

City of Gainesville



Gun Violence Prevention



Steps, Stakeholders and Activities

Feb. 15, 2024

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The City of Gainesville and its surrounding areas are seeing an increase in gun violence. This is part of a troubling national trend. In 2020, 79% of all homicides and 53% of all suicides in the United States involved firearms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has labeled this a serious public health problem.

In recent years, the City of Gainesville has confronted rising gun violence with a combination of programs and initiatives. Listening to the community is one of the most valuable approaches. On Dec. 8, 2021, District I Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker held a telephone town hall on the subject of gun violence in our community. More than 1,000 neighbors dialed in.

On July 20, 2023, the Gainesville City Commission passed a resolution that declared gun violence in our community a public health crisis.

Gainesville Police Department Quarterly Gun Related Statistics

Crime	2022	2023	Percent Change
Firearms stolen	218	200	-8.25%
Weapons seized/recovered	159	128	-20.13%
Shots fired	170	147	-13.53%
Persons injured	47	60	27.66%
Homicides	10	14	30%

The Gainesville City Commission is advocating for a partnered approach to stop the proliferation of gun violence. Commissioners and staff have committed substantial effort to collaborating with law enforcement, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, outreach providers and other community stakeholders dedicated to violence prevention.

City of Gainesville

Gun Violence Prevention: Steps, Stakeholders and Activities

Motions Passed by the Gainesville City Commission

Over the past year, the Gainesville City Commission passed three motions and a resolution to address the issue of gun violence in the community.

Lead Motion (February 2, 2023):

1. Declare gun violence as a public health crisis in the City of Gainesville and that we draft a resolution to that effect;
2. Authorize the Mayor to draft a letter to the County Commission asking them to join us and declare a gun violence crisis in Alachua County and draft a resolution as well, and that they partner with us in this effort to prevent and stem gun violence (attachment 1);
3. We advance and lay a foundation for convening a Gun Violence Task Force; and
4. Ask staff to bring back ways that they can expand or tailor programs that we already do in the City to specifically address gun violence.

Request for Information (June 15, 2023):

- During this meeting, information was requested on gun violence prevention expenditures incurred to date.

Follow-up Motion (June 22, 2023):

1. Agenda a conversation about partnership opportunities and a task force discussion with the County; and
2. Direct staff to bring back options for a format for a task force with minimal impact to staff.

Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis Resolution (July 20, 2023)

- Resolution Declaring Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis in the City of Gainesville (attachment 2).
- At this meeting, the City Manager presented to the Gainesville City Commission three options to consider in response to the request for information about laying a foundation for convening a Gun Violence Task Force (attachment 3).
 - A task force consisting of a collaboration of City and County departments along with law enforcement, the public health community, educational institutions and community-based service providers. A lead entity responsible for task force administration would need to be identified.
 - A task force with membership selected by staff from stakeholder organizations to form a working group tasked with providing recommendations.
 - A consortium of local partners, through a memorandum of understanding, working to develop strategies aimed at stemming the proliferation of gun violence with Santa Fe College (SF) as the lead organization in the role of convener and collaborator. Following input from Santa Fe College President Dr. Paul Broadie, the City Manager recommended this option for further consideration by the City Commission.
 - The City Commission did not act on choosing an option, but indicated they would receive input from the upcoming Gun Violence Prevention Summit and discuss the issue with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners at the next Joint City / County Commission Meeting.

Joint City / County Motion (August 28, 2023):

The Gainesville City Commission at the joint meeting passed a motion for City staff to work with the County to partner with Santa Fe College on a community-based Gun Violence Task Force and bring back recommendations for these Boards to consider by November 1, 2023.

Joint City / County Motion (January 22, 2024):

1. Refer to staff the task of identifying the current steps and existing stakeholders at both the County and City;

2. Refer to staff the task of identifying the activities that are occurring related to the local gun violence crisis and ask staff to return within 60-90 days with a report of activities that are occurring, including but not limited to each of the January 2022 executive summary of “10 Essential Activities Cities Can Take to Reduce Violence Now;”

3. Ask staff to return within 60-90 days with a report on the immediate, short-term and long-term recommendations that could serve as a draft plan for both Commissions to begin to consider.

Actions in Response to the Motions

The City took the lead in convening the first Gun Violence Prevention Summit in August 2023 to open a dialogue about this problem in our community.

- The City of Gainesville, under leadership of the full City Commission and through an effort championed by Mayor Harvey Ward and District 1 Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker, organized a two-day Gun Violence Prevention Summit titled, “Choose Peace: Gun Violence Must Cease.” The event drew an estimated 400 people to the Hilton UF Conference Center on August 6 and 7 for discussions, breakout sessions, and activities surrounding the search for solutions (attachment 4).
- The Office of the City Manager produced a comprehensive list of all local gun violence prevention efforts in the areas of enforcement, suppression, prevention, intervention and support services (attachment 5).
- The Office of the City Manager developed three options for consideration by the City Commission around the task force discussion.

- With internal reallocation of an estimated \$255,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a dedicated position (1.0 FTE) for a Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Program Manager was established. The role has a start date of March 11, 2024 and continues through Dec. 31, 2026. Brittany Coleman, MA, is tasked with coordinating the city's efforts with county, state, federal, private and not-for-profit partners. Ms. Coleman has a Masters of Arts in counseling psychology, with a concentration in forensic psychology; she worked for five years as a victim services program manager with the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center.
- The City Commission approved a budget allocation of \$150,000 for gun violence prevention programming in the FY24 budget. Following mid-year decisions by the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority to reduce General Fund revenues, the City Commission voted on Feb. 15, 2024 to reallocate \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from administrative services to gun violence prevention programming.
- The City Commission approved a budget allocation of \$250,000 to provide support for intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth in the community in the FY24 budget. However, the City Commission voted on Feb. 15, 2024 to redirect this set-aside to compensate for mid-year decisions by the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority to reduce General Fund revenues.
- Gainesville City Commissioners held two Sunshine Meetings to explore solutions to gun violence:
 - June 20, 2024: Sunshine Meeting between Mayor Harvey Ward and District 1 Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker to discuss gun violence prevention initiatives.
 - July 6, 2024: Sunshine Meeting between District 1 Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker and District 2 Commissioner Ed Book, who were joined by Mayor Harvey Ward, to address general concerns and discuss violence prevention. Commissioner Book made the following policy suggestions:
 - Restore the pre-pandemic open container ordinance
 - Strengthen restrictions on bottle clubs
 - Expand the public nuisance ordinance
 - Provide improved programs and support for individuals on parole or probation
 - Investigate the need for a Threat Assessment Team
 - Create an ordinance to regulate hookah lounges
 - Commissioner Book's suggestions were researched by staff and a response was provided to the City Manager on July 24, 2023 (attachment 6).
- At a Special Meeting on September 14, 2023, the City Commission addressed open container restrictions and heard a presentation from staff regarding actions the City of Gainesville could take to move forward on additional policy suggestions made by Commissioner Book (attachment 7).

