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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Englewood’s Public Equity, Think Outside Da Block to join Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) Community Violence Intervention Collaborative

CHICAGO, July 3, 2024 – Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI) announced today the addition of two new Englewood community violence intervention (CVI) organizations, Public Equity and Think Outside Da Block, to its Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) collaborative, a coalition of nonprofit agencies dedicated to reducing gun violence in 28 of Chicago’s most impacted neighborhoods.

Both Public Equity and Think Outside Da Block serve Englewood through a variety of trauma-informed best practices, including violence interruption, case management, street outreach, and victim services. As members of the CP4P, representatives from Public Equity and Think Outside Da Block will coordinate with fellow CP4P organizations on citywide and regional violence intervention. The organizations will also receive specialized outreach and leadership training through the Metropolitan Peace Academy (MPA) to further professionalize their work.

“As a collaborative, we’re excited to bring Public Equity and Think Outside Da Block into the fold,” said Vaughn Bryant, Vice President and Executive Director of MPI, “These agencies meet those most affected by gun violence where they are at, which is the hyperlocal, trauma-informed approach we look for when selecting new members. MPI supports organizations with a license to open in their local communities, hire credible messengers and have the administrative capacity to deliver the work.”

Founded in 2016, Think Outside Da Block works to improve the lives of disadvantaged youth through peer support, financial literacy, and community engagement. “Think Outside Da Block is excited to join the CP4P collaborative to bring new ideas, learn from and grow with the collective in hopes that together we can address marginalization and the root causes of violence, social norms and the overall health of underserved communities across Chicago,” said Pha’Tal Perkins, Executive Director of Think Outside Da Block.

Working to reduce gun violence through a public health lens, Public Equity connects individuals in Chicago’s most impacted communities to wraparound supports like housing assistance, mental health treatment referrals, and vocational training. “Public Equity would not be where it is today without the training, support, and investment of MPI”, said Tony Woods, Executive Director. “We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and for the dedicated staff of MPI directors, accountants, trainers, and program officers who have walked alongside us from the start of our journey to the present.”

About MPI

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), a division of Metropolitan Family Services, convenes Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a coalition of 15 community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence in 28 of Chicago’s highest-risk neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org.

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