

City of  
**Gainesville**

**Gun Violence Prevention:  
Steps, Stakeholders and Activities**

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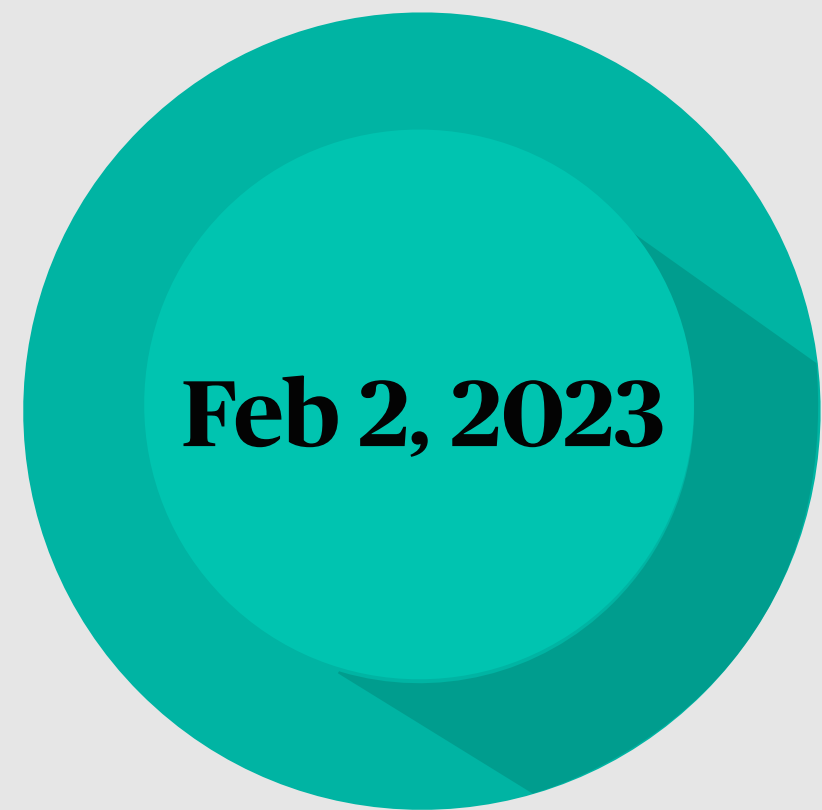
# Gainesville Police Department

## Gun-Related Statistics

| Crime                    | 2022 | 2023 | % Change       |
|--------------------------|------|------|----------------|
| Firearms Stolen          | 218  | 200  | <b>-8.25%</b>  |
| Weapons Seized/Recovered | 159  | 128  | <b>-20.13%</b> |
| Shots Fired              | 170  | 147  | <b>-13.53%</b> |
| Persons Injured          | 47   | 60   | <b>27.66%</b>  |
| Homicides                | 10   | 14   | <b>30%</b>     |



# Motions Passed by the City Commission



- Declare Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis and draft resolution
- Request the same from the County in partnership
- Advance/lay a foundation for a task force
  - Request for analysis of existing city programs

Request for information on related expenditures incurred to date

- Schedule a conversation with the County about partnership and task force
- Request for formal task force options

- Resolution declaring Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis
- Three options for laying a foundation for convening a task force

# Joint City/County Motions

**August 28, 2023**

City and County staff to partner with Santa Fe College on a community-based Gun Violence Task Force with recommendations brought to the boards by Nov. 1, 2023.

