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For Immediate Release

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Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence Wins National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award

The Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) was recognized as an outstanding criminal justice program by the National Criminal Justice Association at the National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety held in Louisville, Kentucky earlier this month.

The CIRV is a focused deterrence strategy. The cornerstone is a partnership of multiple law enforcement agencies, social service providers and the community that systematically gather information to identify and target violent street groups that continue to engage in violence. The group then delivers a clear and unified “no violence” message to these violent groups.

“The success of the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence is a testament to what can be accomplished when a community stands together to reduce gang violence,” said Karhlton Moore, executive director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. “I can’t say enough about the hard work, dedication and innovative leadership of the CIRB team. At the end of the day, they are accomplishing what everyone in the criminal justice system strives to do – reduce crime, prevent violence and save lives.”

Initial assessments of CIRV indicate a 55 percent reduction in group member involved homicides over an eight month period, with approximately 20 percent of the target population self-selecting CIRV services, and dramatically improved police-community relations. CIRV is funded by the Federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and the city of Cincinnati.

The NCJA Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Awards are a way to seek out and share successful criminal justice programs. The purpose of these awards is to highlight programs that:

- Address an important criminal justice issue;
- Demonstrate effectiveness based on program goals;
- Are a good example of used of federal funds to initiate the program; and
- Can be easily replicated in other jurisdictions.

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