

St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

July 23, 2021 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Virtual

Mission: The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) works to reduce violent crime in the region by promoting and advocating a coordinated, well – resourced support system, policies, and interventions among area governments, institutions and agencies that serve individuals and families most at risk of violent crime.

Vision: VPC envisions a St. Louis region where communities enjoy quiet nights and the sounds of children playing during the days. St. Louis is a safe and desirable destination for businesses and residents. All community members feel protected and served by law enforcement and empowered to have a voice in important regional issues.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions- Aimee Watson, Alyssa Finner, Amber Cole, Amy Cunningham, Asia McKenzie, Bran-dee Jelks, Brigid Welch, Caroline Mitchell, Charles Bryson, Christina Brimm, Christine Fahy, Craig Schmid, D’Juan Huddleston, Dan Isom, Debra Harper-LeBlanc, Don Logue, Eboni Hooper-Boateng, Emily Walsh, Felice McClendon, Gayla Gibson, Hannah Kramer, Heather Taylor, Jennifer Holzhauer, Hope Hopwood, Ida Casey, Jane Hayes, Jeffrey Carson, Jessi LaRose, Joan Butcher, John, John Chasnoff, Johnson Young Lancaster, Joseph Schafer, Joshua, Kaleigh Lawrence, Kateri Champan-Kramer, Katie Dalton, Kelly MCGowan, Kiley Bednar, Kristen Mueller, Linda Robinson, Lisa Potts, Lois Schaffer, Louisa Lyles, Lynn Waldhauser, Marley Graviss, Maggie Barone, Mary Leopold, Mary Schuman, Meg, Michele Mosely, Michelle Quinn, Mike Lamping, Nancy Hirsch, Ohala Ward, Paula Southerland, Perri Johnson, Poli Rijos, Ryan Pierce, Ryan Smith, Susan Colangelo, Sandy Brooks, Sarah W., Serena Muhammad, Shameka, Sydney Theerman, Theda Person, Anne Trolard, Vetta Sanders Thompson, Victoria Anrusi, Warren Hayden, Wilma Calvert, Shelly Flynn-Harding
2. Presentation of Mayor Jones’s Public Safety Plan
 - Director Isom & Deputy Director Heather Taylor
 - Focus on smart crime strategies
 - Innovation to achieve better outcomes
 - Response to Violence/Physical Safety
 1. Have already looked at statistics and redeployed patrols based on area and time of crime
 2. Creating a unified strategy based on data
 3. Expanding “mission zones”
 4. Increased internal coordination meetings from once every two weeks to daily
 5. Developing & implementing a gang strategy
 6. Increased investment in victim advocacy
 7. Saw a reduction in violent crime and homicide since May. Lower than the 5 year average for those months

8. Engaging Center for Police Equity to find out what officers are doing and what citizens want from them (now through end of year)
 9. Cure Violence- increased information sharing from PD to CV sites (not interrupters since they want to preserve the line between them and PD), \$5 million in ARPA funds to support expansion
 10. Co-Responder Model- \$5 million from ARPA to support it
 11. Participating in the President's Community Violence Intervention Collaborative with 15 other cities
- Investing in healthy communities
 1. Building ecosystems that ensure health and safety of residents
 2. Applied for a grant from John Jay College of CJ to implement focused deterrence
 3. Invest in root causes of crime like poverty and trauma
 4. Partner with SLPS on college and jobs programs for students
 5. Invest in victim advocacy & programs for people with substance use issues
 - Design a responsive public safety system
 1. Community engagement
 2. Updating 911 system
 3. Ongoing process and continual feedback
 - City applied for a JAG Grant. They held a public input session, but hope to partner with VPC for additional public input sessions for future grants
 - We received several questions about focused deterrence and whether its focus on punishment is at odds with other priorities. Dr. Isom said the model has been updated and has more emphasis on helping people break the cycle through social services and benefits rather than punishment.
 - What is the status of the CBA and would you support public input? The CBA is at an impasse. It would be ideal to have community engagement, but there are legal challenges to implementing it. Dep. Dir. Taylor said it would be ideal to have all 3 unions (SLPOA, Leadership Organization-FOP for Sgts. and above, and Ethical Society) all take part in negotiations.
 - Would you support annual mental health assessments for all police officers in accordance with VPC recommendations? Yes, this has already been discussed internally.
 - What types of technology can/are being used to make cases when there is a lack of witness cooperation? Shotspotter, license plate readers, ballistics, but the best evidence is always a witness who will come forward. Dep. Dir. Taylor said she supports shotspotter because she has seen cases where it was the only way they found out about crimes. Last week, there was a case where they got no calls, but were able to locate a victim because of a shotspotter notification.
 - How does the mayor plan to deal with the proliferation of guns and its effect on violence/suicide/accidental shootings since the MO legislature has banned cities from passing gun laws? Increased mental health capacity. Gun violence must include a discussion of suicide and accidental shootings

