop studies, reimagine CAB and complete statistical reviews of public safety data and increased funding to support restorative justice programming
- Currently hiring a Lead Investigative Specialist, Executive Assistant, 2 - Justice Analyst, a Community Affairs/Engagement Analyst (temp), and an Administrative Aide (temp) to maintain services

Public Safety Reform Initiatives (continued)

- **State and Federal Legislative Advocacy**

- Priority agenda includes support for proposed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (federal)
- State public safety reform package includes proposed legislation that substantially overlaps with the George Floyd Act

- **Public Safety Committee and Community Relations Commission Briefings**

- Chief Winstrom to present at Community Relations Commission on July 14
- Monthly presentations to Public Safety Committee, including status of engagement and reform initiatives, will continue

- **Aspen Institute / Justice and Governance Partnership – Public Agency at WMCAT**

- Briefing June 21 (today)
- Purpose is to improve the analytical capacity to support justice policy improvements in the community
- Cross-sector planning workgroup represents a broad cross-section of stakeholders



THANK YOU