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Kilpatrick, Cox, Granholm Announce Expansion of Joshua Project in Detroit

Successful anti-gun violence program to expand into 2nd Precinct

DETROIT - Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Attorney General Mike Cox and Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced today that the successful Joshua Project will be expanded to include Detroit's 2nd Precinct. The Joshua Project, a city and state collaborative effort aimed at curbing gun-related violence in Detroit, currently operates in Detroit's 3rd Precinct.

"We are most successful in our fight against crime when we maximize the strengths of our law enforcement partners throughout the county and state," said Mayor Kilpatrick. "Our partnership with the Attorney General has reduced gun violence and has saved lives in southwest Detroit. By expanding this program, we hope to build upon our current successes and make the neighborhoods of the second precinct as safe, if not safer, than we have in the third precinct."

"Two years ago, the fireworks shootings were a clarion call to action," said Cox. "As a result, the Joshua Project was created to crack down on gun violence in Detroit's 3rd Precinct. Now 17 months later, the results are in, and they are truly good news. Shootings are down almost 33% and gun-related homicides are down nearly 40%. We hope to duplicate these life-saving successes as we double the size of the Joshua Project."

Governor Granholm said the state of Michigan is committed to protecting citizens in their homes and on the street and is making certain the Joshua Project has the funding necessary to move forward.

"We are committed to working with our law enforcement partners in every way possible to fight crime, and the Joshua Project is an important component of that effort in Detroit,"

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Granholm said. "We are pleased to fund programs, including the Joshua Project, which show promising results in making the community a safer place for residents."

The Joshua Project, modeled after programs in Boston, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and several other cities, institutes a zero-tolerance policy when a gang or a group member commits gun violence. Any member's use of a gun results in strict and sustained law enforcement attention for everyone in the group. The project also seeks to deter gun violence by increased monitoring of probationers and parolees through the use of unscheduled home visits and mandatory call-in meetings. To date, 2,151 former offenders have been called in and 2,894 home checks have been conducted. These efforts proactively intervene in a high-risk former offender's life before a gun is used in a crime.

The implementation of the program relies on an innovative partnership between the Attorney General's office, the Detroit Police Department, and the Michigan Department of Corrections, along with the assistance of the state courts. Community involvement is also an integral component of the Joshua Project. Community organizations play a critical role in offering ideas and solutions as well as providing assistance, support and counseling to offenders.

The newly expanded Project will cover a significant population. Detroit's 3rd Precinct has a population of 108,606; the 2nd Precinct population is 66,636. If combined, the two precincts would form a city larger than any other in the State of Michigan outside of Grand Rapids.

As compared to the previous 17 months before the implementation of the Joshua Project, non-fatal shootings in the 3rd Precinct have decreased by 32.5 percent. Gun-related homicides have recorded an even larger drop, 38%, as compared to the previous 17 months. In sum, the Joshua Project reduced both the number of non-fatal shootings and the number of gun-related homicides by more than the other 11 precincts in the City of Detroit combined.

Cox added, "Maintaining order is the very first responsibility of government, and it's one I take seriously as Michigan's top law enforcement officer. Working with the Governor and the Mayor, my office remains dedicated to making Detroit a better, safer city in which to live, work and raise a family."

For more information, contact Elizabeth Boyd, Governor's Office, at 517-373-3400; Jamaine Dickens, Mayor Kilpatrick's Office, at 313-224-3400; or Rusty Hills or Nate Bailey, Attorney General's Office, at (517) 373-8060.