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Operational  
Audit of the  
Crime Prevention  
Department  
Office  
February 24, 2026

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# Audit Authorization

The audit was authorized by  
City Council on September 16,  
2025.

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## Audit Process

Authorization of Audit

Development of Audit Program

Entrance Conference With  
Auditee

Conduct of Fieldwork

# Audit Process (Continued)



# Audit Scope

Budget Review.

Review of website presentations and linked application records.

Review of IRS 990 filings , confirming program compliance.

Program field visits, observing impact.



Program awards are distributed monthly, managing liability.



The Crime Prevention Director is active in the community, organizing neighborhood meetings, partnerships and response teams as needed.



Program funding is provided to both institutional non-profit organizations as well as smaller "grassroots".



Program awards are managed annually, providing smaller awards in successive years to allow for funding for new 'grassroots' programming.



The Crime Prevention Director and the Crime Prevention Board members encounter a great deal of community pressure and scrutiny re: award decisions that are made annually.



The Crime Prevention website has developed over time, and currently includes YouTube presentations from recipient organizations as well as a link to recent application materials.



Program funding supports several silos of community care: at-risk youth activities, prison to workforce programming, assistance for families in need and recovery support for domestic violence victims.



The Crime Prevention has not previously successfully developed access to crime or impact statistics. Such access can involve hurdles re: the disclosure of relevant data.



The Crime Prevention Director also provides assistance and tutoring to young “grass roots” organizations, seeking to position them for success in the Board review & approval process.

## Audit Recommendations



Recommend re-design of the department's website with a focus on the community silos of care, with recent recipients identified by silo. You Tube material and application records should still be displayed.



Recommend revising program criteria, providing one level of potential annual funding for developed institutional programs, with a lower tier of proposed annual funding for young "grass roots" organizations.



Recommend collaboration between Crime Prevention and the Columbus Police Department re: the development and distribution of a quarterly Flash Impact Statistical Report, with an initial release on June 30, 2026.



Recommend the addition of an Administrative Assistant for Crime Prevention as the program has seen a 400% increase in program funding, and a 600% increase in applicants in recent years.

## Voices of the Valley Visit



# 11 Questions

Are there any questions from City Council or Executive Management regarding this report?