**January 22, 2024**

- Identify current steps and stakeholders at City and County
- Identify activities related to the local gun violence crisis and return within 60-90 days with a report, including the “10 Essential Activities Cities can Take to Reduce Violence Now”
- Return within 60-90 days with a report on immediate, short-term, and long-term recommendations that could serve as a draft plan for consideration by both Commissions

# Actions Taken in Response to Motions



City led the first Gun Violence Prevention Summit in August 2023



Office of the City Manager produced a list of all local gun violence efforts – enforcement, suppression, prevention, intervention, and support



Office of the City Manager developed three task force options for consideration



City Commissioners held two Sunshine Meetings to explore solutions

- June 20, 2023: Discussion of gun violence prevention initiatives
- Mayor Harvey Ward, District I Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker
- July 6, 2023: Discussion of general concerns and violence prevention including policy suggestions
- District I Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker and District II Commissioner Ed Book joined by Mayor Harvey Ward



Open container restrictions were addressed in a Special Meeting on Sept 14, 2023 and other policy suggestions made by Commissioner Book were explored

# Actions Taken in Response to Motions



Utilizing reallocated ARPA funds, a 1.0 FTE Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager position has been established. The staffer began work on March 11, 2024.

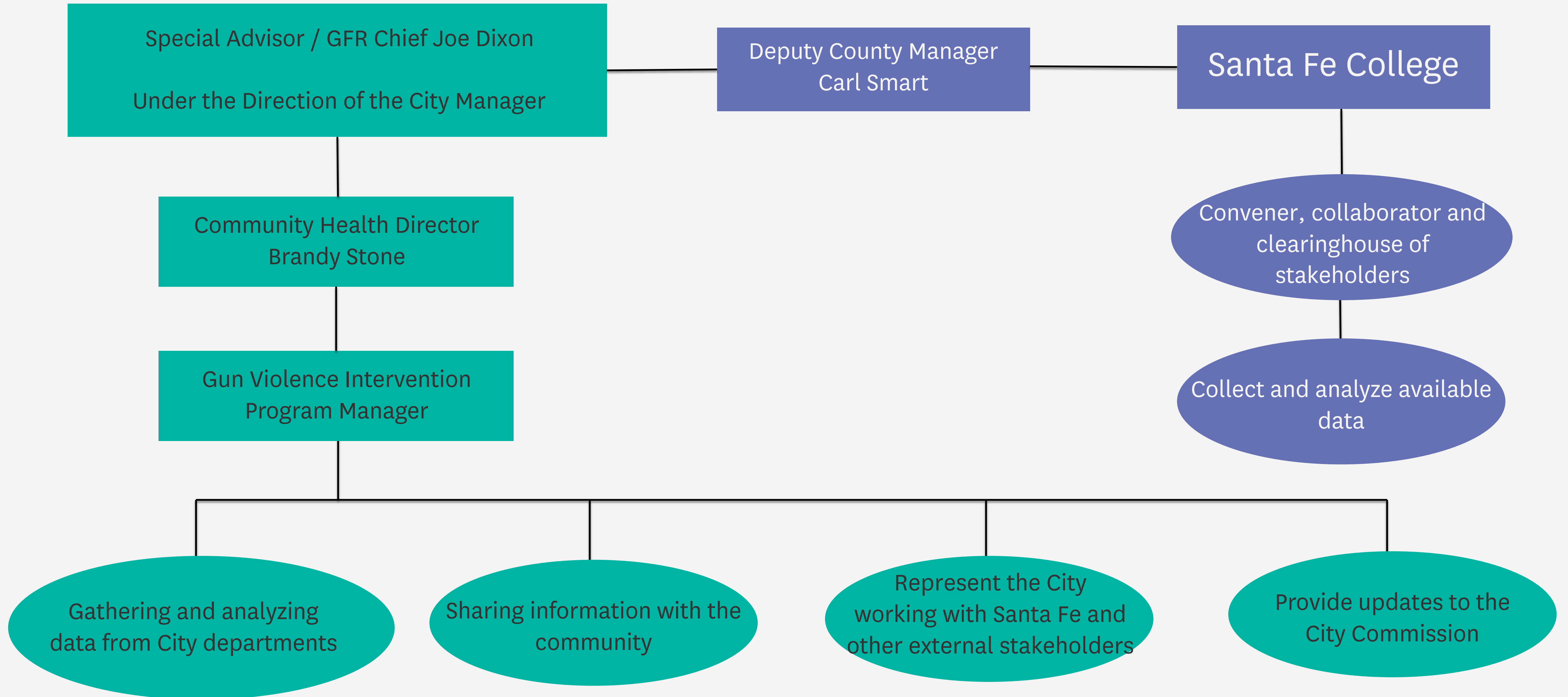
- Appointee holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology, significant experience with municipal government, a background in program management, along with skills in community engagement, grant-writing, and data collection.



