COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

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DATE: **April 22, 2025** **17**

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT
ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE AND UPDATE ON GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION WORK PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW
On February 6, 2024 (14), the Board of Supervisors (Board) received the Gun Violence Reduction Program (GVRP) Work Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and directed staff to return in early 2025 with an initial update on Work Plan actions. On February 6, 2024 (15), the Board directed that the annual report on gun violence in San Diego be combined with the GVRP Work Plan update in early 2025.

Since then, Public Safety Group Executive Office (PSG EXO) staff developed an implementation plan for the GVRP Work Plan and engaged and collaborated with County departments, community stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, and public agencies to advance the strategies and actions contained in the GVRP Work Plan. The GVRP Work Plan, is, and will remain, driven by data to meet the evolving needs of San Diego County residents, identify emerging trends, and assess effectiveness of actions and interventions.

The annual gun violence report presented today provides relevant data on gun violence in San Diego County, including the number of privately made, non-serialized firearms, commonly known as ghost guns, recovered by the San Diego Sheriff's Office. Additionally, data from the Department of the Medical Examiner and Emergency Medical Services is included, covering firearm-related hospitalizations, emergency department visits, homicides, and suicides. The GVRP Work Plan update provides current progress on Work Plan actions for FY 2024-25 and outlines Work Plan actions to be carried out in FY 2025-26.

Today's requested actions are for the Board to receive the annual report on gun violence in San Diego County and to receive an update on the GVRP Work Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
1. Receive an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County and
2. Receive an update on the Gun Violence Reduction Program Work Plan.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE AND UPDATE ON GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION WORK PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

According to John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Gun Violence Solutions, 48,204 people died by firearms in the United States in 2022. This presents an average of one death every 11 minutes. In San Diego County, from 2020-2024, there were 1,071 deaths by firearm (734 were suicide and 337 were homicide). Between January 2021 and September 2024, there were 823 firearm-related emergency department visits and 639 firearm-related hospitalizations among the County's six trauma facilities. While gun violence impacts people of all ages, genders and racial/ethics backgrounds, it does not impact people equally. In San Diego County, the firearm-related homicide rate for Black residents in 2024 was 7.1 per 100,000 people, while Asian residents had the lowest rate at 0.0. Hispanic residents have the highest proportion of firearm-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in the county between 2021 and September 2024. Regional suicide data shows that White men over the age of 65 have the highest rates of firearm-related suicide in the County.

The strategies outlined in the FY 2024–25 Gun Violence Reduction Program Work Plan are designed to make a direct impact on preventing firearm-related violence in the short term, while also addressing the root causes that contribute to risk in the long run. By concentrating programs, services, and practices on the communities and individuals most affected by violence and its underlying factors, the goal is to create lasting solutions. Prioritizing equity, the objectives are to reduce disparities and disproportionality, while improving the health, safety, and well-being of residents through collaborative partnerships, innovation, and active community involvement, in alignment with the County of San Diego's Equity Strategic Initiative.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions have contributed to the County of San Diego Sustainability Goals by creating long-term systemic changes that address the root causes of violence while fostering safe, resilient communities. Staff have leveraged County resources from departments that aid in mental health services and community building efforts to assist in reducing the social and economic disparities that often contribute to violence. The Gun Violence Reduction Program (GVRP) Work Plan identifies programs and policies that prevent gun violence, reduce suicides, increase awareness of gun violence and suicide prevention through educational materials, and strengthen support services for firearm injury victims and their families. Actions included in the Work Plan are supported by community partnerships and collaboration, particularly the GVRP Community Partnership Council, and the GVRP County Leadership Committee. These groups play a crucial role in providing guidance, identifying opportunities and challenges, and helping to develop ongoing solutions.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendations to receive an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County and an update on the Gun Violence Reduction Program Work Plan. Staff will return to the Board for authorization and approval of funding source(s) for any future related actions with a fiscal impact. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE AND UPDATE ON GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION WORK PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT
N/A

BACKGROUND
On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in consultation with County Counsel, to draft an ordinance that updates definitions regarding firearms, including defining "ghost guns," precursor parts for such guns and un-serialized parts and guns, which includes those manufactured by 3D printing, prohibits the possession or distribution of un-serialized parts used in the creation or possession of ghost guns; and creates safe firearm storage standards. The Board also directed the CAO to develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs and return to the Board within 180 days. On January 11, 2022 (13) the Board accepted and added a new chapter to the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances relating to non-serialized firearms, non-serialized unfinished firearm frames and receivers, and safe storage of firearms.

