

May 21st, 2026

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Public Hearing

### Write in Comment

<b>Sender:</b>	Lindsay Raé Perry
<b>Received:</b>	May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 - 11:12AM
<b>Email:</b>	lindsay@lindsayraeperry.com
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	521 Nantahala Drive Charlotte, NC 28211 www.lindsayraeperry.com
<b>Subject:</b>	Budget Public Comment: Support \$500,000 Funding for the Office of Violence Prevention

**Message:** Dear Chair and Members of the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners,

My name is Lindsay Raé Perry, and I am writing in strong support of approving \$500,000 in funding for the Mecklenburg County Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) in the FY2026–2027 budget. To me, this funding is not just a line item, as it is a lifeline for women, men, and children in our community who have walked the same path I have.

Recently, I had the privilege of sharing my personal story on stage through a [This is My Brave Charmeck talk](#). I spoke about my lived experience with [overcoming cycles of hidden violence and abuse], and how vital it is to break the silence surrounding these struggles. My story is proof that the communities most impacted by violence are often the same communities carrying the heaviest burdens of untreated trauma. Women and children like me do not just need a safety net; we need a system that proactively works to heal and protect us.

The OVP understands this connection and works across those boundaries in ways that few county offices do. From the ground, I have seen firsthand what OVP staff bring to this work: relationships, trust, and institutional knowledge that cannot be replaced by a reorganization or a reduced headcount. Two staff positions may sound small in a \$2.6 billion budget, but for an office of this size, those positions are the difference between a functioning operation and one that cannot meet its commitments to the mothers, children, and families who rely on them.

Approving this \$500,000 investment ensures that the OVP can:

- **Protect vulnerable families** by maintaining the staffing needed to coordinate community violence intervention programs across Mecklenburg County.

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- **Amplify survivor voices** by honoring existing partnerships with organizations like *This is My Brave Charmeck*, empowering women and children to heal through shared stories.
- **Drive evidence-based solutions** by continuing data sharing through the Violence Prevention Data Collaborative.
- **Break cycles of trauma** by sustaining an upstream approach to public safety, catching families before violence shatters their lives.

The Board has an opportunity here to affirm its commitment to public safety and health equity with a concrete budget decision. I respectfully urge you to approve the full \$500,000 in OVP funding, ensuring this office has the staff and resources it needs to serve and protect the women and children of our community.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Rae Perry, Community Partner, This is My Brave Charmeck 2026