

Roanoke City Gun Violence Commission/ Community Stakeholders Meeting
 Meeting Minutes
 3-21-23 530pm, Gainsboro Library Community Room

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

Topic (Agenda Item)	Notes from Discussion
Roll Call	<p>See roll call above</p> <p>Quorum present</p>
Approval of Minutes from Feb. 2023	<p>Motion: Tim</p> <p>2nd: Nicole</p> <p>Motion passes</p> <p>Motion to allow Decca to attend remotely due to medical reasons/needs</p> <p>Motion: Kathy</p> <p>Second: Stacey</p> <p>Motion passes</p>
Old Business	<p>Marketing plan update via RFP plan with Engaged Strategies, Mike Bento along with 5points creative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final stages of budget and plan preparation • Media campaign to June/July and end calendar year • Campaign will focus on resources and available help for reduction of GV • Presentation to be ready for council for presentation • Questions about RESET for part of the marketing strategy inclusion -Response from Mike Bento, yes, it is included as the “what’s good and, resources provided”

	<p>Officers and elections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is time again to elect and have officers elected for the Board • This will need to happen at the next meeting as it should take effect in April
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Gun Violence Prevention Framework Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday April 10th Berglund Center 1pm-5pm (lower exhibition center) • Community workshop • i. Law Enforcement reporting • ii. Gun violence commission prevention and efforts • iii. Presentation of strategic plan to City Council • iv. Star City Safe initiatives (reporting) <p>Presentation- Roanoke City Schools Dr. Eric Anderson “Creating A Climate & Culture of Safety” (source School Climate & Safety, Dewey Cornell PHD UVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun locks made available to students/parents 8,000 locks • Roanoke City Schools reading program • Overview of the #s for Roanoke City Schools 28 buildings • 24 schools, +4 specialized programs • 13,854 students • 2200 staff members (support, teachers, etc.) • School division invested 1.8 million to enhance safety • Recurring 1.1 million moving forward • Perception vs. reality (school violence is a microcosm of community violence) • Interconnected layers to help, EM mgt. Training & exercise, Physical Infrastructure, School Climate Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Emergency Management, exercises, drills simulations, response with Fire, Rescue, Police ii. Training/Exercise, Best Practices, Go bags, no propped doors, buzzers, cameras, iii. Physical Inf.- safety and security investments iv. School Culture Climate- self reporting, reporting, human factors, relationships, changing culture, anonymous tip lines, trauma informed schools and settings, positive culture <p>How can we help? Relationships, connections Question was asked about helping/treating children secondary to gun violence (survivors left behind) Dr. Anderson stated he make that a priority.</p> <p>Proposals to the Commission:</p>

2nd round of mini-grants is on hold for the present time until protocols for soliciting proposals, evaluating applications and funding distribution are confirmed

Two proposals:

I.

- VWCC;
Employment & Workforce Development
- Brian Wells, Hotel Roanoke & Culinary Schools VWCC
- There are classes and they are not full and have room for growth
- Three of the City cohort students have been successful/productive
- Soft skills training, job training, interview trainings, knife skills, food safety certification, etc.
- Identify Youth at risk youth
- Chef Fred Brown, article shared- no high school degree, worked his way to executive chef
- Program includes Chef Uniform, knives, materials, foods, 21k package (up to 12 students)
- A cohort could be 6 months
- There are opportunities for additional Manager Serve Safe certification, which is opening up other opportunities
- Suggestions were made to ensure it is: Flexible (hours and accessibility), VWCC credit, youth and adults
- Other options were provided for lower cost options (phase options) by Mr. Wells

II.

- FEDUP; Families Expecting Deliverance Using Prayer
Response & Support to families experiencing gun violence
- Opened in 2005 with very little funding
- Now, in 2022 a 501c3- with the guidance of the Gun Violence Commission & Council of Community Services
- Prayer Breakfast (memorial service for those lost to violence) June 3rd
- Christmas of Hope (supporting children at Christmas, providing hope and supports)
- Go Orange- Turn the City Orange for awareness and outreach, with a proclamation (first week in June, Sat June 4th)
Schools, Agencies, everyone
- 4th Tuesday of every month- grief support group for families effected by GV, largely attended 20+ with youth in attendance as well
- Sustainability, funding is needed for payment to the counselor to keep it going
- Sustainability, funding is needed for response and intervention to help prevent retaliation
- Sustainability, funding is needed for outreach coordinator
- Sustainability, funding is needed for development coordinator
- Total request for priority 35k
- Discussion was made into having a sustainability plan and, leveraging partners and tabling the request (short term)

	<p>Roanoke Police Department Report Data: See handout</p> <p>RESET Update: Lloyd Merchant & Chris Robertson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 area deployments ● GSW and a homicide ● 13 residents conversations (average @ each site) ● 800 block of Hunt Ave. comprehensive canvas, no significant areas were noted by neighborhoods ● Response to 3 juveniles with GSW, canvas talked with neighborhood ● Food Lion Peters Creek Road canvas with management and staff ● Homicide Feb 22 Ferncliff response, 3 vol. canvas (residents were frustrated) ● YMCA youth are provided access to for healthy activities ● 5 mentors at library for youth, continual ● Cohort 5, Youth Apprentice Program, Intend to hire 10 for a 6 mo. Program (This is posted until March 31 for applications and candidates) ● Challenges noted, retention and graduation rates due to support systems (transportation, emotional, coaching) ● Requirements for students, drug test, ID card, parent signatures ● Additional information provided on positive activities, boxing and athletics for youth who show up ● 20+ are showing up for YMCA and Norwich boxing
<p>Audit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drew Harmon, City Auditor, present to discuss requested City Audit ● Audit letter of engagement were distributed ● Web page on the city site (type auditor) ● This is out of ordinary audit, but with circumstances and community questions, council asked city to audit ● Auditor is appointed by Council ● Standards to follow, independent and objective ● (handout is provided to discuss audit review and what is to be evaluated) ● Ensuring agreements are addressing the federal agreements with performance and compliance ● “Job is not to second guess the commission but, to validate the process and ensure that there is a process” ● 5 staff within the office of auditor ● Question was asked as to the timeline, and, one could not be provided, a goal is June (Mr. Harmon notes there are many other projects in que as well)

Announcements	Talent in the star Friday 6pm March 24 th Doors open @ 530pm Nicole has asked for a formal explanation as to why the voted 3k was not disbursed for the marketing April 18 th next GVPC meeting
Adjournment	803pm adjourn