On April 5, 2022 (16), staff returned to the Board with a recommendation, approved by the Board, to conduct a contractor-led, regional gun violence community needs assessment to better understand the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence in San Diego communities, and to share key findings with the Board upon completion. After issuing a competitive solicitation in July 2022, the County contracted with Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc., (HARC) a non-profit research and evaluation firm, to complete a community needs assessment. The community needs assessment included extensive data analysis, community surveys, multiple listening sessions and forums, and collaboration with a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group. The findings were compiled into a Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report, which included insights from data analysis, surveys, and stakeholder sessions. The report also offered recommendations for reducing gun violence, which were used by PSG EXO staff to develop a Gun Violence Reduction Program (GVRP) Work Plan (Attachment A).

On February 6, 2024 (14), the Board received the Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report and the GVRP Work Plan. The Board also directed staff to return in early 2025 with an update on GVRP Work Plan actions and provide an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County. This year's annual report includes data on ghost gun seizures, firearm-related deaths and injuries, and other outcomes to be monitored and evaluated under the Work Plan.

Data Report on Gun Violence in San Diego County
The annual gun violence report consists of privately made, non-serialized firearms (PMFs) seizure data from the San Diego Sheriff's Office (SDSO) from 2020-2024; firearm-related death data from the Department of the Medical Examiner from 2020-2024; and emergency room and hospitalization data provided by Emergency Medical Services from the San Diego County Trauma Registry from January 2021-September 2024. This registry collects data on all patients admitted to trauma centers as major trauma patients, including prehospital records, to track injury trends, identify at risk populations, and monitor the trauma system's performance.

Privately Made, Non-Serialized Firearms

On January 11, 2021 (13) the Board added a new chapter to the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances relating to non-serialized firearms, non-serialized unfinished firearm frames and receivers, and safe storage of firearms. The Board also directed staff to provide an annual report on gun violence, to include PMF seizure data. Below is the five-year trend reported by the SDSO and seizures by area of San Diego County.

According to the SDSO, a total of 937 privately made, non-serialized firearms (PMFs)—commonly referred to as ghost guns—were recovered by the SDSO over the last five calendar years. As shown in the table below, from 2020 to 2021, the total number of recovered PMFs more than doubled, increasing by 110% and reaching a five-year high of 265 PMFs recovered in 2021.

In 2022, PMF recoveries declined for the first time in five years, dropping to 207—a 22% decrease from the previous year. The downward trend continued, with 210 PMFs recovered in 2023, followed by a further decrease to 129 recovered in 2024. This represents a 39% decline between 2023 and 2024. Over this five-year period, PMFs made up 2.8% of all firearm seizures in 2020, 7.5% in 2021, 6.5% in both 2022 and 2023, and 5.0% in 2024.

San Diego Sheriff's Office
Recovered PMFs - % Change and % of Total Firearm Seizures, 2020 - 2024

Year	PMFs Recovered	% Change from Previous Year	% of Total Firearm Seizures
2020	126	—	2.8%
2021	265	110%	7.5%
2022	207	-22%	6.5%
2023	210	1%	6.5%
2024	129	-39%	5.0%

The table below depicts the PMF seizures in cities and unincorporated areas of San Diego County served by SDSO. In 2024, the SDSO brought a grand total of 368 charges against individuals in relation to the 129 privately made firearms that were seized. Of those charges, 21 were for owning a firearm without a serial number and 14 were for the manufacture/sale/possession of an undetectable firearm.

