

Leadership Council on Gun Violence Meeting Notes - 7/23/2014

Meeting Attendees:

Rudy Ferguson
Michael DeLeo
Louis Buck Chambers
Wilson Barnes
Reggie Bouthillier
Pamela Hightower

Jack Campbell
Heather Mitchell
Gloria Pugh
Twanetta Rollins
Annie Harris

Pamela Marsh
Steve Harrelson
Rick Flagg
Nancy Daniels
Edward Clark

Objective: The council will develop a collaborative approach to reduce gun violence by developing subcommittees and focus groups.

- It is important to remember that this is not a TPD committee; **EVERYONE** on the council has a voice.
- In the beginning, the council will meet every few weeks in order to begin developing a plan.

Council members agreed on the following subcommittees and tasks:

1.) Assessment / Strategic Plan:

- The assessment team will gather information and stats on the “hot spots” based on race, sex, age, zip codes, and DOC releasees.
- The assessment team will evaluate the high crime areas and the challenges they face and why. The assessment will be used to form a plan to “clean up” the high crime areas based on the specific location and problems.

2.) Neighborhoods and Faith Based Organizations:

- Use Homeowner Associations (ex. CONA) to reach out to their communities and gather uncensored information and opinions-particularly with the youth.
- Key members in the community must “put boots on the ground” and find out why people are participating in illegal activities. While out and about, look to these individuals for suggestions on how they would correct the problems within their community.
- Law Enforcement should participate in community events so that they can build a rapport and gain the trust of our citizens. Over time, this will enable an open line of communication and comfort between law enforcement and citizens.
- It was suggested that this group organize food drives, community activities, hold job fairs and creating resumes.

3.) Education and Youth:

- Begin immediately identifying, engaging, and empowering young adults. By encourage them to work with the council on identifying the influences and pressures they face.
- Reach out to those that are most involved in the “problems” and considered to have “street cred”. They can help educate others on the dangers they are facing if they continue to go down the wrong path.

4.) Criminal Justice and Reentry:

- Design a reentry program similar to the (Jacksonville S.O. – JREC program) that would help individuals successfully reenter the community and obtain jobs once they’re released.

Additional Information:

Members will be given an opportunity to sign up for the subcommittees that they would like to serve on. Consider serving on one that you are familiar with and one that you are not already associated with in your normal routines.

Chief DeLeo has already met with the City Manager in regards to hiring a consultant to work with the community to solicit input.

Once a plan is formed with supporting documentation, Pam Marsh and Heather Mitchell can assist with grants and funding.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the two upcoming gun buyback events:

- Friday, August 15, 2014 from 6pm-8pm at Thomasville Road Baptist Church (3131 Thomasville Road).
- Saturday, August 16, 2014 from 1pm-3pm at Bethel AME Church (501 W. Orange Avenue)

Suggested websites to view for information:

- <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/>
- <http://www.operationnewhope.com/>
- JREC (Jacksonville Reentry Center)
- Tallahassee Online Police Statistics - allows you to view crimes that occurred in a specific area in the last 180 days - <http://agsinter.leoncountyfl.gov/tops/default.aspx>

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 3pm. (Location is TBD)

- The public will have an opportunity to briefly address the council at the conclusion of each meeting.