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## Metropolitan Peace Academy and Communities Partnering For Peace Celebrate the Graduation of Community Violence Intervention Workers

**CHICAGO**, June 20, 2024 – Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), a division of Metropolitan Family Services (MFS), in conjunction with Communities Partnering For Peace (CP4P), will hold a graduation for the Metropolitan Peace Academy's (MPA) most recent cohorts of gun violence prevention workers. Graduates include street outreach workers, case management workers, victim services advocates and CP4P's newest Crisis Prevention and Response Unit (CPRU). Illinois State Senator Robert Peters, representing the 13<sup>th</sup> District, will serve as keynote speaker.

The MPA is MPI's premier multi-disciplinary training program, designed to streamline and strengthen the fields of street outreach and community violence intervention (CVI). It provides intensive and robust training for street outreach workers, case managers, victim advocates, trauma recovery specialists, in addition to community trainings for Chicago residents and police officers.

Its curriculum features a 12-to-18-week intensive training shaped and taught by street outreach workers and subject matter experts, and is guided by the principles of hyper-locality, nonviolence, trauma-informed practices and restorative justice. Graduates of the MPA earn college credit from City Colleges of Chicago to further their education. This most recent cohort of graduates will mark a milestone of over 600 participants completing MPA's programming.

- Who: Metropolitan Peace Academy Graduates Senator Robert Peters, Illinois' 13<sup>th</sup> District
- What: Graduation of MPA's street outreach workers, case managers, victim services advocates, Crisis Prevention and Response Unit
- When: Thursday, June 20, 2024 Reception 5:00 pm Ceremony 6:00 pm
- Where: South Shore Cultural Center 7059 S South Shore Drive Chicago, IL 60649

## About MPI

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), a division of Metropolitan Family Services, convenes Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a coalition of 13 community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence in 27 of Chicago's highest-risk neighborhoods. For more information, visit <u>www.MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org</u>.