Current Steps and Existing Stakeholders

Current Steps

The City has a significant and visible footprint across a variety of services to address this problem, with funding allocations totaling over \$50 million. The City will continue to strengthen that footprint by strategically communicating and collaborating on communitywide efforts, as reflected in this detailed list of programs and initiatives to enforce the law, reduce risk factors and promote protective factors.

Gainesville Police Department

- Gun Violence Prevention Initiative
- Co-Responder Program with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare

- Gun Buy-Backs
- BrassTRAX technology to investigate firearm crime
- Real Time Information Center for crime data
- GPD collaborations with Pastors' Workgroup.
- The Brave, Overt Leaders of Distinction Program (B.O.L.D.) provides assistance to young men in need of guidance, life skills, and other interventions
- "Who's in the Box" is a GPD initiative that relies on a two-part play to dramatize how personal conflicts can escalate to violent crime
- The Focused Deterrence Ceasefire Program is a collaboration between the City of Gainesville, the Florida Department of Corrections and various community partners
- The Police Athletic / Activities League (P.A.L.) provides mentorship, service, athletics and educational opportunities to young people
- My Block activities are gatherings organized by GPD to reach out and develop connections with neighbors
- Juvenile Justice and Community Support Programs
- GPD Violence Intervention (ARPA)

Central Receiving Facility

- Along with Alachua County, the City of Gainesville has committed \$500,000 for a Central Receiving Facility to be added to Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's existing crisis stabilization unit
- The City of Gainesville has also secured a \$496,000 state grant for this facility

Gainesville Fire Rescue

- The Community Resource Paramedicine Program (CRP) facilitates access to healthcare, housing, food, transportation and health education
- One Nation One Project (ONOP) GNV works to increase opportunities to use the arts to promote youth well-being and reduce youth gun violence (One Nation One Project commitment partnerships reflected in the PRCA budget)
- The Public Safety Summer Camp in partnership with GPD includes gun safety awareness and violence prevention
- GFR first responders are trained and certified crowd managers
- GFR crews provide emergency medical services when responding to calls of gun violence
- GFR serves as the city's Emergency Management arm for active shooters or other incidents of gun violence

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

- Prevention, intervention and support services
- Midnight Basketball is a free program offered monthly at the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center from April to August
- Summer Heatwave is a 5-on-5 basketball program offered weekdays throughout the summer that provides a safe environment that teaches character, leadership and life skills
- Increased employability and economic opportunities by creating two summer hiring events

- Increased summer camp counselors to 26 in 2023, compared to 13 in 2022
- Youth and afterschool programming, summer camps and enrichment programs
 - Adventures in Play Summer Day Camps
 - Combined, the elementary-aged camps enrolled 866 of the 880 total offered enrollment slots (98 percent fill rate)
 - Total enrollment slots were increased by 160 slots, while consolidating from five program sites to three program sites
- Teen Leadership Camp
 - Enrolled 297 of the 320 total offered enrollment slots (93 percent fill rate) at T.B. McPherson (Grades 6-8)
 - Total enrollment slots were doubled from 2022 to 2023
- Partnered with the Porters Community, Housing & Community Development, Cultural Affairs Division, and the Music and Arts Program for Youth, Inc. to create a Music and Arts Specialty Summer Camp at the Porters Community Center.
- Partnered with CareerSource, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Santa Fe College, Mirror Image Leadership Academy, I Got Your Back Youth Mentoring Program and the YMCA
- Monthly outreach program at the Cone Park Branch of the Alachua County Library District
- Worked with the A. Quinn Jones Center School to develop programs and activities for youth impacted by gun violence
- Teamed with GFR to lead the One Nation One Project (ONOP) GNV initiative to increase opportunities for arts and cultural engagement to reduce youth gun violence

Housing and Community Development

- Affordable housing and public support programs
- Community land trust
- Single- and multi-family affordable housing development
- Home Energy Tune-Up: For eligible property owners and renters to lower the energy cost burden
- Home Repair: Sets up home repair services for low and very-low income households
- Home Replacement: Provides loans to low and very-low income households
- Down Payment Assistance: Provides funding to eligible homebuyers to buy a home within Gainesville city limits
- Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention: Helps homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments and are near foreclosure
- Financial Education: Teaches about credit, budgeting, savings, mortgage loans, house selection, lenders, realtors, home inspection, home maintenance and more
- Water and Waste Water Connections: Helps pay for connection to the city's water, wastewater and reclaimed water systems in the GRU service area

Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

- Neighborhood Paint Program
- Economic Development
- Eighth and Waldo Project (planning stage)
- Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative
- Eastside Urgent Care Center
- Food Hub
- RTS Transfer Station
- Road Construction

Regional Transit System

- Fare Free Program
- First Mile, Last Mile Program

Public Works

- Improved street lighting in areas with substandard lighting
- Tree trimming to improve lighting conditions

Sustainable Development

- Support services
- Imagine GNV comprehensive plan
- Community engagement and plan development

GRACE Marketplace

- Security and building renovations
- GRACE operations

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Programs

(ARPA community-based programs supporting community health initiatives not represented in reporting above.)

- Alachua County Health Promotion and Wellness Coalition
- Bread of the Mighty Food Bank
- Catholic Charities Gainesville
- CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services
- Created Gainesville
- Episcopal Children's Services
- Family Promise
- First Love Yourself
- FL Institute for Workforce Innovation d/b/a Project YouthBuild

- Food4Kids Backpack Program
- Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association d/b/a Aces in Motion
- Gainesville Community Counseling Center
- Gainesville Housing Development and Management Corporation
- Gainesville Opportunity Center
- Girls on the Run
- Girls Place, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity
- Kids Count in Alachua County
- Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
- Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation
- North Central Florida YMCA, Inc.
- Pace Center for Girls, Inc., Alachua
- Peaceful Paths
- Rebuilding Together
- River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding
- Rural Women's Health Project
- Star Theater
- University of Florida Mobile Outreach Clinic
- Upper Room Ministries
- Working Food

Existing Stakeholders

To support the Gun Violence Prevention Summit, the Office of the City Manager produced a comprehensive list of services and programs that have an impact in reducing violence throughout Alachua County and the City of Gainesville.

Alachua County

352-374-5204, www.alachuacounty.us

- On Feb. 27, 2018, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution calling for statewide legislation to allow counties to pass gun control measures. The county has a number of programs to support the community and prevent violence.
- Community Agency Partnership Program supports area non-profit organizations that reduce the impact of poverty among Alachua County residents. 352-264-6707
- CHOICES Grant Award Program assists uninsured residents by providing grant funding annually to health care providers in Alachua County to support the wellbeing of eligible county residents. 352-264-6707
- Community Self-Sufficiency Program (CSSP) is part of the Community Stabilization Program; it provides resources to help families break the cycle of poverty and improve the quality of life. 352-264-6745
- Community Sustainability Program (CSP) is the second part of the Community Stabilization Program. It

identifies at-risk communities and provides assistance for becoming independent and sustainable. 352-264-6745

- Alachua County Crisis Center offers crisis and suicide intervention phone counseling to all residents of Alachua County. 352-264-6789
- Foster Grandparent Program provides opportunities for low-income persons aged 55 or over to provide supportive person-to-person services in health, education, welfare or related settings to help alleviate the physical, mental or emotional problems of children having special or exceptional needs. 352-264-6730
- Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center provides services to survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual violence and personal injury crimes. 352-264-6760 (24-hours-a-day)

Alachua County Crime Stoppers

352-372-STOP, www.stopcrime.tv

- Collects information on unsolved crimes, location or involvement of suspects, felonious criminal activity, and other information which may result in arrest.
- Information is received at the 24-hour anonymous tips line 352-372-7867 and is forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency for follow-up.
- Monetary awards are given to information leading to arrest.