Commission approved a General Fund budget allocation of \$150,000 for gun violence prevention. When mid-year decisions by GRU resulted in reductions to General Fund revenues, commissioners reallocated \$150,000 in ARPA funding from administrative services to gun violence prevention programming.

**Staff are pursuing grant funding opportunities to support the programmatic and operational needs of this initiative.**

# Organizational Flow





# **Current City Initiatives**



# Gainesville Police Department



- **Gun Violence Prevention Initiative**
- **Co-Responder program with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**
- **Gun Buy-Backs**
- **BrassTRAX technology**
- **Real Time Information Center for Crime Data**
- **BOLD Program**
- **“Who’s in the Box” play**
- **Focused Deterrence Ceasefire Program**
- **Police Athletics/Activities League**
- **My Block activities**
- **GPD Violence Intervention (ARPA)**
- **Community Care Call-Out initiative**

# Current City Initiatives

## Gainesville Fire Rescue

- Community Resource Paramedicine Program facilitates access to healthcare, housing, food, transportation and health education
- The Public Safety Summer Camp in partnership with GPD includes gun safety awareness and violence prevention
- First responders are trained and certified crowd managers
- Provide emergency medical services when responding to calls of gun violence
- City's Emergency Management arm for active shooters or other incidents of gun violence

## Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

- Community Partnership Grant 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

# Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

- Prevention, intervention and support services
- Midnight Basketball
- Summer Heatwave
- Increased employability and economic opportunities by creating two summer hiring events
- Increased summer camp counselors to 26 in 2023, 13 in 2022
- Youth and afterschool programming, summer camps and enrichment programs
  - Adventures in Play Summer Day Camps
    - 98 percent fill rate for elementary-aged camps
    - Total enrollment slots were increased by 160 slots, while consolidating from five program sites to three
  - Teen Leadership Camp
    - 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, 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



# Current City Initiatives

## Housing and Community Development

- Affordable housing and public support program
- Community land trust
- Single- and multi-family affordable housing development
- Home Energy Tune-Up
- Home Repair
- Home Replacement
- Down Payment Assistance
- Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention
- Financial Education
- Water and Wastewater Connections

## 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

- Imagine GNV comprehensive plan
- Community engagement and plan development

# Current City Initiatives



## **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



## **GRACE**

## **GRACE Marketplace**

- Security and building renovations
- GRACE operations

# ARPA-Funded Programs

- 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 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

# One Nation One Project

## Co-Lead by PRCA and GFR

Reduce youth gun violence and improve youth mental wellbeing through increasing opportunities for arts and cultural engagement.

- Phase 1
  - 20 small-scale community-based projects selected in Summer 2023
  - Summer 2023 community event
- Phase 2
  - 6 large-scale community-based projects selected for implementation Jan-August 2024
  - 3 partner projects
- Phase 3
  - Summer 2024 community culminating event
  - Sustainability planning





# Stakeholders



Black on Black  
Crime Task  
Force



Stakeholder services are detailed in the full report.



Stakeholder services are detailed in the full report.



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Stakeholder services are detailed in the full report.

# Housing Assistance and Support Programs



The Hutchinson  
Foundation



# Judicial System Stakeholders



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

# **10 Essential Activities Gainesville Can Take to Reduce Violence Now**

DOJ Violent Crime Reduction Roadmap  
informed by the Council on Criminal Justice's Violent Crime  
Working Group



# Actions 1 & 2



## **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.



## **Identify the key people and places driving the violence**

- GPD produces quarterly reports with local crime statistics; GFR reports quarterly on emergency response and community health efforts
- GPD Gun Violence Prevention Initiative to identify individuals those most at risk for gun violence
- GPD assigns violent crime details to identify trends and patterns in violence
- GPD employs strategic use of data from its Crime Analysis Unit

# Action 3

## Create a plan for engaging key people and places

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.

