



**RESOLUTION OF
THE KANSAS CITY HEALTH COMMISSION
IN SUPPORT OF KANSAS CITY'S AIM4PEACE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, a newly released report on county health rankings across the nation ranked Jackson County as the 99th of 115 Missouri counties for social and economic factors affecting health status. For one of the social factors, violent crime rate, Jackson County was 85% above the state average. Kansas City accounts for most of the violent crimes in the urban core of Jackson County. Among Black males ages 5-35, homicide was the leading cause of death from 2003 to 2007.

WHEREAS, the Health Commission identified addressing crime, violence and other social determinants of health as a health priority for Kansas City.

WHEREAS, the elevated homicide rate in Kansas City, Missouri's urban core is a symptom of the metropolitan community's deteriorating health status; and that violence is a learned behavior resulting from preventable and controllable factors such as; family instability, poverty, domestic abuse, educational failure, mental or physical illness, and low engagement in supportive, productive and positive relationships and activities.

WHEREAS, the leading cause of death for those between the ages of 15-35 is homicide in Jackson County, moreover, arguments are the primary cause of Kansas City's homicides (31% in 2005 and 29% in 2009) with the East Patrol Division recording the highest homicide rates for more than 10 years, a constant continuing from 2005 but no longer in 2009.

WHEREAS, the Health Commission acknowledges that violence is preventable and a public health approach to violence prevention can help reduce volatile situations to build a safer community.

WHEREAS, the Health Commission acknowledges that the **Aim4Peace** initiative is an evidence-based approach that has been independently measured, proving its growing effectiveness as a prevention model addressing racial and socioeconomic factors related to violence.

WHEREAS, **Aim4Peace** contributed to a 37.7% decline in 2009 homicides in target zone one, the East Patrol Division.

WHEREAS, **Aim4Peace** prevented 48 street conflicts in 2009 for an estimated public health and safety savings of \$5,265,792¹, and in 2008 **Aim4Peace** prevented 22 conflicts for an estimated savings of \$2,416,488.

WHEREAS, **Aim4Peace** specializes in: Customized one-on-one case management risk reduction plans to offer long term solutions out of high-risk lifestyles through Mentorship, Advocacy, and Support (Youth, Adults and Parents), and in 2009 worked with 98 high-risk participants actively involved in the street organization lifestyle helping 87% obtain employment and 97% get help finding a pathway out from a gang.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Health Commission encourages the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri, as well as, other public and private entities to provide financial support for **Aim4Peace** in its efforts to prevent violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Health Commission and that a copy hereof be presented to the Mayor and City Council members on behalf of the Health Commission.

Acknowledgement of the Adoption on this 5nd Day of March, 2010.



Councilwoman Cathy Jolly, Health Commission Co-Chair



Landon Rowland, Health Commission Co-Chair

¹ **Return on Investment:** Savings per incident \$109,704 (Health Care Savings \$43,807 + Law Enforcement Savings \$65,897)