

September 9, 2019
Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence
Williams Memorial Baptist Church
7:00 PM

Meeting opened at 7:04 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Vice-Mayor Joe Cobb

Shakira Williams, Chair

Courtney Penn – Vice Chair

Taisha Steele - Secretary

Ryan Bell

Bishop Jamal Jackson

Nicole Ross

Antwyne Calloway

Stacey Sheppard

Troy Gusler

Joshua Johnson

Natasha Saunders

Rabbi Kathy Cohen

Several guests attended

Welcome and Introductions – Shakira Williams, Chair

Shakira gave an opening, welcoming statement and thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

Approval of Minutes for August 12, 2019

Motion was made to approve the minutes by Nicole Ross, Vice Mayor Joe Cobb seconded.

Purpose & Review of Agenda - Shakira Williams, Chair

Fed Up Presentation – Rita Joyce, Tracey Penn, Renea Taylor

- Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer – Support group targeting families who have lost loved ones to gun violence
- Make connections with immediate families (go to funeral home, let people know there are other people in the community, providing a group of love with pamphlets that talked about grief and empowerment, embracing one another, host support groups, 24 hour mobile phone service for families who needed someone to talk to, hosted events such as vigils, speakers, dances, balloon releases, scavenger hunts, “Christmas of Hope”, stayed in contact with police to let them know displeasure that murders were unsolved, met with attorney to try to get 501c3,

- Funding came from personal sources, and community was great. Wal-Mart, Kroger and local companies
- Started in 2006 and maintained for 6 years. Burned out because there were so few of them and lack of funding, brochures, sponsors, toy donations, a location to meet, specialists and certified counselors

School Safety Presentation by Chris Perkins, Chief of Security – Roanoke City Public Schools

Shakira Williams mentioned Roanoke Prevention Alliance will provide lock boxes for guns to anyone who requests one.

Workgroup Activity – Everyone should sign up for a working group.

Below are the action items the group deemed as needing immediate attention:

1. *Givens*
2. *Connected and Thriving Youth, Young Adults, and Families*
3. *Safer and Healthier Neighborhoods*
4. *Strong Community Engagement and Partnerships*

Sept 23. Additional meeting was added for work groups, which begins at 6:30, location TBD. This is to continue our efforts as working groups, and to get as much done as possible before our next public hearing.

Upcoming Meetings Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence Meeting Dates

On June 3, 2019, City Council adopted Resolution No. 41454-060319, appointing a task force to review current community practices regarding reduction of gun violence and make recommendations to City Council to further reduce incidents of gun violence within our community.

October 17 - Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence Public Hearing, 7:00 pm, (City Council Chambers, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., 4th Floor)

November 4 - Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence Presentation to City Council, 2:00 p. m. (City Council Chambers, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., 4th Floor)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Taisha Steele, Secretary