

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 25, 2025**

**Community Violence Intervention Advocates Call for Sustained Funding  
Amidst a Historic Decline in Gun Violence**

**CHICAGO, September 25, 2025** - Community violence intervention (CVI) leaders, advocates, and public officials gathered at City Hall prior to the Chicago City Council's September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in a call for a \$50 million allocation for CVI programming in the upcoming FY26 city budget. Following the least violent summer in Chicago since the 1960s, CVI programs have become an essential component of the public safety framework.

Joined by City of Chicago alderman and staunch CVI advocate Michael Rodriguez, CVI organizations including Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), Acclivus, and the Chicago CVI network celebrated the strides and progress made in reducing violence throughout the city, while acknowledging the need for sustained funding to reach more Chicagoans.

Currently, the City of Chicago has funded CVI through the remainder of the FY25 fiscal year.

"In Chicago, we know that community solutions are the best solutions to gun violence," said Rodriguez. "Community Violence Intervention organizations are the catalyst to enhance our public safety strategy. The organizations partner with the City, the Police Department and have deep roots in our communities to understand the causes of violence and respond quickly to de-escalate volatile situations. Quite frankly, our great Community Violence Intervention organizations save lives every day in Chicago."

Vaughn Bryant, Executive Director of Metropolitan Peace Initiatives, emphasized the importance of CVI on communities at highest risk. "When individuals at risk of being involved with violence are engaged by credible messengers with a similar lived experiences, offered resources that lead to healing and employment, change is possible," said Bryant. "Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS) [has found](#) that from July 2017 through December 2021, CP4P's CVI efforts potentially prevented at least 383 fatal and non-fatal shootings in the city of Chicago. Researchers estimate the coalition's efforts also prevented 605 violent crime arrests during the same time period. While CP4P cannot take credit for all the progress the city has made in reducing violence, we know that we're a cornerstone in the collective work."

The bottom line is that our collective CVI work is working," said LeVon Stone, Sr., co-founder and CEO of Acclivus, Inc. "While we never minimize any act or form of violence, we can't ignore our street outreach data that reflects more than 1,200 successful conflict mediations over the summer; and the [external evaluation](#) that reflects a 41% overall reduction in hotspot victimizations in 2023-24 compared to the previous two-year period. All of this translates into the

life-saving impact of CVI work as we continue to support the City's overall goal of fewer than 500 shootings by years end."

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