

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, MINIARD CULPEPPER,
BREADON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND SANTANA**



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE CODIFYING
THE OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND
ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION STRATEGY PLAN IN THE CITY OF
BOSTON**

WHEREAS, Boston, like many major cities in the U.S., faces complex public health and public safety needs and challenges that mandate comprehensive, well-coordinated plans for both response and prevention; *and*

WHEREAS, Since 2006, the Boston Police Department (BPD) has relied on the Senator Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative program to provide grant funding to support community partners using multi-disciplinary approaches and collaborations amongst various state and city agencies to reduce gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reintegration programs; *and*

WHEREAS, From 2006 to 2023, through the Shannon Grant program, the BPD has reported a 16% decrease in homicides, a 9% decrease in aggravated assaults, and a 10% decrease in total violent crime, but the program lacks codification that would ensure long-term programmatic and financial sustainability; *and*

WHEREAS, Violence is heavily correlated with and influenced by access to economic security, housing, and healthcare, and community violence is not just a public safety issue but also a matter of public health that affects both individual and family well-being, as well as the health and stability of our city's entire social system as a whole; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2025, the Mayor's Community Safety Team was transitioned into the Boston Public Health Commission's (BPHC's) Office of Violence Prevention "to streamline violence interruption efforts across Boston into a singular organization, prioritizing a trauma-informed public health framework"; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite its cohesive mission to streamline violence prevention efforts across the city, VIP currently only works in 6 micro-neighborhoods that have been determined to have high rates of gun violence and "strong community infrastructure", and the program remains without codification to ensure its sustainability; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore provides an example of how to address this through the codification of their Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan, introduced in 2020 to address causes of violence and improve public safety citywide by using a public health approach focused on healing people, reducing harm, and supporting safer communities, in conjunction with city and state agencies, community groups, and residents; *and*

WHEREAS, Since the plan's inception, Baltimore has seen a 20% reduction in homicides in 2023, and in April of 2024, witnessed another 32.9% reduction in homicides and 20.4% reduction in nonfatal shootings; *and*

WHEREAS, A biennial comprehensive violence prevention plan complete with dedicated funding sources, administered through a codified Office of Violence Prevention and alongside a partnership of state and city agencies and local leadership, would help achieve Boston's expressed goals of centralizing our prevention, intervention, and response efforts to make the city safer as a whole; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore establishing a biennial violence prevention strategy plan through the Office of Violence Prevention, and that members from the Boston Public Health Commission, the Office of Violence Prevention, the Boston Police Department, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend and testify.

Filed on: August 24, 2026