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October 6, 2021

The Honorable Susan E. Rice
Director
White House Domestic Policy Council
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Room 469
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Director Rice:

I write in support of the City of Vallejo Police Department's (VPD) request to expand the Community Violence Intervention Collaborative (CVIC) to include mid-size departments like VPD in the future. I ask that you give VPD's request your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. In the interim, I request that any CVIC resources, such as best practices, lessons learned, or additional guidance, be made publicly available for use by all police departments to help further the Administration's efforts to address gun violence in our nation. It is my understanding VPD leadership met last week with Chiraag Bains and Stephonn Alcorn to request this additional support and resources. I also met with Chief Shawny Williams and VPD leadership to discuss the Department's commitment to rebuilding community trust and reducing crime after the city saw a shocking rise in violence in 2020.

The VPD has spent much of this year collaborating with community partners to develop innovative solutions to reduce crime in their neighborhoods and build back trust, despite ongoing staffing challenges and a lack of sufficient resources. However, I am told VPD continues to have the highest workload per officer in California, responding to nearly 51 violent crimes per officer, (compared to Oakland at 39.22 and Richmond at 29.83), a low clearance rate (only 8.2 percent last year), challenges in triaging roughly 225 "911" calls daily, and reduced community patrols. According to VPD, there are generally below 10 officers patrolling during weekend peak hours in a city of 122,974 when there should be at least 13, and officers are forced to work overtime shifts of up to 16 hours. Despite these challenges, VPD has managed to see a reduction in shootings and homicides, with 11 homicides and 195 shootings this year to date compared to 28 murders and 554 shootings in 2020. VPD credits efforts to implement innovative community violence intervention strategies and community policing practices for this reduction. VPD also tells me the Department has managed to increase gun recovery to 226 recoveries so far this year, with nearly 20 percent of those recovered being "ghost guns." VPD says dedicated efforts to trace and track illegal firearm activity have caused many criminals to flee the city.



I applaud the Administration's fight against gun violence and encourage the White House to expand partnerships to mid-sized departments like Vallejo, who are using data-driven, community-based solutions to see measurable change in their communities. By supporting police departments of all sizes in the fight against gun violence, we can be sure that communities both large and small benefit from this Administration's commitment to combat our nation's gun violence epidemic. I welcome an opportunity to discuss expansion of the CVIC with you further and am happy to answer any questions either you or the Domestic Policy Council may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE THOMPSON

Member of Congress