

## May 12, 2016 Enewsletter

### In This Issue

Northside Feels the Byrne

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## Northside Feels the Byrne

Neighborhood leaders on the Northside submitted an application for a \$1 million Byrne grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to address crime and safety on May 11.

The application, eight months in the making, engaged neighborhood leaders, the Richmond Police Department, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Richmond City Health Department, Boaz & Ruth, the City of Richmond, Richmond Guardian Angels, Storefront for Community Design and Virginia LISC.

"The Byrne grant would give us the opportunity to address crime in Northside and Gilpin Court, an area of Richmond with a high need that could really use some resources," said Ebony Walden, Virginia LISC Program Officer, who took the lead on the grant. "The planning process has given us the chance to bring a diverse group of people together to start talking about crime patterns in this community."



Already this year, there have been two homicides on the Northside, and nine shootings, up from 2015.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance funding provides three-year planning and implementation grants of \$1 million. Grantees have up to one year for a planning phase to refine what was proposed and to develop an implementation plan for the remaining two years.

"This grant would build on the corridor safety work that LISC launched two years ago," said Candice Streett, Executive Director of Virginia LISC. Byrne grants have been awarded in more than 40 cities throughout the U.S.

The Northside Community Safety Initiative Steering Committee identified three preliminary goals in the grant application: reduce gun violence and residential burglary; increase community engagement efforts that have a positive impact on safety; and increase neighborhood beautification near crime spots. The Byrne program supports initiatives that focus public safety efforts in crime hot-spots. The steering committee identified the following hot-spots: Gilpin Court, 6 Points Area, North Avenue and Anne Hardy Park.

"I think it's important to note that the Richmond Police Department has done a stellar job the past few years in reducing crime in our city. But in order to make Richmond the safest it can be, residents are going to need to take action and get involved too," said Walden.

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