

Roanoke City Gun Violence Commission

**Meeting Minutes**

10-12-21, at 5:37 @ Roanoke City Municipal Building with some virtual participants

Commissioners Present: Joe, Cobb, Tim Harvey, Stacey Sheppard, Decca Knight, Nicole Ross, Kathy Cohen, Elliot Major

Commissioners Virtual: Shakira Williams, Taisha Steele

Absent: NA

Additional: Dr. Van Patten, Lloyd Merchant, Eddy Smart, Angie O'Brien

| Topic (Agenda Item)                     | Notes from Discussion  |
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| Roll Call                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● See roll call above</li> <li>● In-person quorum present</li> </ul> <p>Joe moves to allow Taisha and Shakira to participate virtually; Stacey second; motion passes</p>  |
| Approval of Minutes from Sept. 14, 2021 | Tim motions to approve the minutes; Nicole seconds; motion passes  |
| Mini-Grant Summaries Report             | Unable to review tonight, Joe asks that we individually review the reports   |
| Roanoke Police Dept. Report             | <p>Dr. Van Patten's report/presentation on Gun Violence Concentration Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of duties as a criminologist for the Police Department</li> <li>● Presentation/slide deck               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overview of the Law of Crime Concentration: most crimes occur in Roanoke within one square mile</li> <li>○ Clusters in "hot spots" and locations tend to be stable over time</li> <li>○ 62 incidents of GV in the city this year: low base rate phenomenon</li> <li>○ Proxy used for "calls for service" because of low base rate for GV incidents</li> <li>○ Overview of FBI local data: 2015 data begins trending upwards for gun violence with a sharp increase in 2019</li> <li>○ Similar pattern nationwide</li> <li>○ City-wide arrests dropped significantly in 2014 with a slight positive slope upward thereafter</li> <li>○ Current report goes back three years and includes the following data                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hot spots: segments where gun violence tends to concentrate</li> <li>■ Northwest takes the hardest hit, next Belmont, others dispersed on Williamson, Oakland, Orange/Williamson intersection, Hurt Park, Mt. View</li> <li>■ Persistent violent hotspots in four areas: Belmont/Morningside; Melrose/Rugby, LandsDown, Hurt Park</li> <li>■ Predictive analytics says with 99% certainty where GV will happen within 30 days</li> <li>■ Hot spots make up only about 3.6% of Roanoke City</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Dr. Van Patten entertains questions                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tim discusses initiatives to have discussions in neighborhoods</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr. Van Patten states that the CURE program has nationwide success/RESET using some principals/pro-active community outreach; we know that active conversation in neighborhoods works against fear</li> <li>● Areas of social disadvantage are more vulnerable to crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collective efficacy with neighbors to take back their neighborhoods</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Tim asks about environmental aspects and crime (street lights out, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An underlying tenet of Broken Windows theory</li> <li>● When a neighborhood goes into disrepair, there is a correlation</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Joe states that it will take some time to build trust in identified neighborhoods</li> <li>■ Elliot states that correlation isn't causation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● States that Ferguson may just be a correlation</li> <li>● Elliot asks about the top three areas that contributed to de-policing in Roanoke?</li> <li>● Elliot has concerns with verbiage such as “thugs” when we are trying to make connections with communities</li> <li>● Elliot states that he doesn't want this to be a police initiative</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Joe reiterates that the GVPC is a community-based initiative</li> <li>■ Joe asks Dr. Van Patten about de-policing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr. Van Patten talks about the aftermath of Ferguson causing social upheaval but says that he cannot point to one factor as THE factor contributing to violence</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Shakira notes correlations from the presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additional factors: cost of living, kids watching and raising selves, etc</li> <li>● Also concerns about the verbiage of “thugs”</li> <li>● Dr. Van Patten asks for suggestions for verbiage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elliot and Shakira's suggestions: assailant and victim</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Shakira concerned about victim-blaming when referencing public housing and communities in disrepair</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Dr. Van Patten apologizes if his message came across as victim-blaming</li> <li>■ Joe talks about code enforcement</li> <li>■ Joe encourages us to look into the CURE Violence model and look into training for the community</li> <li>■ Joe requests that Dr. Van Patten sends the slides to Angie O'Brien</li> <li>■ Tim requests a list of the streets and blocks that are in red on Dr. Van Patten's maps</li> </ul> |
| RESET Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Report out by Lloyd Merchant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deployed 10/1/21 as a result of the homicide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Interacted with the store clerk and with a mother of a homicide victim</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Continuing to walk in some of the identified hot spots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Team interacted with a number of residents in Caru and Ashton Heights</li> <li>○ Helped a resident with plumbing issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Assignment of mentor for a known gang member</li> <li>● Meeting at Jamestown: Resident Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Met a former gang member who said he wanted to “get out” of that way of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Looking into a mentorship program</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Working on a “real talk” program in Lands Down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Experiences as a Black male</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interaction with another young man who hadn't been in school since he was 16 years old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mom is interested in helping to get him back in school</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Joe asks that Lloyd ask the GVPC for help if needed</li> </ul>   |
| Gun Violence Intervention Grant Update              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joe: GV Intervention program grant due next week</li> </ul>  |
| New Business  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kathy is concerned that we are duplicating some of the work that the Equity and Empowerment Board (specifically the Neighborhood choice committee) is doing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joe suggests meeting together</li> <li>○ Angie states that the groups could benefit from working together; neighborhood choice is chaired by Angela Penn</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chris Roberts new Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator and Jermaine Johnson new Outreach worker</li> <li>● Interviews for second position coming up at the end of the month</li> <li>● Eddy Smart in attendance to discuss proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joe states that there are multiple ways to fund the initiative</li> <li>○ Eddy shares a story: Donna Chewning and "DJ"; inspiration for the proposal</li> <li>○ History of Better Agreements</li> <li>○ Access to national trainers, VT researchers, Points of Diversity, and other collaborators</li> <li>○ Needs to be specific to the community rather than a framework set in stone</li> <li>○ Kathy: how will we find specific people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ First cohort of 20 people: word of mouth for asks; nominations/applications</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Joe states that we would set up an MOU with Better Agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The application process could be through the city</li> <li>■ We could push out information about this program through community engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Eddy states that 20 hours of training would be offered as well as check-ins once a month</li> <li>○ Joe states that commissioners can be trained</li> <li>○ Elliot asks about how the process will be measured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Eddy says that skill sets can be measured</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Elliot cautions not to confuse activity with work</li> <li>○ Grant outcomes to be shared with Better Agreements</li> <li>○ Kathy asks for child care to be considered from an equity standpoint and suggests having high school students as mediators</li> <li>○ Joe asks for a motion to approve Better Agreements proposal; Kathy motion; Eliot second; motion passes</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Nov 9th GVPC meeting; Berglund Center; overview of the framework and public hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asking residents: How we can utilize the violence interruption budget?</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Joe: request to pull together the Coordinated Rapid Response group, RESET, and Carilion to consider an MDT type of team and clinician involvement</li> </ul> |
| Youth and Gang Violence Community Assessment Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joe: finalized a consultant group to work with the city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will be announced once the partnership is formed</li> <li>○ Assessment begins in a few weeks and will conclude in Dec. 2021</li> <li>○ Data to be shared with the General Assembly</li> <li>○ Assessment may be done on an annual basis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| . Funding Updates                                   | <p>Local Government Department Initiatives: Angie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Libraries (extended hours, additional activities, etc.), parks and rec, RESET team, Star City Safe campaign, interns and apprenticeships, Eureka fall festival, mentors</li> </ul>   |

