



Task Force to Reduce Gun Violence

Recommendations



Safer and Healthier Neighborhoods

Recommendations 2 – 5

Safer and Healthier Neighborhoods: Recommendations 2 – 5

- 2. Participate in and support a community walk of silence from the MLK Bridge to the City Christmas Tree (Bridging the Community Gap) on December 12, including the sharing of a pledge to end violence in the city and to remember citizens who have been impacted by gun violence.**
- 3. Continuation and expansion of a Kindergarten Reading Project to increase empathy and create kindness using the “Little Blue Truck” by Alice Schertle in libraries and schools.**
- 4. Propose city-wide “Pop Up Potlucks” to build intra-neighborhood relationships and strengthens community engagement.**
- 5. Create positive and effective change in neighborhoods by addressing crime prevention through environmental design (clean-up projects, greening, enhanced lighting, etc.) Areas of priority should include but not be limited to higher crime volume areas; zones most affected by gun violence.**



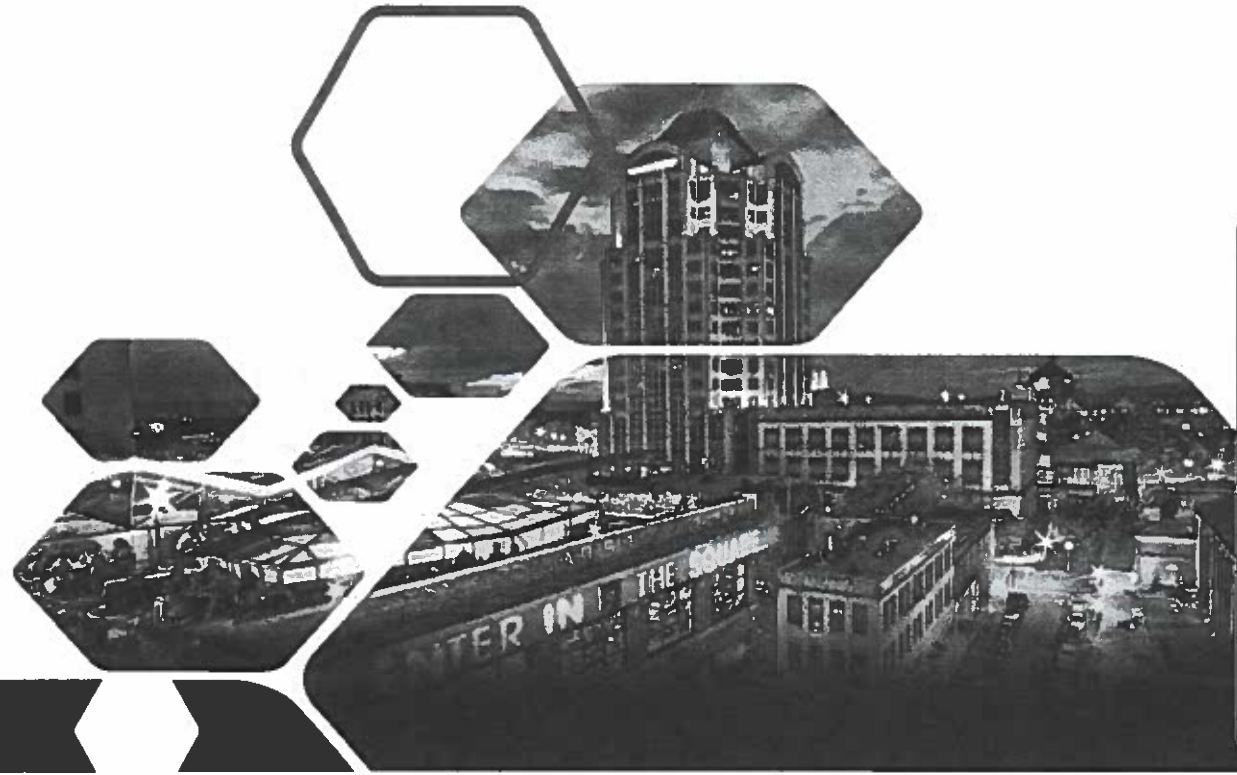
Increase Strong Community Partnerships and Education

Recommendations 6 – 7

Increase Strong Community Partnerships and Education: Recommendations 6 – 7

6. Create a city-wide, family educational program that increases child and youth self-awareness, confidence, love, and empathy in the value of human life, while incorporating non-violent and peer-mediation based practices, through utilization of community partnerships.

