From: Claffey, Mike
To: Anderson, Brooke; Morgan, Robert; Shaw, Barbara
Cc: Irving, Toni; Laudermilk, Era; Weisberg, Benno
Subject: RE: CNN
Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 10:55:36 AM

Brooke, FYI, Barbara, Era, Benno and I just had a good conversation going over the CNN followups and some questions from Andrew Schroedter of BGA. Barbara is working on a first draft of suggested responses that we will circulate.

Also, it turns out that St. Sabina's, one of the lead agencies in this program, is having a graduation ceremony for participants in the program on Sept. 28 - we wanted to get your take on whether we should pitch this to CNN as an opportunity to highlight the success of the program and talk to participants?

We know they are going to be looking for warts, but we want to put our best foot forward?
We have not proposed inviting them to St. Sabina's yet - but they have been contacted by CNN about this story.
MC

From: Anderson, Brooke
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Morgan, Robert; Claffey, Mike; Shaw, Barbara
Cc: Irving, Toni; Laudermilk, Era; Weisberg, Benno
Subject: RE: CNN

Thanks Mike.

Ok, so we'll definitely need to assemble some key points / results or stats show the bottom line - that the program IS working.

Also – will we be able to give her an idea of what other types of anti-violence efforts are out there aside from NRI? She should not report on NRI like it is the only effort out there and charged with eliminating all violence. That would be unrealistic. NRI is one initiative that is part of a much broader effort by many initiatives I would imagine, and we should be able to point her to other key anti-violence effort-- (ie what is the city doing? CPD? County? Other? Etc.)

Barbara, can you work on answering the questions below via email and send around to this group? Also, can you provide any key information that applies to the above too? We should be able to articulate the application process in a comprehensive way, and debunk any predisposition that we are giving out these grants easily with no vetting.

Thanks.
Brooke

From: Morgan, Robert
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Claffey, Mike; Anderson, Brooke; Shaw, Barbara

Cc: Irving, Toni; Laudermilk, Era; Weisberg, Benno
Subject: RE: CNN

Adding Toni, Benno and Era…

From: Claffey, Mike
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 12:17 PM
To: Shaw, Barbara; Anderson, Brooke
Cc: Morgan, Robert
Subject: CNN

I spoke to Elizbeth Nunez and she is working on a story focusing on the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative that was announced on Oct. 6, 2010 (she referenced this news release: http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=8931); she is looking at the impact of the program against the backdrop of ongoing reports of serious violent crime in Chicago. She is trying to sort out how much money went into the program and what has been the impact. This reporting she is doing now is in advance of setting up interviews in Chicago in the near future. I asked if she had discussed this story with CPD and she said she had, but that they were not very familiar with it and "not part of the conversation."

So here are specific points that she is looking for clarification on:
1. What is the funding for the program? Is it the $50 million announced on 10/6/2010? She has been looking at or reading Approp hearing transcripts and said that Barbara said at one it was $33.5 million? She has a Senate resolution which said mentioned $74 million in FY 11, and $12.5 M in FY 12, and another $15 million in FY 13?

She would like a clean explanation of how much funding went into the program.
2. She would like an explanation of the scope of the NRI and the Safety Network and the special projects? Are they one program or separate programs?

3. Related to this, she would like clarification on this line in the FOIA response letter:
"Furthermore, there are no responsive records to your request for Fiscal Year 2011 Special Project grants."
Barbara, I think you said they were not funded in FY 11, but they were in FY 12?
4. She is looking for an explanation of the application process? How were the applications graded, how was it decided which applications got funded? And what was the deadline for applications? Oct. 29, 2010?

5. She saw a reference to the "Save our Youth Initiative." Is this part of NRI?
6. The bottom-line question:
Is it working or is it not working?
I am going to guess that she has already decided it is not. So we need to work on rebutting that.