Alachua County Health Department

352-334-7900, www.alachua.floridahealth.gov

- Coordinates and provides individual and community health and wellness, with medical and mental health services for adults, children and families.

Alachua County Public Schools

352-955-7300, www.sbac.edu

- Through an ongoing partnership with local law enforcement agencies, Alachua County Public Schools has school resource officers or deputies assigned to every school.
- All public school employees and students are trained to be prepared for an active threat on campus.
- Alachua County Public Schools has partnered with the I Love U Guys Foundation in order to provide safety, security and structure for any emergency.
- School Board of Alachua County has approved a resolution and produced messaging to raise awareness about the importance of safely storing guns.

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

352-367-4000, www.acso.us

- Investigates crime, apprehends suspects and provides public safety.
- Deputies and K-9 teams work with schools to prevent firearms on premises.
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ASO) works with Alachua County Crime Stoppers at 352-373-STOP to take guns off the street.
- ASO provides victim advocacy services to ensure that victims of crime are treated with fairness, respect and dignity by providing assistance and services in an effort to lessen the impact of crime.

Black-on-Black Crime Task Force

- Provides mentorship and education to approximately 100 youths per year as part of its crime prevention programs.
- Works to connect parents and youth with support resources.

CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services

352-244-0628, www.cdsfl.org

- Interface Youth Program provides short-term shelter for young people who are temporarily homeless, have run away (or threatened to run away), are skipping school, or are having trouble following rules.
- Family Action Counseling is a 12-week program for families with children who are having behavioral issues.
- Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) is a 13-week evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral program to help children learn to manage their emotions and manage behavior.
- Independent Living Program is a case management and support program for youth aging out of foster care.
- Prevention services include drug prevention and life skills programs in elementary and middle schools.
- Safe Place is a national network of businesses and other community establishments where youth in crisis can get immediate help; CDS sponsors and operates the Safe Place program.

Children's Trust of Alachua County

352-374-1830, www.childrenstrustofalachua.us

- Funds a full-time violence prevention coordinator at Peaceful Paths, which is the certified domestic abuse network that serves survivors of domestic violence in Alachua, Bradford and Union counties.
- Supports residents by providing access to programs that promote literacy, provide after-school learning, give nutritional service and supplies, and offer vocational opportunities.

Department of Children and Families

866-762-2237 (toll-free), www.myfloridafamilies.com

- Office of Domestic Violence provides oversight on the administration of state and federally funded initiatives designed to intervene and prevent domestic violence and support survivors and their families.
- Operates a Domestic Violence Hotline, an Abuse Hotline, a Suicide Prevention Hotline and a Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Oversees policy and funding toward ending homelessness and serving persons experiencing homelessness and recognizes and designates local Continuum of Care (CoC) entities to serve as lead agencies for the homeless assistance system throughout Florida.
- Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder examines the current methods of providing mental health and substance use disorder services in the state and works to make improvements.

Episcopal Children's Services

352-240-6533, www.ecs4kids.org

- Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) helps underserved children in northeast and central Florida build a strong foundation for educational success. Working with children through kindergarten age– the most critical years for cognitive development – ECS's teachers and staff use curriculums based on the latest research and best practices to help families ensure their youngsters enter school ready to learn.

Family Learning Center

352-225-3931, www.gnv4all.org/gezflc

- Organized by the Gainesville Empowerment Zone, this center on the Metcalfe Elementary School campus is aimed at providing high-quality early learning and childcare for families challenged by low-income circumstances.
- The program will improve the literacy rate, prepare children for kindergarten and narrow the achievement gap.
- This is partially funded by donations of \$350,000 each from the City of Gainesville and Alachua County in the form of ARPA funds.

Family Promise

352-378-2030, www.familypromisegvl.org

- Provides shelter for families with children.
- Provides wrap-around services that help families obtain secure and stable housing.
- Coordinates with local churches to shelter families until permanent housing is secured.

Florida Department of Corrections

850-488-7052, www.dc.state.fl.us

- Offers substance abuse programs that include assessment, a 35- to 40-hour educational program, an eight-week modified therapeutic community, a one-year therapeutic community, and a 10-week outpatient drug treatment program at community correctional centers.

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

850-488-1850, www.djj.state.fl.us

- Offers voluntary youth crime prevention programs through the Office of Prevention Services.
- Addresses the juvenile crime problems by contracting for delinquency prevention services and awarding grants to local providers throughout the state.
- Provides programs for youth who exhibit problem behaviors such as ungovernability, truancy, running away from home and other pre-delinquent behaviors.

City of Gainesville – Gainesville Fire Rescue

352-334-5078, www.gfr.org

- Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) has a Community Resource Paramedicine Program (CRP) that works with neighbors to facilitate access to healthcare, housing, food, transportation and health education. This program also helps connect people with support services from other community organizations.
- As part of One Nation One Project (ONOP), GFR is working to increase opportunities for arts and cultural engagement in the community to promote youth wellbeing and reduce youth gun violence.
- The Public Safety Summer Camp is hosted in partnership with the Gainesville Police Department, and includes lessons in gun safety awareness and violence prevention.
- GFR first responders are trained and certified crowd managers. Required in all places of public assembly, crowd managers ensure proper safety and security is in place for events that bring large gatherings of people.
- GFR crews provide emergency medical services when responding to calls; and these are sometimes incidents of gun violence. As well as giving lifesaving care, GFR also works with law enforcement to share information about suspicious activity, weapons or other dangers.
- GFR serves as the city's Emergency Management arm with plans in place to respond to active shooters or other incidents of gun violence. By coordinating with partner agencies, GFR is trained to provide swift and effective collaborative action.