7. Increase parental and family support of the RCPS gun safety pledge and current community locked gun safety programs to help raise awareness of suicide and accidental loss of life due to children's access to guns. Increase stakeholder participation in the project child safe initiatives (free gun locks).



Reduce Gang Activity, Violence, and Recidivism

Recommendations 8 – 14

Reduce Gang Activity, Violence, and Recidivism: Recommendations 8 – 14

-
- 8. Encourage greater collaboration between the task force, Roanoke Police Department and community partners to increase community education and awareness on location, structure, and activities of Roanoke City gangs**
-
- 9. Affirm the efforts of the Roanoke C.A.R.E. initiative and request that two members of the task force be appointed to serve on the C.A.R.E. Team.**
-
- 10. Identify transformative best practices on reducing gang violence by sending key members of the task force and community to observe municipalities experiencing a reduction in gang violence and learn about their models of practice.**
-
- 11. Work with the Roanoke City Jail to improve access to programs, education, counseling and spiritual guidance to improve the odds of reducing recidivism (with priority given to those with a history of gun violence).**

Reduce Gang Activity, Violence, and Recidivism: Recommendations 8 – 14

12. Work with the Roanoke City Jail to ensure that returning citizens, upon exit from jail/prison, have direct access to employment opportunities, peer to peer counseling, and housing opportunities while being matched with care coordinators (or community navigators) or professionals and programs who reduce recidivism (with priority given to those with a history of gun violence).

13. A. Propose legislation for an initial review and/or reduction of child support during incarceration. B. Work with the General Assembly and judicial system to create an incentive-based, alternative program designed to empower incarcerated persons (through more family engagement, community navigator training, and personal development skills) to return to society with reduced child support debt and the ability to support their family system and reduce recidivism (with priority given to those with a history of gun violence).

14. Create additional community navigator career positions and first-year wrap around resources for returning citizens (previously incarcerated) to ensure successful re-entry into society.



Increase Coordination of City Services and Planning

Recommendations 15 – 18

Increase Coordination of City Services and Planning: Recommendations 15 – 18

-
- 15. Recommend a 24-hour RAPID response team and crisis intervention center with live and text-based hotline for immediate response, anonymous tips, and conflict resolution utilizing the Cure Violence public health model and locally trained volunteers and mentors.**
-
- 16. Recommend complete collaboration with local hospital, law enforcement systems and community partners.**
-
- 17. Recommend that the newly funded RESET grant position and team work directly with the Task Force to collaborate on gun violence reduction efforts.**
-
- 18. Recommend that existing organizations and efforts (i.e., FEDUP) working to reduce gun violence be assisted in becoming 501 © 3 non-profit entities to aid in the Rapid Response after care efforts.**



Increase Community Engagement and Media Partnerships

Recommendation 19

Increase Community Engagement and Media Partnership: Recommendation 19

19. Hiring a communications/marketing partner through competitive RFP (Request for Proposal) to assist the Taskforce and strategic partners to develop and roll out a branded public influence campaign to both educate and engage the community in reducing incidents of gun violence in our city.

Why Community-Based Violence Intervention Programs Work?

Potential to deter high risk individuals from engaging in violent acts involving firearms.

Help to resolve potentially violent and/or deadly disputes before they occur.

Connect them to education, employment, mental health, social, housing, and family services.



THANK YOU!

