



March 6, 2020

To the Attention of:  
**KCMO Mayor Lucas and  
Distinguished Councilmembers  
414 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 29  
Kansas City, MO 64106**

**Subject:** Support for Aim4Peace Program

On behalf of Cure Violence Global, I am pleased to offer a letter of support to encourage the City of Kansas City to continue efforts and initiatives towards supporting the Aim4Peace Program.

In 2007, the City of Kansas City, Missouri, approached Cure Violence Global (formally known as CeaseFire) to discuss replicating the outreach component of the Cure Violence model in order to reduce shootings and killings in a Kansas City community where homicide is a normal occurrence. Since that time, Cure Violence Global has worked alongside the Aim4Peace team as they systematically plan, implement, evaluate and monitor programmatic activities related to street outreach. True to the Cure Violence model, the Aim4Peace team is guided by the idea that shooting is a behavior that can be changed through a systematic and strategic program that includes credible messengers and making alternatives accessible for those who are at highest risk for being involved in gun violence.

Kansas City consistently ranks among the 20 most violent cities in the United States. Despite a reduction in the service area due funding, Aim4Peace remains a tenacious and dedicated national partner who is driven to make Kansas City a safe place for everyone who calls it home. The program has continued to get documented results in the service area, one report finds that over the course of 10 years the program was able to reduce overall victimization by 13% and combined with other efforts the reduction was 19% (Cerde, et al. Epidemiology Vol.29, #1, Jan. 2017). Cure Violence is dedicated to assisting Aim4Peace in their efforts and will continue to provide street outreach and violence interruption skills training and ongoing violence prevention program support for the Aim4Peace program partial replication of the Cure Violence model.

In closing, we enthusiastically support Aim4Peace and request the City of Kansas City to continue to provide critical resources that will allow the program to continue their essential violence prevention work with those most closely associated with shooting and killing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Slutkin".

Gary Slutkin, M.D.  
CEO and Founder, Cure Violence Global



227 W. Monroe Street | Suite 1025 | Chicago, IL 60606