

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

## VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is requesting \$9,762,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$9,145,000 ongoing to combat the rising level of violent crime in Minnesota. The request will support the creation of a Violent Crime Reduction Support Initiative within the BCA with additional personnel placed in the BCA's Forensic Science Services (FSS) Division and Investigations Division to develop and deliver further investigative, analytical and forensic support to the Minnesota criminal justice community. The request will also increase current capacity for forensic DNA testing to address the recent significant increase in evidence being submitted from violent crimes, including gun crimes, committed across the state.

This approach will have three main components to assist Minnesota law enforcement in combatting violent crime in partnership with education and prevention efforts:

1. A Violent Crime Support Unit within the BCA Forensic Science Services.
2. Analytical and operational support within the Criminal Information and Operations Section.
3. A violent crime investigative partnership to provide support to local agencies across the state investigating violent crimes, violent criminal organizations, and disrupting plots of mass violence before they occur.

The BCA provides specialized resources, analysis, and technical capabilities that are not available to all agencies across the state.

### **Forensic Science Services**

The Violent Crime Support Unit within the BCA FSS will be developed and operated under the F.I.R.S.T approach, which will leverage the investigative power of Forensic Intelligence, Response, Support, and Testing aimed at addressing the increased demand for expedited release of investigative leads. This Unit will also expand the BCA's current capacity for front-end forensic testing such as Rapid DNA and the entry of firearms evidence into the National Integrated Ballistics Index Network (NIBIN). The increased demand for crime scene response will also be addressed and forensic intelligence capabilities will be expanded to facilitate complex violent crime case consultation and coordination.

Additional DNA scientists are also needed to increase the capacity of the DNA Section to the size necessary to effectively provide quality forensic testing on violent crime cases to the state of Minnesota, with an emphasis on gun crimes. Funding to enhance the capacity of the DNA Section of the laboratory would enable the BCA to address the growing backlog and reach a 30-day turnaround time for violent crimes.

The funding request is \$2,023,158 in FY23 and \$1,396,158 in FY24 and for all future fiscal years.



### **Criminal Information and Operations**

The Criminal Information and Operations Section within the BCA Investigations Division provides specialized support to all violent crimes (homicides, human trafficking, criminal sexual conduct, etc.) and financial crimes investigations. Additionally, the CIOS also provides analytical support for threats against public officials, faith-based institutions, schools, and other public safety related concerns. Analysts and other CIOS personnel are called back on to duty, on average, 12 times per month, delaying response times for analytical and operational support. An expansion of staffing and technology is needed to meet the current demands.

In order to address the increased demands for services, provide proper analytical support on a 24/7 basis to support agencies in identifying trends, disrupting threats, and supporting active criminal investigations the funding request is \$2,382,299.04 in FY23 and \$2, 382,299.04 in FY24 and for all future fiscal years.

### **Partnerships**

The Violent Crime Reduction Partnership would be a new statewide initiative to utilize partnerships with BCA leadership to address violent crime as it ebbs and flows across the state of Minnesota. With the current challenges with police staffing in many agencies this initiative would combine full-time BCA agents, analysts, and other personnel to provide assistance to communities combatting violent crime through an information driven approach to precisely target only those who are committing violent acts in those communities. In addition, due to challenges with staffing additional funding would be provided to partner agencies funding support for personnel to be assigned to this initiative.

The funding request is \$5,371,559.90 in FY23 and \$5,371,559.90 in FY24 and for all future fiscal years.

This proposal will enable the BCA and all partner agencies to deliver a precision response to violent crimes incidents, addressing specific concerns instead of a generalized response.