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|                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request to share events with Commissioners</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Working Group Updates</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safer Neighborhoods: Tim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Struggling to connect with Neighborhood groups who are not meeting due to COVID</li> <li>○ Joe suggests joining neighborhood Walk and Talks; Nicole will reach out to Greg Goodman</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Curriculum Development with Family Services: Taisha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curriculum complete and pilot program beginning</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Parenting Video Proposal: Decca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioners request additional information on budget, outcomes, assessment</li> <li>▪ Commissioners approve moving forward with the process</li> <li>▪ Decca will continue to work on the proposal</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Be a Resiliency Champion Train the Trainer from Roanoke Prevention Alliance: Decca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunity for all commissioners and committee members to be trained</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Reading Program: Kathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading in-person to children at Lincoln Terrace</li> <li>▪ Recruiting 100 volunteers</li> <li>▪ Met with principal Otey and team</li> <li>▪ All 2nd and 3rd graders and some 4th graders</li> <li>▪ Most of the students are 2.5 years behind in reading level</li> <li>▪ Once a week 25-30 minutes for the volunteer</li> <li>▪ Elliot: incentivize tutors, volunteers from governmental departments</li> <li>▪ Taisha: tap into Divine 9, Sororities, etc.</li> <li>▪ Joe: recruit during Oct 22nd meeting with Youth Service Providers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Rapid Response: Joe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuing to meet with Carilion to coordinate Rapid Response</li> <li>○ Fed Up continuing to work on 501C3 process</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Marketing and Communications: Joe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working on request for information for a marketing plan and strategy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p>Announcements</p>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gun Violence Prevention Commission Meeting, Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 5:30pm Berglund Center</li> <li>● Oct 16th 11:00 am Stop the Violence March</li> <li>● Oct 18th 7:00 pm council meeting overview of the impact of mini grants and introduction of Chris Roberts and Jermaine Johnson; in Council Chambers</li> <li>● Oct 22nd 12:00-2:00 pm: RHEC, Rm 212 follow up meeting for Youth Service Providers</li> <li>● Oct 29th, 12:00-6:00 pm: Eureka Park Festival</li> <li>● Nov 10th, 1:00 pm webinar presented to state partners</li> <li>● Dec 9th, 5:30 Bridging the Community Gap</li> </ul>  |

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| Adjournment | 7:59 |
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