San Diego Sheriff's Office
Recovered PMFs, Area of Seizure, 2020 – 2024

Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
4S Ranch	1	0	1	1	0
Alpine	7	11	7	2	1
Campo	3	12	5	1	3
Del Mar	0	0	1	0	0
Encinitas	4	2	3	3	3
Fallbrook	9	13	4	5	7
Imperial Beach	3	17	13	7	6

Julian	0	8	1	0	1
Lakeside	15	23	31	15	2
Lemon Grove	8	5	13	7	1
North Coastal Unincorporated	0	2	1	6	1
Pine Valley	7	9	9	5	1
Poway	2	5	2	1	2
Ramona	5	2	2	7	11
Ranchita	0	0	1	1	2
Rancho San Diego	9	30	22	28	15
San Marcos	11	17	33	26	27
Santee	10	4	11	13	5
Solana Beach	0	2	0	0	1
Valley Center	3	9	4	2	6
Vista	14	35	22	67	22
Other*	15	59	21	13	12
Grand Total	**126**	**265**	**207**	**210**	**129**

**Other includes non-Contract cities, out of county, unknown beat in county, and detention facilities. Beat refers to refers to a specific geographic area or district that a Sheriff Deputy or unit is assigned to patrol.*

To combat the proliferation of PMFs in our communities, the San Diego Sheriff's Office (SDSO) and District Attorney's Office have taken a number of actions. For example, to raise awareness of gun violence in the community and to get firearms off the streets, SDSO regularly conducts Gun Safety Events, more commonly known as gun buybacks. SDSO hosted four gun safety events in FY 2024–25 at which, 504 firearms were relinquished and 76 gun safes and 49 gun locks distributed. Since 2021, San Diegans have voluntarily relinquished 2,612 firearms.

The District Attorney's Office prosecutes the possession of PMFs as misdemeanors, or felonies in certain circumstances, including but not limited to when individuals are legally prohibited from possessing firearms because of prior convictions or restraining orders. In 2024, the District Attorney's Office prosecuted over 200 cases involving PMFs, including violent crimes where PMFs were used including murder, attempted murder, and assault.

Firearm-Related Deaths

The Medical Examiner provided data on homicides and suicides that occurred from 2020 through 2024. This report includes only cases where the incident is known to have occurred within San Diego County. As a result, the death counts indicated below may differ from other Medical Examiner reports, which include all deaths that occurred within the County's jurisdiction, regardless of where the incident causing death took place.

Suicide Rates in San Diego County

According to data from the Department of the Medical Examiner, the rate of suicides in San Diego County increased by less than 1% over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024, going from a rate

of 12.4 per 100,000 of the population in 2020 to a rate of 12.5 in 2024. During the same timeframe, firearm-related suicides decreased by 5%, dropping from a rate of 4.4 to 4.2 per 100,000.

Throughout this five-year period, firearm-related suicides accounted for a range of 34% to 42% of all suicide deaths. Asphyxia-related suicides comprised 28% to 34%, while suicides involving drugs or medications made up 11% to 12%. Looking at the most recent year-over-year data, overall suicides increased slightly by 1%, from a rate of 12.3 in 2023 to 12.5 in 2024. Firearm-related suicides decreased significantly—by 19%—from a rate of 5.2 to 4.2 per 100,000.

The tables below contain more information on suicide counts and rates. It should be noted that due to the unavailability of 2024 population estimates from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), rates for 2024 have been calculated using 2023 population data. These rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 population estimates are released.

San Diego County Suicide Death Counts - Overall and Top 3 Methods, 2020 - 2024

Manner & Method of Death	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Suicide*	**414**	**378**	**383**	**404**	**410**	**-1%**	**1%**
Firearm	147	137	141	171	138	-6%	-19%
Asphyxia (Hanging/Suffocation)	142	126	119	115	121	-15%	5%
Drug - Medication	47	43	43	48	48	2%	0%

San Diego County Suicide Death Rates per 100,000 of Population - Overall and Top 3 Methods, 2020 - 2024

Manner & Method of Death	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Population Estimate	**3,298,634**	**3,286,880**	**3,278,730**	**3,290,423**	**3,290,423**	**-0.2%**	**0.0%**
Suicide*	**12.4**	**11.4**	**11.7**	**12.3**	**12.5**	**0.3%**	**1%**
Firearm	4.4	4.1	4.3	5.2	4.2	-5%	-19%
Asphyxia (Hanging/Suffocation)	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	-14%	5%
Drug - Medication	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	3%	0%

Data Sources: Population Estimates are from SANDAG Population Estimates 2020-2023; due to the unavailability of 2024 population estimates from SANDAG, rates for 2024 have been calculated using 2023 population data. These rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 population estimates are released. Suicide death information is from the Department of the Medical Examiner, 2020-2024.

