

May 21st, 2026

2nd Budget Public Hearing

Write in Comment

Sender:	Molly McGoff
Received:	May 21 st , 2026 - 9:36AM
Email:	mollymcgoff3@gmail.com
Phone:	
Other:	Charlotte, North Carolina 28269
Subject:	OVP and ReCAST

Message:

I was incredibly dismayed and disappointed to learn of the upcoming loss of the ReCAST grant in September. I am a licensed mental health professional who has worked with some of our most vulnerable youth and families in both public school and outpatient settings, and I have benefited greatly from the training and community engagement that ReCAST has provided these past several years. The OVP team has used their energy, expertise, and passion to motivate, unite, and inspire a broad array of individuals working to better serve the people who need it the most. I am confident that Mecklenburg County now has safer and more resilient communities due to the hard work of the Office of Violence Prevention and the ReCAST grant. It would be an enormous blow to the progress we have made if they were unable to sustain and build upon their vision and goals. I hope that you will consider measures to ensure their continued operation at full capacity.

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Sender:	Rupam Rahul - Visual Artist, Art Educator, CZT
Received:	May 11 th , 2026 - 11:38AM
Email:	rupam@theartpalette.com
Phone:	(704) 819-6114
Other:	www.theartpalette.com
Subject:	Thank you for supporting Local Artists and ASC Culture Blocks

Message: My name is Rupam Varma (visual artist, art educator) and I am a resident of the Ballantyne, Charlotte area. I am writing to sincerely thank you for supporting the Culture Blocks Arts & Science Council in the FY2026 budget and for recognizing the importance of arts and culture in Mecklenburg County. Your commitment directly supports artists, cultural educators and community programs that bring people together in meaningful ways.

This year, I was fortunate to receive two ASC Culture Blocks grants. From January to June 2026, I received \$12,096 to offer free Mithila Motif workshops for seniors at the Belle Johnston Community Center and for all ages at the Matthews Community Center. The response was overwhelming, full of joy and connection. Participants shared how the sessions helped them relax, feel creative and experience a cultural tradition many had never encountered before.

I am also thrilled to share that I received a second grant of \$8,378 for my upcoming July–December 2026 Culture Blocks program, which will take place at the Pineville Library, Mint Hill Library and Matthews Community Center for all age groups. I am truly excited to bring these culturally rooted Mithila art experiences to even more neighborhoods and to continue building community through creativity.

ASC's investment in local artists strengthens the creative economy, supports cultural diversity, and ensures that residents of all ages and backgrounds have access to enriching arts experiences. Your support makes this possible, and I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to keeping arts and culture accessible for everyone in Mecklenburg County.

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Sender:	Lindsay Raé Perry
Received:	May 19 th , 2026 - 11:12AM
Email:	lindsay@lindsayraeperry.com
Phone:	
Other:	521 Nantahala Drive Charlotte, NC 28211 www.lindsayraeperry.com
Subject:	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 Charmek 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