

October 31, 2022

Dear Mike Myers,

Please accept this letter as a notice of my resignation from my position as Director of The Office of Violence Prevention for the City of Portland, effective November 4, 2022.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community and city that I love. The value and significance of the Office of Violence Prevention is so much more to our community than what a lot of people may realize. It should never be thrown around as just another bureau or just another office because for so many it is so much more than that; and this is a reality that should never go unrecognized.

For so many this office is a beacon of hope; it is the symbol of community justice; it is the reminder of the commitment that the City of Portland made to its most vulnerable citizens in 2006 that their voices would never be silenced. To be more specific, it was a commitment made to the Black community and communities of color, who have been impacted by gun violence in alarming proportions; it was a commitment that the city would intentionally invest in; advocate for; and provide violence prevention support services for its citizens who were most impacted by gun violence.

So, to be able to serve this community in the capacity that I have for the last three years has been nothing short of humbling, so again I want to say, thank you.

During my time in office, we have been able to achieve a lot of things that I am proud of:

- We grew the office from a staff of two, a Director and a Policy Manager, to a team of eight. The office now has a Director, two Program Managers, a Community Engagement Specialist, an Administrative Assistant, an Operations Manager and two Violence Prevention Specialist. And we can proudly say that our office and staff reflects the community that it serves.
- We increased our operating budget from just over one million dollars which included staffing and everything else we needed to operate to just over seven million dollars, allowing us to fully fund the evidence-based violence prevention strategies that we know will reduce the gun violence that we are seeing in our city today.
- We were able to increase our footprint within the community by expanding our office space. We now occupy the community gathering space and the future conference room / office space in between the two. And I am proud to say that the renovations are on the way, and I intend to come back and celebrate its completion.
- We have expanded into three lanes of gun violence prevention using the "Public Health" model as our guide. Which I am proud to say allows us to fully fund in the primary prevention lane using evidence based outreach programs and programs that address upstream approaches such as Arts and Culture, Mentoring and Education, Workforce and Career and Crime Prevention by Environmental Design; as well as fully fund

downstream efforts that will allow us to continue to expand and deepen our Intensive Case Management programs, as well as our Hospital Based Intervention Programs and our Trauma Impacted Families Programs.

- We have created and developed a county-wide incident and crime scene training for responders which is being implemented with cross agency and partner training beginning in January 2023.
- Our office is now also part of the National Network of Office of Violence Prevention and we have been, and are now, recognized as a city making an impact in Gun violence.

All this work and so much more that I don't have time to highlight was done during the height of a pandemic that none of us were prepared for and yet all of us had to figure out how to work through.

These are just a few of the accomplishments that I am proud of, but none of this would have been possible if were not for the shoulders that I was able to stand on to get us here. To be listed with community leaders and advocates such John Canda, Rob Ingram and Antionette Edwards is extremely humbling and yet another thing that I am proud to be a part of.

I pray the city will continue the hard work and continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid for real change and great prevention and intervention work to occur.

Although I am leaving this position, I will never leave this work...

Thank you to all the folks who stayed at the table and kept building when others left, stepped aside or simply just threw rocks. Thank you *Katy, Sheila, Travis Gamble, Erin Greenawald, Craig Gabriel, POIC, Latino Network, IRCO, IPAC, NAYA, BMIT, SACCO, Love is Stronger, Global Network, Leading Legends, GHII, ARIO, EERC, H.E.LP.* We may have seemed fragmented and even broken at times, but we continued to stay at the table together and because of you our city has an opportunity bring about real community transformation, should they decide to seize it and resist the pressure to go backwards.

Someone once said, "when we know better, we do better", well we know so much now than we did in 2006 when this office was created; and it will take intentional courage to propel us past the noise of immediate gratification and resist the temptation of trying to arrest our way out of this crisis and continue the hard work of community transformation using evidence-based practices; we must continue to recognize that gun violence is a public health issue that we can eradicate and it requires us all working together, community, government and law enforcement. We have a responsibility to keep the interest of all our residents at the forefront and not just those who can afford to make a lot of noise.

Sincerely,

*Nike Greene*

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