**Although the Medical Examiner has jurisdiction over all known or suspected suicides that occur within San Diego County, these case counts include only those suicides where both the death and the incident/event causing death occurred within the county; suicide deaths that occurred within the county as a result of an incident/event outside of the county are not included in these counts.*

Firearm-Related Suicide Demographics
In 2024, there were 138 firearm-related suicide deaths in San Diego County, with an overall rate of 4.2 per 100,000 people.

Males accounted for the vast majority of deaths, with a rate of 7.7 compared to 0.7 for females. Rates were highest among those aged 65 and older (7.8) and 45–64 (5.5).

Among racial and ethnic groups, White individuals represented the largest number of deaths (106) and had the highest rate at 7.4, while other groups had notably lower rates.

Additionally, 12 individuals were identified as veterans, representing just under 9% of all firearm-related suicide deaths.

Department of the Medical Examiner
San Diego County Firearm-Related Suicide Deaths, Demographics, 2024

Gender	*n*	Rate
Female	11	0.7
Male	127	7.7
Age Group	***n***	**Rate**
Unknown	1	N/A
0-14	-	0.0
15-24	20	4.7
25-44	31	3.4
45-64	42	5.5
>65	44	7.8
Race/Ethnicity	***n***	**Rate**
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	0.0
Asian	5	1.2
Black/African American	4	2.6
Hispanic/Latino	21	1.8
Other	1	4.4
Two or more		
Unknown	1	N/A
White	106	7.4
Identified as Veteran	***n***	**Rate**
Yes	12	N/A
No	126	N/A
Grand Total - All Firearm-Related Suicides	**138**	**4.2**

Note: Rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 San Diego County population estimates are released.

Homicide Rates in San Diego County
According to data from the Department of the Medical Examiner, the overall rate of homicides in San Diego County decreased by 9% over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024, declining from a rate of 3.5 deaths per 100,000 of the population in 2020 to a rate of 3.2 in 2024. Firearm-related homicides saw a further decrease of 21% during the same timeframe, decreasing from a rate of 2.1 to 1.6 per 100,000 of the population.

Throughout this five-year period, firearm-related homicides accounted for a range 51% to 60% of all homicide deaths. Homicides involving cutting or stabbing made up 16% to 24%, while those involving blunt force ranged from 6% to 9%. Among firearm-related homicides, law enforcement-involved shootings represented a wide range of less than 6% to 15%, and domestic violence-related cases ranged from 4% to 20%.

Reviewing the most recent year-over-year data, from 2023 to 2024, the overall homicide rate decreased by 5%, from a rate of 3.4 to 3.2. Firearm-related homicides had a further decrease of 11%, from a rate of 1.9 to 1.6 per 100,000.

The tables below contain more information on homicide counts and rates. It should be noted that due to the unavailability of 2024 population estimates from SANDAG, rates for 2024 have been calculated using 2023 population data. These rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 population estimates are released.

San Diego County Homicide Death Counts - Overall and Top 3 Methods, 2020 - 2024

Manner & Method of Death	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Homicide[1]	**118**	**138**	**126**	**111**	**106**	**-10%**	**-5%**
Firearm	69	83	70	61	54	-22%	-11%
Law Enforcement Involved Shooting [2]	*9*	*9*	*5*	*9*	*3*	*-67%*	*-67%*
Possible DV Involved Shooting [2]	*10*	*3*	*13*	*9*	*11*	*10%*	*22%*
Cutting/Stabbing	27	22	24	27	24	-11%	-11%
Blunt Force	9	12	11	8	6	-33%	-25%