City of Gainesville – Gainesville Police Department

352-393-7500, 352-955-1818 (dispatch), www.GainesvillePD.org

- In October 2022, Gainesville Police Department (GPD) organized an innovative approach to gun violence awareness. That December, 42 members of GPD worked together to host two weeks of community events focused on education, engagement and mobilization for a safer community.
- The Co-Responder Program is a partnership with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare that pairs uniformed officers with mental health clinicians in teams that respond to crisis calls. GPD has four active teams working to prevent unnecessary incarceration and provide community and follow-up support.
- Gun buy-back events funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are taking weapons off the streets.
- GPD purchased new technology known as BrassTrax. This search engine helps law enforcement agencies quickly find links between firearm-related incidents across the country. This purchase also was funded by ARPA.
- The Gun Violence Initiative is comprised of a group of area law enforcement agencies that meet on a bimonthly schedule to discuss strategies and compare similarities of violent crimes in each of their jurisdictions.
- The Real Time Information Center functions as a centralized hub that helps investigations by immediately producing data related to crimes, crime patterns, suspects and vehicles.
- GPD meets regularly with pastors of local churches, along with other community members, to support neighbors who have been involved in a crime as a participant, victim or witness. This pastors' workgroup is part of a One Community initiative that works throughout the year to bring awareness to gun violence.
- The Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction Program (B.O.L.D.) provides assistance to young men in need of guidance as they navigate life situations and circumstances. Many who benefit from this program have been justice-involved, are working with educational challenges, and are unemployed or underemployed. They receive case management, life skills, and other interventions to spur personal development and growth.

- “Who’s in the Box” is a GPD initiative that relies on a two-part play to dramatize for young people how personal conflicts can escalate to violent crime. An effort launched with a wide range of community partners, this is a traveling presentation. It works well when performed at schools, churches or similar locations.
- The Focused Deterrence Ceasefire Program is a collaboration between the City of Gainesville, the Florida Department of Corrections and various community partners. It is a targeted approach to help people avoid future brushes with law enforcement.
- The Police Athletic / Activities League (P.A.L.) provides mentorship, service, athletics and educational opportunities. The goal is to help young people develop positive attitudes toward law enforcement and reward good citizenship.
- My Block activities are gatherings organized by GPD to reach out and develop connections with neighbors. The main focus is at-risk youth, and the events include athletic and intercultural elements, music and food.

City of Gainesville – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

352-334-5067, www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org

- The direct aim of youth athletics offered by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) is to provide space for children and teens to enjoy a safe, monitored and secure environment. Programs offered include Midnight Basketball and Summer Heatwave.
- Midnight Basketball is a free program offered monthly at the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center from April to August. The events include pizza and refreshments, motivational speakers, learning activities and 3-on-3 matchups.
- Summer Heatwave is a 5-on-5 basketball program offered weekdays throughout the summer. As an inclusive activity that attracts neighborhood youth and volunteers along with local middle and high school teams, Heatwave provides a safe environment that teaches character, leadership and life skills along with training and drills.
- PRCA hosts year-round youth and after-school programming, along with summer camps and enrichment programs aimed at children and teens.
- PRCA works with community partners to provide resources to youth and their families. These include CareerSource, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Santa Fe College, Mirror Image Leadership Academy, I Got Your Back Youth Mentoring Program and the YMCA.
- PRCA offers a monthly outreach program at the Cone Park Branch of the Alachua County Library District. This group meets once a month for the Science-Oriented Activities and Recreation (SOAR) Program.
- The Cultural Affairs Division works closely with the A. Quinn Jones Center School to develop programs and activities designed to engage youth who have been affected by, have participated in, or lost friends or family due to gun violence.
- PRCA is teaming with GFR to lead the One Nation One Project GNV initiative to increase opportunities for arts and cultural engagement in the community to promote youth wellbeing and reduce youth gun violence.

Girls Place

352-373-4475, www.girlsplace.net

- Provides services and support for girls (ages 5-14) by offering mental health consultation, assessment and treatment; education and early intervention to cope with potentially harmful experiences and adverse events.
- Works to refer children in need of additional support to the appropriate community resources.

GRACE Marketplace

352-792-0800, www.gracemarketplace.org

- Homeless support organization that offers emergency shelter, food services, housing programs, street outreach, day services and medical services.

Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce

352-334-7100, www.gainesvillechamber.com

- Works with local organizations and businesses to raise awareness about violence and domestic violence by providing space for educational materials and supporting community efforts and campaigns.

HCA North Florida Hospital

352-333-4000, www.hcafloridahealthcare.com

- Supports community efforts and campaigns.
- Operates an emergency room that is open 24/7 and also operates three freestanding emergency care locations across the community.
- Provides acute and critical medical services for patients.

Helping Hands Clinic

352-519-5542, www.hhclinicnv.org

- Provides funds for operating costs and program delivery of healthcare services to uninsured people who are experiencing homelessness.
- Provides supplies to fulfill pharmaceutical needs, vision care, and laboratory and imaging to people who are experiencing homelessness.

Howard Bishop Middle School

- Howard Bishop Middle School works with community partners to bring resources and opportunities to students and families in east Gainesville.
- This collaboration provides outreach for those dealing with food insecurity, poverty, homelessness and wellness challenges.
- Services include academic support, healthcare, counseling and mentoring.
- Renovation of the track and tennis / basketball courts was completed in November 2021 as a Wild Spaces Public Places project through a partnership with Alachua County Public Schools.

League of Women Voters

www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-alachua-county

- Holds and supports events aimed at promoting gun control.

Moms Demand Action Alachua County

www.momsdemandactionalachua.com

- Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement that promotes public safety measures to protect people from gun violence.

People Against Violence Enterprises (PAVE)

352-505-6839, www.pavingpeace.org

- PAVE promotes violence prevention education and mediation to youth and parents in North Central Florida.
- Works closely with Alachua County public schools and law enforcement to ensure student needs are met.
- Hosts an annual Stop the Violence Back to School Rally at which 5,000 students receive free backpacks filled with school supplies.

NAACP Alachua County Branch

352-363-4483, www.naacpacb.org

- NAACP has declared violence in America as a public health concern.
- NAACP has advocated for laws to help eliminate or decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence.
- NAACP advocates for and protects civil rights.

Partnership for Strong Families

352-244-1500, www.pfsf.org

- Provides child welfare services designed to protect local children from abuse, neglect and abandonment.
- Assists in establishing safe and permanent homes for children to live with their own families, partner families or adoptive parents.
- Offers free services and support to families and community members including financial literacy programs, clothing closets, food distribution, enrichment programs for children, infant care products and employability training.

Randall VA Medical Center

352-376-1611, www.va.gov

- Offers substance use disorder services to help patients overcome problems ranging from unhealthy alcohol use to life-threatening addiction.
- Offers counseling, group therapy or medication to patients seeking support.
- Works to provide transitional and supportive housing by offering many programs and services, including free health care.
- Helps veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to financial hardship, unemployment, addiction, depression, or transition from jail.

- Can provide access to immediate food and shelter needs, transitional and permanent housing, job training, life skills development and education.
- Assists with justice system navigation and community reentry from jail.
- VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program provides services and resources to veterans, caregivers, their families and VA employees to focus on health and safety in relationships.
- VA health care facilities offer same-day help and operate a Veterans Crisis Line for free, private help 24-hours- a-day.

