

Roanoke Gun Violence Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2022 at 530pm @ Gainsboro Library 15 Patton Ave NW Roanoke VA 24016

The following were present:

Joe Cobb, Stacey Sheppard, Nicole Ross,
Elliott Major, Kathy Cohen, Tim Harvey, Shakira Williams,
Antonio Stovall, Chris Roberts, Ms. Brown

Topic (Agenda Item)	Notes from Discussion	Actions for Follow Up	Person(s) Responsible
Approval of minutes from June 14 2022	Motion by Tim Harvey Second by Elliott Major Approval of minutes carried/passed unanimous		
CURRENT BUSINESS			
RPD stats and crime mapping report	RPD stats provided and reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trending tracking NW- continues • 9 Homicides this year • Agg assaults up versus one year ago Questions were asked regarding exception (case cleared by exception), clarification on meaning Questions were asked regarding race (meaning no Asian, no Hispanic) listed for race- clarification given why they are not listed- as they are not the suspect and/or victim otherwise they would be listed Reviewed RPD crime map		
RESET team update Lloyd Merchant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June response 4 times • 2 homicides and 2 agg. assaults • 5 volunteers • One family has indicated a desire for relocation • Response to downtown/response to a recent shooting, business owners requested aid/assistance response during closing hours • Decca Knight provided 2 hours vicarious trauma training to volunteers • 2 families connected with MH services • 7 youth graduated with recent co-hort, third co-hort (City partnership HR training) • 7 mentors • Chess club at Melrose Library • Referrals continue through RPD, and others • Eureka Park and Melrose Library Basketball • Mentors at Melrose Library aiding with influx of children (monthly) • Peacemakers have also responded w/the reset team in response to a gunshot wound 		

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Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Team Chris Roberts Antonio Stovall Ms. Brown	Youth and gang violence grant coordinator Chris Roberts report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 active cases- identified with gang or gang affiliation • 9 of which are adults 20-25, the rest are juveniles • Programming – Rights of Passage, after school 14-17 year old, high school students upcoming graduation • Community Circles, issues and solutions to community problems- ongoing meetings • Women’s program- those who are leaving the city jail and re-entering the community (Ms. Brown) evidence based 18 and older • Affirmation Series- I am royalty- kids, adults setting tone for affirmation in the community • Empathy project- interviewing families who have lost loved ones, especially juveniles and getting the story of who that person was and memorializing them. Spoken words, poems, art, etc. (This spawned conversation about environmental factors and access and opportunities related to the programming outcomes) Many thoughts and conversation came about access and opportunities (including recreation centers regarding low-income housing)		
NEW BUSINESS			
Stakeholder meetings Joe Cobb	Discussion was had as to returning to the community stakeholders meeting and returning to that. A notice will come to have stakeholders meet and have a large enough space to bring everyone back together to engage teams/covnersations. Neighborhood groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders • Businesses • Agencies • Non-Profits • Youth Providers 		
Bi-Partisan Safer Communities Act Joe Cobb	See handout- Created and approved by Congress, discussing funding that is coming and being handed down for safer communities. Roanoke is tracking this opportunity		
Prevention Efforts Joe Cobb	National Night Out- handout- Aug 2 nd City Wide with listing of all the events and sites An ask was made of the commission to visit sites and attend, with a presence at the events by members		

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Community Peace Builders Initiative Updated Joe Cobb	Smart Solutions, Eddie Smart Renamed to First Step, community mentoring The application has been renamed- Cohort will start in August Outreach @ Community Events (See flyer)		
Announcements Joe Cobb	FEDUP Prayer Breakfast July 23 2022 10am-1230pm @ Shelter Cigars and Sundresses Holiday Inn Part 2 July 23 6pm-10pm Gun Violence Prevention Commission Mtg Aug 16 th 530pm (LTBA) Grades over Guns Event 12-5pm Eureka Park (Kingdom Harvest Church) Bridging The Community Gap Dec 8 th Aug 20 th (AM) back to school event- Roanoke City school supplies distribution		
Violence Interruption Grants	Each commissioner ID 2-3 grants of the 25 to stay in touch with to connect and check in- respond to Joe with the ones Reports will come back to the commission in October		
Adjournment Joe Cobb	7:26pm		

Others present:

Cathy Carter- Gainsboro Concerned Citizen

Media- Channel 10

Laura Carini

Angie O'Brien