San Diego County Homicide Death Rates per 100,000 of Population - Overall and Top 3 Methods, 2020 - 2024

Manner & Method of Death	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
Population Estimate	**3,298,634**	**3,286,880**	**3,278,730**	**3,290,423**	**3,290,423**	**0%**	**0%**
Homicide[1]	**3.5**	**4.2**	**3.8**	**3.4**	**3.2**	**-9%**	**-5%**
Firearm	2.1	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.6	-21%	-11%
Law Enforcement Involved Shooting [2]	*0.27*	*0.27*	*0.15*	*0.27*	*0.09*	*-66%*	*-67%*
Possible DV Involved Shooting [2]	*0.30*	*0.09*	*0.40*	*0.27*	*0.33*	*11%*	*22%*
Cutting/Stabbing	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	-10%	-11%
Blunt Force	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	-33%	-25%

Data Sources: Population Estimates are from SANDAG Population Estimates 2020-2023; due to the unavailability of 2024 population estimates from SANDAG, rates for 2024 have been calculated using 2023 population data. These rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 population estimates are released. Homicide death information is from the Department of the Medical Examiner, 2020-2024.

[1] Although the Medical Examiner has jurisdiction over all known or suspected homicides that occur within San Diego County, these case counts include only those homicides where both the death and the incident/event causing death occurred within the county; homicide deaths that occurred within the county as a result of an incident/event outside of the county are not included in these counts.

[2] These cases are a subset of the overall firearm-related Homicide case counts; possible DV (Domestic Violence) Involved shooting cases are a subset of the overall firearm-related homicides. These are cases where the suspect had a dating relationship/romantic relationship with the decedent (real or imagined). Can be a current partner/spouse or ex-partner/spouse. Also applies if there was no true dating relationship but the suspect wanted the relationship and victim refused.

Firearm-related Homicide Demographics

In 2024, there were 54 firearm-related homicide deaths in San Diego County, with an overall rate of 1.6 per 100,000 people.

Males accounted for the vast majority of deaths, with a rate of 2.7 compared to 0.6 for females. Rates were highest among adults aged 25–44 (3.2), followed by those aged 15–24 (3.0).

Among racial and ethnic groups, American Indian/Alaska Native had the highest rate at 7.2 with one firearm-related homicide. This was followed by Black/African American individuals (7.1) and Hispanic/Latino individuals (2.3). The rate for White individuals was 1.1, while rates for Asian and "Other" populations were reported as 0.0 in 2024.

Department of the Medical Examiner
San Diego County Firearm-Related Homicide Deaths, Demographics, 2024

Gender	*n*	Rate
Female	10	0.6
Male	44	2.7
Age Group	***n***	**Rate**
Unknown	-	N/A
0-14	1	0.2
15-24	13	3.0
25-44	29	3.2
45-64	7	0.9
>65	4	0.7
Race/Ethnicity	***n***	**Rate**
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	7.2
Asian	-	0.0
Black/African American	11	7.1
Hispanic/Latino	26	2.3
Other	-	0.0
Two or more	-	
Unknown	1	N/A
White	15	1.1
Grand Total - All Firearm-Related Homicides	**54**	**1.6**

Note: Rates should be considered provisional and may be updated when official 2024 San Diego County population estimates are released.

Firearm-related Incidents in San Diego County

The San Diego County Trauma Registry (Registry) collects data on all patients admitted to trauma centers as major trauma patients, including prehospital records, to track injury trends, identify at risk populations, and monitor the trauma system's performance. Between 1/1/2021 and 9/30/2024 there were 823 firearm-related incidents that resulted in emergency department (ED) visits and 639 firearm-related incidents that resulted in hospitalization. Fourth quarter data from 2024 is not available yet. As illustrated below, males accounted for a greater proportion of ED visits (89.4%) and hospitalizations (89%) compared to females who accounted for 10.4% of ED visits and 11% of hospitalizations. Those aged between 25-44 accounted for the greatest proportion of ED visits (48.8%) and hospitalizations (47.6%) followed by those aged 15-24 who accounted for 30.6% of ED visits and 31.8% of hospitalizations. Among racial and ethnic groups, Hispanic or Latino individuals accounted for the greatest proportion of ED visits (42.6%) and hospitalizations (46%).

