

Roanoke City Gun Violence Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 4/12/22, at 5:34 pm Melrose Library

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

Absent: All present

Topic (Agenda Item)	Notes from Discussion
Roll Call	<p>See roll call above</p> <p>Quorum present</p> <p>Let Joe know if we have suggestions for other locations to have meetings</p> <p>Members of the Safe Neighborhoods Committee Introduced by Tim</p> <p>Introductions of all in the room including community members and media</p>
Approval of Minutes from March 2022	<p>Motion: Kathy</p> <p>2nd: Elliot</p> <p>Motion passes</p>
Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator Mentor Update	<p>Chris Roberts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Started in November per a request from the libraries putting an outreach worker at Melrose once a week ● RESET training also brought to Melrose ● Behaviors are starting to improve and now we can get to the deeper layer issues ● Uplifting Mothers Program at Forest Park starting on April 20th <p>Antonio Stovall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Healing Circles: connected with the community to provide opportunities for healing ● Eureka Park April 14th first circle ● Future topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sexual abuse ○ Mental health ○ Nutrition ○ And more ● Rights of Passage program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Transitioning youth HOOD (Health Optimism Ownership Discipline) program○ Evidence based program○ Helping the youth find their identity● This is generational and will take time<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Working to break the cycle <p>Eddy asks about the city curfew, rec centers, Boys and Girls club should be in the Melrose area</p> <p>Joe talks about the Envision Center and connecting them with Greg Goodman</p> <p>Eddy talks about continuing to extend the resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Encouraging introducing vocations to schools at an earlier age than middle school
Guest Speaker	<p>Eddie Watkins youth mentor at the Melrose library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Started in December 2021● Progress with mentors, apprenticeship program● Working on extended employment● Canvassing for jobs currently● 12 more youth being added who are at-risk gang members● Requesting an extension to the program and help with parents● Trying to set a tone of parent engagement and having parents involved in parent orientation● 18 years and older age bracket <p>Joe states that Star City Safe, the whole of government program approach pays these mentors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Six month apprenticeship program with government jobs upon graduation● Virginia Career Works suggested <p>Kathy asks how youth are screened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Eddie describes the process <p>Chris Roberts describes the mentoring program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Age range is 14-18● May 10th is the soft start date for the next cohort● Application process through HR will go up at the end of this month● Merchant screens applicants● There are females involved <p>Joe discussed how this is only one of the employment programs available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● ROTEC programs

New Business	Roanoke Police Department Report: Joe <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlighting some aspects of the report● Source of call for services: 911 versus non-emergency line● Data on map● Angela asks about data regarding time of day and age
Violence Interruption Program and Mini Grant Review	Thirty Seven Applications total Into subcommittee to review the application; commissioners with conflicts of interest left including Nicole, Stacey, Angela, and Decca
Adjournment	8:00 pm