Santa Fe College

352-395-5000, www.sfcollege.edu

- Santa Fe College's Behavioral Intervention Team trains employees to learn skills that can be used to alleviate potential incidents of workplace violence.
- Santa Fe College Police Department, Counseling Center and Risk Management work in conjunction with other offices at Santa Fe to train employees to address issues vital to the safety and security of everyone on SF property.
- Institute of Public Safety at the Kirkpatrick Center accommodates the growing need for skilled public safety personnel in Florida and nationwide.
- Santa Fe has sworn police officers on their staff and mutual aid agreements with all local law enforcement agencies in the community including Alachua Sheriff's Office, Bradford Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Police Department, UF Police Department, City of Alachua Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol.
- Santa Fe Police Department has both emergency and nonemergency numbers, along with a rumor control hotline and an online "say something" report form.
- Santa Fe utilizes several systems for timely warnings: notifications to students and staff via internal email, a banner on the Santa Fe College webpage, social media.

St. Francis House

352-378-9079, www.stfranchishousegmv.com

- This program assists people and families who are experiencing homelessness by providing access to shelter.
- Assists people who are experiencing homelessness find employment and permanent housing.
- The Cold Night Shelter Program allows expanded overnight shelter and services during certain weather emergencies.

UF Health Shands Hospital

352-261-0111, www.ufhealth.org

- Violence prevention task force consisting of a multidisciplinary team that works to develop and implement solutions to address issues identified by UF Health.
- Mobile safety app is a free app that allows staff to connect with emergency services, send locations, sound alarms, report a tip, track shuttles and more.
- Nurse training includes a Crisis Prevention Institute and crisis development and nonviolent de-escalation training courses.
- Tools and resources are currently being developed to help staff identify and deescalate difficult behaviors when interacting with patients and visitors

- UF Health locations considered high risk are equipped with panic alarms that silently contact a security dispatcher.

University of Florida www.ufl.edu

- UF Police Department is a 24-hour-a-day resource to help students stay safe on campus; it oversees security surveys for departments across campus, registers property to prevent theft, and manages crime reporting. 352- 392-1111
- Violence Prevention Hold is a program that requires all incoming students to complete a course on violence prevention.
- UF operates a multidisciplinary diagnostic and training program that provides a range of services including diagnostic evaluation and consultation for children and youth identified as having complex medical, educational, emotional, and/or behavioral problems.
- UF Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity Violence Prevention specializes in support once harm has occurred and provides prevention-focused initiatives and resources for a safer and healthier campus community. 352-273- 3721

Housing Assistance and Support Programs

City of Gainesville Housing & Community Development 352-393-8618, www.gainesvillefl.gov

- Home Repair: Provides direct housing support by coordinating home repair services for low- and very-low income households. Rehabilitation program money can address health and safety issues; electrical and plumbing problems; installation of new windows, roof and HVAC systems; removal of lead paint; and retrofitting for those with special needs. The city oversees all work performed and pays the contractors directly upon satisfactory completion.
- Home Replacement: Provides loans to low and very-low income households for home replacement when home repair is not feasible.
- Down Payment Assistance: Provides funding to eligible homebuyers to buy a home within the city limits of Gainesville. The funding is used to pay a part of the down payment and closing costs associated with purchasing a home. Up to \$15,000 in help may be provided.
- Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention: Provides financial help to homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments and are near foreclosure. Homeowners will work one-on-one with a city staff member to determine possible solutions for repayment.
- Financial Education: The workshop walks homebuyers through the process and gives participants helpful information including how to choose a qualified lender and inspector. Other topics include credit, budgeting, savings, mortgage loans, house selection, lenders, realtors, home inspection, home maintenance and closing day. There is no cost to attend the workshop.
- Water and Waste Water Connections: Provides grant funding to assist with the payment of costs associated with the extension, construction and connection to the city's water, wastewater and reclaimed water systems throughout the entire GRU service area.

City of Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

352-393-8200, www.gainesvillecra.com

- Neighborhood Paint Program: Provides free exterior pressure washing and painting services to homeowners. The eligible neighborhoods are Fifth Avenue, Pleasant Street, Porters Community, Springhill, Sugarhill, Cedar Grove II and Duval neighborhoods.
- Heirs Property Assistance: Offers probate legal assistance to heirs' property owners to clear the title to the homes so owners can take advantage of property rights. The purpose of the program is to increase neighborhood stability, grow individual and family wealth in Gainesville's underserved communities, and increase access to attainable housing.
- My Neighborhood Program: Offers \$25,000 towards the purchase of a home or lot within eligible neighborhoods. To be eligible, recipients must have lived in a program neighborhood for at least three years before 2011. The purpose of the program is to encourage strong community connections by incentivizing long-term homeownership within neighborhoods. The eligible neighborhoods are Cedar Grove II, Greater Duval, Fifth Avenue, North Lincoln Heights, Pleasant Street, Porters, Springhill and Sugarhill.
- Home Energy Tune-Up: Through a partnership with the Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC), home energy tune-ups are available to eligible property owners (homesteaders and landlords) and renters in order to lower the energy cost burden of district residents. The purpose of this program is to encourage safe, well-designed, high-quality housing to support the existing housing stock that provides housing options for long-term homeowners and renters.

Outside Agencies (Housing)

Alachua Habitat for Humanity

352-378-4663, www.alachuahabitat.org

- Funds for the construction of new houses that are mortgaged at 0% interest. Principle payments are then returned to the program, thereby recycling capital investment. Homeowners are City of Gainesville low-income residents, who are willing to contribute sweat equity.

Center for Independent Living

352-378-7474, www.cilncf.org

- Construction of wheelchair ramps for persons with disabilities who currently live without proper accessibility in their own homes. Wheelchair ramp recipients are individuals with disabilities who meet federal low- to very-low- income requirements

Gainesville Housing Development & Management Corporation

352-380-9119, www.gainesvillehousingauthority.org

- Funds are used to construct three new affordable homes for low- to moderate-income individuals and/or families within the City of Gainesville. Plans are also underway to develop approximately 24 units of affordable housing on Northwest Fifth Avenue.

KLH Invest, LLC (The Hutchinson Foundation)

- Funds to cover soft costs for new construction of affordable rental housing for low- to moderate-income individuals/families.

Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation

352-380-9119, www.gnhdc.org

- Funds used for the acquisition and new construction of housing that will be offered for purchase to eligible first-time low-income homebuyers in the Duval neighborhood.

Rebuilding Together North Central Florida (emergency repair)

352-373-2573, www.rebuildingtogetherncf.org

- Provides critical home repair/rehabilitation to low-income homeowners, disabled residents, and/or veterans.

Judicial System Stakeholders

Office of the State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Circuit

352-374-3670, www.sao8.org

- The State Attorney is charged under Florida law with being the chief prosecuting officer for his judicial circuit and the counties in it.
- Florida statutes and criminal rules define those duties, which are primarily focused on criminal offenders.
- The State Attorney, with his appointed Assistants and other staff, appear in the courts to represent the interests of justice and of the people.