San Diego County Trauma Patient Registry Firearm-Related Yearly Counts and Percentages by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations, 2021- September 30, 2024*				
Category	**Emergency Department Visits (2021- 2024*)**		**Hospitalizations (2021- 2024*)**	
	n	**%**	***n***	**%**
San Diego County Trauma Registry	**823**	-	**639**	-
Gender				
Female	86	10.4%	70	11.0%
Male	736	89.4%	569	89.0%
Not Known/Not Recorded	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Age				
0-14	16	1.9%	10	1.6%
15-24	252	30.6%	203	31.8%
25-44	402	48.8%	304	47.6%
45-64	114	13.9%	93	14.6%
65+	37	4.5%	29	4.5%
Not Known/Not Recorded	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian	3	0.4%	2	0.3%
Asian	15	1.8%	11	1.7%
Black or African American	162	19.7%	127	19.9%
Hispanic or Latino	351	42.6%	294	46.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	0.6%	3	0.5%
Other	50	6.1%	42	6.6%
Two or More Races	15	1.8%	12	1.9%
White	167	20.3%	126	19.7%

Not Known/Not Recorded	55	6.7%	22	3.4%

Source: County of San Diego Public Safety Group, San Diego County Fire, Emergency Medical Services, LEMSIS Patient Registry, San Diego County Trauma Registry, 2021-2024
Prepared by County of San Diego Public Safety Group, San Diego County Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Epidemiology Unit, January 2025
**Data for 2024 only includes records from 1/1/24 to 9/30/24*
Note: n refers to the total number of trauma incidents with fire-arm related injuries between 2021-2024. Emergency Department (ED) visits were defined as patients with a reported ED admission date. Hospitalizations were defined as patients with a reported hospital admission date.

Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan Update
On February 6, 2024 (14), the Board of Supervisors (Board) received the Gun Violence Reduction Program (GVRP) Work Plan for FY 2024-25 and directed staff to return in early 2025 with an initial update on Work Plan actions. Since then, an implementation plan with specific steps, resources and timelines was created to advance the 14 actions contained in the GVRP Work Plan. GVRP Work Plan actions address various types of violence, including suicide, community violence, and domestic/intimate partner violence and align with key recommendations from the Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report. The Work Plan continues to evolve based on continued stakeholder engagement and resource availability.

Community and Stakeholder Collaboration
Community engagement continues to be at the center of the GVRP Work Plan, which includes actions to facilitate engagement and collaboration with the community and stakeholders as an effective strategy to reduce gun violence.

A nine-person Community Partnership Council (CPC) was established to provide formal feedback in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the GVRP Work Plan. CPC members were selected after an open application period and include those with experience, knowledge and expertise related to suicide, domestic/intimate partner violence, and community violence. The CPC leverages the experiences, expertise, and insights of community members to provide guidance and recommendations on violence prevention, intervention, and trauma healing strategies and facilitate information sharing between the community and County, while also creating space to advance new and innovative ideas, strategies, policies and practices. The CPC started meeting in January 2025 and meets bi-monthly.

In addition, staff has also established the GVRP County Leadership Committee to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of the GVRP Work Plan. Current Committee members are represented by the following County departments: Behavioral Health Services, Economic Development & Government Affairs, Emergency Medical Services, Office of Equity & Racial Justice, Office of Evaluation & Performance Analytics, Public Health Services, Strategy & Community Engagement, the District Attorney's Office, and Sheriff's Office. The Leadership Committee began meeting in April 2025 and meets quarterly to review recommendations and strategies identified by the CPC.

The GVRP Work Plan also outlines additional community engagement efforts. In FY 2025-26, PSG and Office of Equity and Racial Justice staff will host a town hall/listening session to share

GVRP Work Plan updates and to continue to provide opportunity for residents to share their perspectives and feedback related to this ongoing work.