- Clearinghouse in development between City of Gainesville, Alachua County and Santa Fe College
  - 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
  - Law enforcement focus is three-part:
    - Prevention
    - Intervention
    - Suppression
      - Violent Crime Details
      - Downtown Details
      - Covert Details

# Action 4

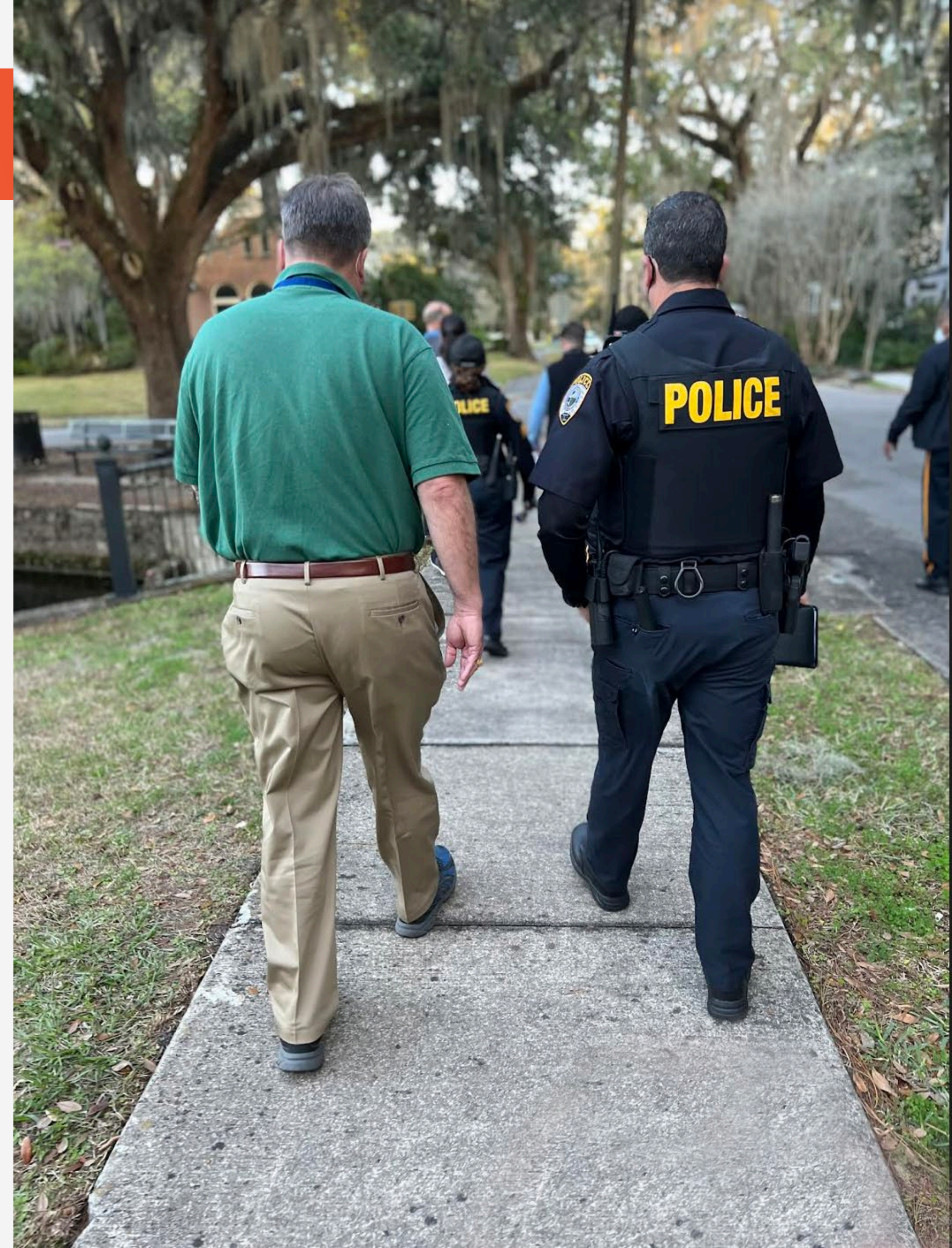
Engage key people with empathy and accountability