Office of the Public Defender, Eighth Judicial Circuit

352-338-7386, www.publicdefender.alachuacounty.us

- The Office of the Public Defender provides legal representation of the highest caliber to indigent persons who face a loss of liberty.
- The Public Defender also protects the constitutional and statutory rights of ALL citizens through its zealous representation of court-appointed clients.
- The Office of the Public Defender represents adults and juveniles in all manner of criminal cases, including defending clients who are facing the death penalty.
- The Office also represents clients in involuntary commitment proceedings pursuant the Baker Act, in other mental health hearings pursuant to law, and in Jimmy Ryce cases.

Alachua County Public Safety Coordinating Council Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Oversight Subcommittee

352-474-5251, www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CourtServices/Pages/JMHCP.aspx

- The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) supports innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system.
- JMHCPC seeks to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice and mental health and substance abuse treatment systems to increase access to mental health and other treatment services for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- The parallel mission is to increase connections to appropriate treatment options to further reduce the recidivism rates of these citizens. The support and participation has been absolutely impressive.

10 Essential Activities Gainesville Can Take to Reduce Violence Now

2024-266A

This outline addresses current engagement efforts relevant to the portion of the Gainesville City Commission's motion requesting a response to include local perspectives on the "Ten Essential Activities" as formulated by the Council on Criminal Justice's Violent Crime Working Group.

1) Set a clear goal: commit to saving lives by stopping violence

- The Gainesville City Commission set a clear goal by passing a resolution to declare gun violence a public health crisis.

Due to the similarity of activities no. 2 – 4, there is an element of overlap in the following three sections.

2) Identify the key people and places driving the violence

- GPD produces quarterly reports with local crime statistics. These include listing the criminal charges, location, time of day, associated circumstances and people involved.
- In August 2023, GPD launched a Gun Violence Prevention Initiative to identify individuals with a high propensity for committing gun-related violence or those who may be at risk of becoming victims of gun violence.
- GPD assigns violent crime details to identify trends and patterns in violence, identify offenders, and provide increased officer presence in neighborhoods that have experienced gun violence.
- GPD employs strategic use of data from its Crime Analysis Unit to concentrate enforcement activities on the primary drivers of crime in the community - identifying, investigating, arresting and assisting with prosecution.

3) Create a plan for engaging key people and places

The City of Gainesville's multi-disciplinary response to violence prevention is based on a strong foundation of effective law enforcement. With that core service in place, the City can develop additional programs and initiatives designed to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors.

- Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) Chief Joe Dixon, serving on special assignment as Special Advisor to the City Manager on issues of Public Safety, is working with Alachua County's Deputy County Manager of Community and Strategic Initiatives Carl Smart to strategize a collaborative response in the form of a plan to address gun violence with the goal of reducing violent incidents across the community.
 - The initial planning is around the concept of a multi-disciplinary coordinated response, utilizing Santa Fe College as a central convener. The teamwork between law enforcement agencies and other support services that impact community is a prominent feature of this model.
- GPD's Neighborhood Policing Initiative, launched in 2020, trains officers and neighbors in the areas of community problem solving and policing. The department staff understand that engagement and accountability will be an essential underpinning of the strategy to address violent crime, and they have committed to working collaboratively with those most impacted to build a sense of respect for the law. The law enforcement focus is three-part: Prevention, Intervention, Suppression
 - Prevention revolves around community meetings to educate neighbors about violent crime and efforts to control and reduce crime levels. This includes gun buybacks and partnering with local neighborhoods, churches and organizations to develop solutions together as one community.
 - Intervention revolves around the commitment to help individuals chose a path other than violence. An example of this is the Pastor's One Community Cease Fire Initiative to connect at-risk individuals with support networks.
 - Suppression revolves around a list of activities led by GPD to address and prevent gun violence through a strategy that recognizes violent crime is often concentrated in limited geographical areas and is perpetrated by a small group of persons, including repeat offenders.

- Violent Crime Details – GPD has assignments of one or more officers in each instance of gun violence to locate and apprehend suspects and to create a highly visible law enforcement presence in neighborhoods where violent crime has occurred.
- Downtown Details – GPD regularly assigns one or more officers to prevent violence in and around nightclubs or street locations where there has been a pattern of violence
- Covert Details – GPD has officers working undercover to stop theft of firearms as a method of reducing violent crime.

4) Engage key people with empathy and accountability

- Gun Violence Prevention Summit: The most prominent component of the City of Gainesville’s focused effort to engage key people with empathy and accountability has been the two-day Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This event titled, “Choose Peace: Gun Violence Must Cease,” engaged stakeholders from various community sectors.
 - Community Day included workshops on violence intervention, social media and mental health, and youth and hip-hop culture. The culminating event was a youth town hall sponsored by the Children’s Trust of Alachua County. This provided attendees an opportunity to share their stories.
 - Policy Day featured discussions on governance and practices. This included elected officials, educators and school administrators, business and civic leaders, and representatives from public health, local government, public safety and the judicial system.
- B.O.L.D. Program: The Gainesville Police Department operates the B.O.L.D. Program (Brave Overt Leaders of Distinction) to provide assistance to young men in need of professional guidance, support or mentoring.
 - The B.O.L.D. program aims to render intensive services, including case management, and offer training in life skills and empowerment activities that will enrich the lives of these young men by addressing the development and growth of the whole person—physical, mental, spiritual and educational.
 - Rather than returning to lives of gang violence, premature parenting, drug trafficking and incarceration, the program participants have decided to return to school to obtain their high school diplomas or GEDs (graduate equivalency diploma), job training certificates/licenses, college degrees or certificates and/or gainful employment opportunities leading to careers.
- Black- on-Black Crime Task Force: This task force collaborates closely with the Gainesville Police Department and other organizations and agencies to implement coordinated approaches to crime prevention.
 - The Task Force acknowledges the unique challenges less fortunate communities face regarding crime rates. The Task Force aims to identify underlying causes and crime patterns within these neighborhoods by analyzing crime data and engaging with community members.
 - Recognizing that traditional approaches to law enforcement alone may not be sufficient, the Task Force focuses on implementing community-based alternatives. These alternatives encompass a range of initiatives, such as mentorship programs, job training, educational opportunities and social services. The goal is to provide individuals with positive alternatives to reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior.
- Neighborhood Policing Initiative (NPI): The Neighborhood Policing Initiative is an opportunity for community members(one on one, individual) to learn a bit about policing in their community and converse informally with members of the department to learn about the history of policing, impacts both positive and negative, and problem solve neighborhood solutions to include the impact of gun violence.
- Gainesville Police Department Co-Responder Program: The GPD Co-Responder Program is a partnership with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare that pairs uniformed officers with mental health clinicians in teams

that respond to crisis calls. Mental health and substance abuse are closely related to violence. Providing this individual service to persons of need is a critical component of violence prevention.

- Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Resource Paramedicine Program: Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) operates a Community Resource Paramedicine Program (CRP) that works with neighbors to facilitate access to healthcare, housing, food, transportation and health education while providing connections to other support groups.
- Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP): The LAP program is a model program for Domestic Violence individual intervention. It aims to identify those most at risk for homicide related to domestic violence and seeks to provide individualized safety planning and resources.
- Victim Advocate Program: GPD is currently partnering with Alachua County Victim Services to provide this program. The use of victim advocates in the aftermath of a shooting that impacts a community is an important method of outreach, education and support.
- School Resource Officer Program (SRO): Officers in Schools continue to provide security and interaction between officers and youth. The prevalence of youth violence has increased, with gun violence incidents related to loosely affiliated neighborhood youth gangs.

5) Address key locations using place-based policing and investment

- The Gainesville Police Department is using data collection and analysis to inform precise, intelligence-driven policing tactics.
- GPD is employing selective enforcement and intervention practice aimed at reducing gun violence.
- GPD is contacting neighbors in identified areas to provide education and solicit feedback.
- The Gainesville City Commission approved enhanced outdoor lighting in January 2023 to provide brighter, safer conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists using sidewalks at night.
- Closure of T.B. McPherson Park throughout spring and early summer of 2023 was a targeted approach to reduce potential for unlawful behavior and address safety concerns.
- The Public Works Department's Downtown Detail invested more than \$750,000 on hardscape and street repairs, landscaping, litter control and sidewalk cleaning.
- On October 26, 2023, the Gainesville City Commission voted to restore pre-pandemic open container restrictions, while creating two Arts, Culture & Entertainment Districts, to balance the needs of downtown businesses with recommendations from law enforcement aimed at improving public safety. The changes took effect on January 1, 2024.
- The Gainesville City Commission is in the process of amending ordinances related to bottle clubs and hookah lounges to provide additional tools to law enforcement.

6) Place responsibility for violence reduction efforts at the top

- The Gainesville City Commission set a clear goal by passing a resolution to declare gun violence a public health crisis.
- The Gainesville City Commission took a legislative approach to curbing violence and improving public safety through the introduction or amendment of ordinances related to open containers, bottle clubs and hookah lounges.
- The City Manager selected GFR Chief Joe Dixon to serve on special assignment as Special Advisor to the City Manager on issues related to Public Safety. As part of this work, Chief Dixon is partnering with Alachua County's Deputy County Manager of Community and Strategic Initiatives Carl Smart to coordinate a plan to respond to gun violence across the community.

- With internal reallocation of an estimated \$255,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a dedicated position (1.0 FTE) for a Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Program Manager was established. The role has a start date of March 11, 2024 and continues through Dec. 31, 2026. Brittany Coleman, MA, is tasked with coordinating the city's efforts with county, state, federal, private and not-for-profit partners. Ms. Coleman has a Masters of Arts in counseling psychology, with a concentration in forensic psychology; she worked for five years as a victim services program manager with the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center.
- The City Manager recommended investigating the feasibility of a consortium of local partners (membership criteria to be determined), working to develop strategies aimed at stemming the proliferation of gun violence. Following discussions with Santa Fe President Dr. Paul Broadie regarding a memorandum of understanding, the City Manager recommended the Gainesville City Commission consider a plan in which Santa Fe would serve as the convener and collaborator of this consortium. With limited funding support from the City of Gainesville and other community partners, Santa Fe would lead the group in networking with regional stakeholders, collecting and analyzing data, and evaluating services, programs, and initiatives related to gun violence prevention.
- In 2023, Mayor Harvey Ward appointed a Public Safety Committee to advise and inform the City Commission on issues concerning public safety. The committee consisted of District 1 Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (chair), At-Large Commissioner Cynthia Moore Chestnut, and At-Large Commissioner Reina Saco.
 - February 28, 2023: Committee met to discuss a proposal to hold listening sessions about gun violence and to hear a report from the City Manager about gun violence prevention programming related to the One Nation One Project (ONOP) initiative.
 - March 27, 2023: Committee met to hold a public listening session on gun violence and receive an update from the City Manager related to the status of the GPD K-9 Unit.
 - May 8, 2023: Committee met to hear from community partners and stakeholder organizations about collaborative efforts and ongoing initiatives. Partners in attendance included representatives from: Children's Trust of Alachua County, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, Alachua County Public Schools, and various City of Gainesville departments.
 - June 12, 2023: Committee met to hold a public listening session and hear from community partners and stakeholder organizations. Personal experiences with gun violence were shared by speaker Adrian Price, Justice Club President at Santa Fe College. Partners in attendance included:
 - Dr. Paul Broadie, President, Santa Fe College
 - Eric Lawson, Chief Executive Officer, HCA North Florida Hospital
 - Belita James, Contract Manager, Children's Trust of Alachua County
 - Carl Smart, Deputy County Manager of Community and Strategic Initiatives, Alachua County
 - Colonel Chad Scott, Department of Operations and Department of Support Services, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
 - Undersheriff Joel DeCoursey, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
 - Pastor LaShon Young, Women in Ministry Network
 - Faye Williams, MAMA's Club, Porters Community Connection
 - Chief Lonnie Scott, Gainesville Police Department
 - Chief Joe Dixon, Gainesville Fire Rescue
- On Aug. 6-7, 2023, the City of Gainesville held a Gun Violence Prevention Summit to focus attention on the complex issue of gun violence in our community, explore solutions through the lenses of community involvement and policymaking, and collaborate with partners. Movement in the right direction would facilitate communitywide development of enhanced communication strategies, improved leveraging of resources, and a push toward centralized data collection.

- Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the United States, participated in the City of Gainesville’s Gun Violence Prevention Summit as part of Policy Day on Aug. 7, 2023. The keynote speaker was Ariel Cathcart, Manager of Mayoral Outreach for Everytown. With nearly six-million supporters across the country, Everytown for Gun Safety pushes for public safety policies that respect Second Amendment rights and reduce gun violence. Ms. Cathcart engages with leaders nationwide to tackle gun violence in their cities. She previously served as a liaison for external groups such as the African-American Mayors Association and AARP—both policy-driven organizations with coordinated efforts for specific constituencies.
 - This summit brought together stakeholders from all areas of community and government to engage in focused discussions around the topic of gun violence.
 - The summit offered a Resource Fair, a robust folder of supplemental information materials, and a printed index of services and programs for children and families.
 - Through the inclusion of a Youth Town Hall, the summit centered young voices and gathered information about gun violence in popular culture.
 - This event brought together leaders and stakeholders to strategize new methods for centralizing community efforts to end gun violence, including the development of action items related to public safety, support services and policymaking.
 - The summit was a call to action for the community and local leaders with the stated goal of serving as a launching pad for the development of a partnership anchored by a central clearinghouse, convener and collaborator to share data pertaining to gun violence.
 - The summit closed with a recommendation to review the event at the next Joint Meeting of the Gainesville City Commission and Alachua County Commission, and to reconvene in January to examine collected data and share information.
- One Nation One Project (ONOP) is a national initiative that began in Gainesville and eight other U.S. cities in 2022. Its goal is to use arts and culture to promote community healing and well-being. This project unites artists, local governments and community health providers. In Jan. 2022, the City Commission recognized youth gun violence as a local issue and decided to apply to take part in ONOP by putting two-percent of the city’s American Rescue Plan Act funds (\$648,172) toward art and culture activities to address youth violence. ONOP has achieved the following in efforts to raise protective factors and lower risk factors for youth in our community:
 - Leveraged a \$100, 000 charitable donation from the Tides philanthropic organization to award 20 small grants to collect community listening data, and create arts and cultural experiences for youth to increase well-being and decrease youth gun violence.
 - Convened a nine-person Youth Steering Committee to continuously inform and guide the project.
 - Collected over 300 data responses, primarily from youth during the Phase 1 Community Listening Sessions.
 - Partnered with Alachua County Public Schools to host the “Never Had a Friend” play for over 200 high school students and staff, to highlight the power of arts to create resilience and healing.
 - Hosted a Summer 2023 event at Depot Park to highlight local artists and youth talent; this event was hosted by Dawnn Lewis of “A Different World” and coordinated by Marion Caffey, One Nation One Project GNV Artistic Director.
 - Helped coordinate and facilitate the Inaugural Gun Violence Summit, by coordinating the community resource fair, securing 2 breakout session presenters, and facilitating a session to address youth gun violence within the education sector.
 - In 2019, the Gainesville Police Department in concert with the United States Attorney’s Office established the Gun Violence Initiative Task Force. Meetings involved GPD, the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, High Springs Police Department, and Alachua Police Department. Other stakeholders included federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the State Attorney’s Office. The effort focused on known violent career criminals with a propensity for gun violence.

