City of Milwaukee

Equity Impact Statement

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

2023 Wisconsin Act 12 creates 62.90(6), Wis. Stats., which requires an independent audit of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP).

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

Because the activities and outcomes of the Office of Violence Prevention don't readily lend themselves to the traditional audit approaches, it is likely to take considerable time to develop an appropriate audit plan. OVP staff time used to cooperate with the audit is time that will be unavailable to perform activities relating to the mission of the office.
The Office of Violence Prevention works with vulnerable communities who have few positive experiences with government. The success of the Office of Violence Prevention depends on building trust and credibility with the community and other partners. An audit, especially one whose findings will be reported to other levels of government, could disrupt fragile emerging relationships and reduce the OVP's ability to have a positive impact on community violence.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

According to Milwaukee's Blueprint for Peace, violence takes an inequitable toll on specific neighborhoods and populations, including youth, women, and people of color. Any actions that impede the activities of the Office of Violence Prevention will disproportionately affect those groups.

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4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

This is a new, state-mandated effort, not a City-led proposal, therefore there has been no organized engagement of minority communities to date.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

The City could document the number of staff hours that are redirected from violence prevention activities to audit activities.

The City could collect feedback from its violence prevention partners regarding how the audit affects their perceptions of the Office of Violence Prevention and their willingness to continue working with the City to reduce the impacts of violence in the City.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

Because the audit plan has not been developed yet, it is impossible to know how disruptive or intrusive the audit may be. Mitigation strategies at this point would be largely speculative.

Name: **Kathleen Brengosz - Fiscal Planning Specialist**

Signature:

Date: **6/22/2023**