# Action 5

## Address key locations using place-based policing and investment

- GPD is using data collection and analysis to inform policing tactics. Employing selective enforcement and intervention practice aimed at reducing gun violence.
- GPD is contacting neighbors in identified areas to provide education and solicit feedback.
- 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/summer of 2023 to reduce potential for unlawful behavior and address safety concerns.
- The Public Works Downtown Detail invested more than \$750,000 on hardscape and street repairs, landscaping, litter control and sidewalk cleaning.
- Restoration of 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 effective 1/1/24
- Currently amending ordinances related to bottle clubs and hookah lounges to provide additional tools to law enforcement.



# Action 6: Place responsibility for violence reduction efforts at the top

- City Commission resolution to declare gun violence a public health crisis
- Legislative approach through introduction and amendment of ordinances
- Selection of GFR Fire Chief Joe Dixon to serve as Special Advisor to the City Manager on issues of Public Safety
- Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager position funded through ARPA
- Recommendation of a clearinghouse of local partners to identify strategies with Santa Fe to serve as the convener
- Gun Violence Prevention Summit August 2023
  - Community Day
  - Policy Day
- One Nation One Project GNV using arts and culture to promote youth mental health and wellbeing and reduce gun violence
- Initiative is a top priority in multiple city departments, such as HCD, GCRA and PRCA, to address the social determinants of health

# Action 7: Emphasize Healing with Trauma-Informed Approaches



One Nation One Project – “Never Had a Friend” Performances for the community and local high school students by Dr. Micah Johnson



Gun Violence Prevention Summit – Public health approach to gun violence intervention using the CDC Social-Ecological Model



Gun Violence Prevention Summit – Panel discussion of trauma experienced as a result of gun violence



Operation Ceasefire – Collaborative intervention with law enforcement, faith-based, and health resources to offer support to young adults who have intersected with the criminal justice system



# Actions 8 & 9

## 8: Invest in Anti-Violence Workforce Development

- Special Advisor/Fire Chief Joe Dixon is working with Deputy County Manager Carl Smart on programs to invest in anti-violence workforce development
- Hiring of non-certified firefighters and collaboration with a local nonprofit for a mentoring and training program for underrepresented members of the community with the goal of permanent employment as first responders

## 9: Set Aside Funding for New Stakeholders and Strategies

- 1.0 FTE for a Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager position funded through ARPA
- City Commission General Fund allocations of \$150,000 for gun violence programming
  - When mid-year decisions by GRU resulted in reductions to General Fund revenues, commissioners reallocated \$150,000 in ARPA funding from administrative services to gun violence prevention programming

# Action 10

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

- Finalization of a memorandum of understanding with the Loss Prevention Research Council for public safety data sharing
- Clearinghouse of community partners
  - Santa Fe College to serve as convener, gathering an analysis of data
  - Alachua County as a core partner
  - Development of a memorandum of understanding between primary stakeholders identifying roles and responsibilities, membership criteria, funding and timeframe for operation
  - Members would convene on a regular schedule to establish and foster momentum





# Immediate and Short-Term

Onboard and orient the Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager

Finalize the MOU with Santa Fe College and Alachua County

Finalize an agreement with the Loss Prevention Research Council for data sharing

Following the 2023 city-hosted summit, suggest that Alachua County hosts the 2024 summit

Support the creation of an ongoing gun violence prevention plan that coordinates across all stakeholders

Finalize the hookah lounge and bottle club ordinance amendments

Review and evaluate efforts to identify gaps and research appropriate programs to fill needs

If directed, provide an updated presentation at the Joint City/County meeting on March 25th



# Long-Term

Continue to develop the data, analytics, best practices and then scale for need