7) Emphasize healing with trauma-informed approaches

- Through One Nation One Project, the City of Gainesville brought Dr. Micah E. Johnson to Gainesville to perform his one man show, “Never Had a Friend” on two occasions for gatherings of local high school students. Dr. Johnson is a professor, author and award-winning performance artist whose research and creative works focus on childhood trauma, behavioral health, youth violence and social justice. He has published more than 20 scientific articles and has received four million dollars in research grants from the National Institutes of Health. As a victim of gun violence himself, Dr. Johnson works extensively in jails, prisons and on death row to understand the relationships between stress, culture and violence.
- As part of the 2023 Gun Violence Prevention Summit, the City of Gainesville brought together a panel of experts to discuss the trauma of gun violence. Among the participants was Dr. Alexandra Martinez, Director of the Alachua County Crisis Center. The Crisis Center is a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Center and offers 24/7 crisis and suicide intervention services via phone, mobile response, telehealth and face to face. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Martinez has provided more than 2,500 hours of training and consultations on crisis intervention, family counseling, diversity and suicide prevention. She is the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition Region 3 Director and her speaking engagements have included presentations for the American Association of Suicidology, National Association of School Resource Officers, Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators, Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, Florida Parks and Recreation Association and the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services.
- Having declared gun violence a public health crisis, the 2023 Gun Violence Prevention Summit gave Gainesville City Commissioners an opportunity to invest in educational efforts to help the community better understand trauma-informed approaches. Gainesville Community Health Director Brandy Stone, MPH, CPH, and University of Florida Senior Lecturer Julia Varnes, PhD, provided an overview of a public health approach to violence prevention as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Social-Ecological Model (SEM) was described as a tool to help community partners in attendance develop actionable policies and practices (attachment 8).
- Gainesville responders are participants in Operation Ceasefire. The initiative was created in response to the local increase in gun violence, and it has provided an important collaborative opportunity across the community. Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Health Director Brandy Stone, along with the Community Resource Paramedicine staff, dedicated time at an Operation Ceasefire event on March 20, 2023 to join young adults in need of supportive outreach. The young people invited to attend were those with current or past gun violence charges. Also participating were local pastors, GPD’s Co-Responder Team, State Attorney Brian Kramer, GPD Chief Lonnie Scott and former GPD Chief Tony Jones. The common goal was to show that people in the community care and show the programs offered to help everyone succeed.

8) Invest in anti-violence workforce development

- Working together with Alachua County’s Deputy County Manager of Community and Strategic Initiatives Carl Smart, GFR Chief Joe Dixon—in his special assignment role as Special Advisor to the City Manager on issues of Public Safety—is developing programs to invest in anti-violence workforce development.
- The City of Gainesville has supported the hiring of non-certified firefighters and collaborated with a local nonprofit to mentor and train underrepresented members of the community with a goal of permanent employment as first responders.

9) Set aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies

- With internal reallocation of an estimated \$255,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a dedicated position (1.0 FTE) for a Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Program Manager was established. The role has a start date of March 11, 2024 and continues through Dec. 31, 2026. Brittany Coleman, MA, is tasked with coordinating the city's efforts with county, state, federal, private and not-for-profit partners. Ms. Coleman has a Masters of Arts in counseling psychology, with a concentration in forensic psychology; she worked for five years as a victim services program manager with the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center.
- The City Commission approved a budget allocation of \$150,000 for gun violence prevention programming in the FY24 budget. Following mid-year decisions by the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority to reduce General Fund revenues, the City Commission voted on Feb. 15, 2024 to reallocate \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from administrative services to gun violence prevention programming.
- The City Commission approved a budget allocation of \$250,000 to provide support for intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth in the community in the FY24 budget. However, the City Commission voted on Feb. 15, 2024 to redirect this set-aside to compensate for mid-year decisions by the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority to reduce General Fund revenues.

10) Commit to continuous improvement based on data, evidence, and peer-to-peer learning

The City sees potential for continuous improvement through a collaborative collective of community partners. Santa Fe College is strategically equipped to lead a network of regional stakeholders, create a template for regular reporting of data, and serve as a clearinghouse for services, programs, and initiatives related to gun violence prevention.

The first action step would include the development of a memorandum of understanding between primary stakeholders identifying roles and responsibilities, membership criteria, funding and time-frame for operation.

Members would convene on a regular schedule to establish and foster momentum, as well as sustain interest and accountability with the goal of increased communication and reducing violence community-wide.

This work with Santa Fe and other partners would be the first step in gathering the information and intelligence needed to identify gaps in the services and efforts currently in place. In this way, the City and County can begin establishing fresh programs and practices to enhance safety and create improved outcomes for all neighbors.

Immediate and Short-Term Recommendations

- Onboard the newly hired Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Program Manager upon the March 2024 start date, orient them to the scope of responsibilities, and determine quarterly goals for this role through 2026
- Finalize the memorandum of understanding with Santa Fe College
- Finalize an agreement with the University of Florida to access gun violence statistics compiled as part of a database created by the Loss Prevention Research Council
- The City of Gainesville recommends, after taking the lead by organizing last year's Gun Violence Prevention Summit, that Alachua County host the next event
- Create a plan for an ongoing Gun Violence Prevention Initiative that coordinates services from all stakeholders, partners and interested parties
- Finalize the amendments to ordinances related to bottle clubs and hookah lounges
- Review and evaluate what is working and readjust
- Research the use of proactive actionable programs
- Use data to review where there are holes and develop methods to fill the gaps

Long-Term Recommendations

- Develop the data, analytics, best practices and then scale for need