Additionally, staff is working with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Civic Services to re-establish the North County Gang Commission in response to feedback received from community members, Board Offices, and the San Diego Sheriff's Office, all of whom expressed support for the work of this Commission and the impact it has had in reducing gun violence in North County communities. It is anticipated that the North County Gang Commission will reconvene meeting in summer 2025.

Suicide Prevention
GVRP Work Plan actions focused on suicide prevention, including the development of educational content for safe storage of firearms, and increased suicide prevention strategies for individuals, caregivers and service providers. Public Safety worked with Behavioral Health Services (BHS) to coordinate suicide prevention and intervention activities with the Suicide Action Plan and Advisory Council and Rural Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care Services. In addition to promoting and encouraging the use of a standard healthcare suicide screening tool for use by healthcare providers, they provided clinical response/behavioral health intervention identified as at-risk during screening for suicidality and hired at part-time Outreach Coordinator for suicide prevention and gun violence reduction activities. The Suicide Action Plan and Advisory Council provides 120 annual Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training sessions to the community each contract year. The Council also developed age and population specific educational suicide prevention content, directed towards high-risk populations, which included promotion of safe storage of firearms as a means reduction method to prevent suicide, behavioral health treatment access and other suicide prevention education. In the future the plan is to also develop suicide prevention educational materials, identify stakeholders to distribute the materials and by June 2025 distribute suicide educational materials to the community through trusted messengers.

Domestic Violence Prevention
The Work Plan includes collaboration with the Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services (PHS) to develop educational content related to domestic/intimate partner violence directed towards high-risk populations to share relevant resources related to healthy interpersonal communications and boundary setting, victim services resources, protective/restraining orders, safe storage of firearms, and violence prevention strategies. PHS coordinated with the San Diego Domestic Violence Council to develop domestic violence/intimate partner awareness educational materials and began distributing them in South Bay breweries, coffee houses, and restaurants via a QR code in January 2025 for patrons to easily access and save relevant educational information on their mobile devices. Additionally, PHS is coordinating a health care provider training in FY 2024-25 and will provide safe gun storage materials recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to over 100 health care providers.

Community Violence Intervention
In October 2024, PSG EXO issued a competitive solicitation for a contractor to develop community-specific Community Violence Intervention Action Plans, in coordination with community stakeholders to build capacity and/or enhance community violence prevention

strategies. Vista and Spring Valley were selected as the first communities of focus for action planning. The contractor held four planning sessions in each community from February-March 2025. In person and virtual sessions were held and local stakeholders invited to attend included community-based organizations, healthcare, human service providers, schools, youth, law enforcement, and community residents. Action Plans for these two communities are anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2025. Results from this work will be used to inform current and future actions to reduce gun violence in San Diego County.

In March 2025, staff began collaborating with the Office of Evaluation Performance and Analytics to explore the development of a framework for a hospital-based violence intervention program in San Diego County to enhance support services for firearm injury patients and their families. A literature review is being conducted and is expected to be completed in May 2025. Based on findings, staff anticipate that program development will take place in FY 2025-26, in collaboration with trauma hospitals and community-based organizations.

Grants
PSG staff are identifying and applying for grant funds to support gun violence reduction programs and services in San Diego County. Staff developed a tool to track grants related to violence prevention, intervention, and recovery. Using this tracker, staff identified two grant opportunities that supports suicide prevention and community violence intervention. Staff submitted an application for CalVIP Byrne SCIP Cohort 2 Grant on April 7, 2025, and CalVIP Cohort 5 will be submitted on August 18, 2025. Staff submitted an application for CalVIP Byrne SCIP Cohort 2 Grant on April 7, 2025, and CalVIP Cohort 5 will be submitted on August 18, 2025. Staff also collaborated with Economic Development and Government Affairs to ensure staff is kept informed of state and federal bills that support safe gun ownership and gun violence reduction efforts.

Today's request is for the Board to receive an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County and receive an update on the Gun Violence Reduction Program Work Plan.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN
Today's proposed action supports the Community and Equity Strategic Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan by encouraging civic engagement and meaningful conversations to reduce disparities and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Strong for

EBONY N. SHELTON
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)
Attachment A: Gun Violence Reduction Program Work Plan