

# Highlights of the Amani Safety Initiative Report 2016-2020

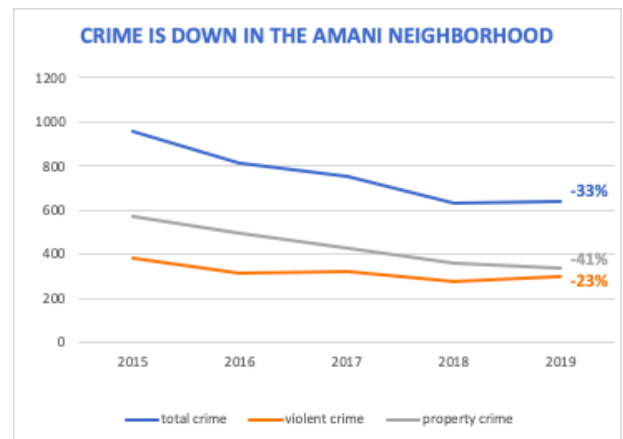
The civil unrest over the last few years has organizations and business alike looking for ways to ease tensions and create real solutions. The launch of the Amani Safety Initiative in Milwaukee was a collaborative effort to do just that. The initiative was founded back in 2016 through a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant to engage residents through using data and best practices to improve police and community relations, while increasing safety in the neighborhood. Even with a change in presidency that renamed the grant to Innovations for Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) and refocused on the purpose of the grant to guns and gangs, community members found ways to utilize the grant effectively.

## Objectives:

- Document and provide evidence of change of crime data between the start and end of the grant period.
- Document the residents' perceptions of changes in the neighborhood at the end of the grant.
- Document comments and observations from the partners' perceptions of the process and results.

## Key Results:

- The reduction in Amani in violent crime, property crime and total crime was greater in Amani than the city as a whole.
- Increase in Amani's resident involvement, partner involvement and resources.
- Some positive trends in residents' perceptions of the neighborhood and police activity in Amani.
- There was no improvement in the topic that was identified as most important to residents: traffic safety.



**"The collaboration and cross-sector involvement on the governance team helped us all to be more aware of poverty and unemployment, and how they affect crime. They kept it on our radar and planted seeds."**

Milwaukee Police Department was the fiscal agent for this federal grant. The Dominican Center served as lead community partner. Other partners in the effort included Safe & Sound, LISC Milwaukee, Amani United, COA, Hepatha Lutheran Church, the District Attorney's Office, and Data You Can Use. Although some positive data was collected over the course of the grant, challenges did occur. Major concerns or barriers to the grant were with the changes and delays associated with a change of administration in Washington DC, the fiscal administration of the grant, concerns that partners did not live up to their commitments, and the lack of a full-time, designated coordinator throughout the course of the project.

There is good evidence that the grant had an impact, that the work will continue without the grant, and that the relationships built during the grant period will continue to serve the partners and the residents of the Amani neighborhood. The project reinforced the knowledge that a "neighborhood" needs identity and both internal and external perceptions affect that identity.

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