- What events/initiatives do you have coming up that VPC can support?
Opioid death committee out of the Fire Department, pop up town halls on public safety

3. Community Project Funding Announcement

- VPC has received tentative Community Project Funding through Rep. Cori Bush's office. It will support VPC's Gun Violence Response Network including a basic needs recovery fund, crisis intervention/trauma services, data management, and Handle With Care marketing. It will also allow Provident to increase the number of clinicians at their Access Center who see same day counseling clients for as little as \$5 per visit.

4. Safer Summer St. Louis Campaign

- FOCUS Impact Fellows created a pop up event toolkit for VPC and any agencies who want to plan youth events. It's available at <https://www.stlareavpc.org/safer-summer>
- We partnered with RECAST to fund a series of Safer Summer STL events for youth between now and September. Funded projects include:
 - Conflict Resolution Center
 1. Peer mentoring program development for St. Louis high schools
 2. Tentative August Kickoff Event
 - North St. Louis Arts Council
 1. gART, a metal smithing, graphic design, and jewelry-making project for youth
 - Saint Louis Story Stitchers
 1. Dance Battles
 - a. 8/10/21, 6-9pm
 - b. 9/11/21, 4-7pm
 - c. Strauss Park, 3534 Washington Ave, 63103
 2. Stitchcast Studio LIVE
 - a. 8/13/21, 6-8pm
 - b. 8/27/21, 6-8pm
 - c. 9/10/21, 6-8pm
 - d. 9/24/21, 6-8pm
 - e. 3524 Washington Ave, 63103
 - The Ethics Project Youth-Led Gun Violence Initiative
 1. Community beautification/improvement, discussions, food, music, app development, project management skills building
 2. 7/31, 9am-1pm, Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club Teen Center
 3. 8/7, 9am-1pm, Herbert Hoover Boyd & Girls Club, Grand Blvd.
 4. 8/14, 9am-1pm, Greenwood Cemetery
 5. 8/28, 9am-1pm, Virtual
 6. 9/11, 9am-1pm, Art Hill
 - The St. Louis Arts Chamber (STLACC), ArtWorks, Pocket Parks (PP) and West End CID
 1. Rehabbing of vacant lot at 5902 Clemons to include park and art exhibits designed by youth and local artists
 2. Hodiamont Tracks Ice Cream Social on August 7, 2021
 - Gentlemen of Vision

1. Mentoring program including training in adult CPR, child CPR, First Aid Certification, Conflict Resolution, Officer Engagement and De- Escalation training
2. Monday-Thursday, 3:30-5:30pm, Virtual
 - o The T
 1. Punch Love Boxing with Family Safety/Community First Responder Component
 - a. 8/3/21, 6-8pm, - Barrett Brothers Park, Goodfellow and St. Louis Ave, 6-8pm, in collaboration with Organization for Black Struggle
 - b. 8/6/21, 3-8pm, Koeneman Park, 8937 Lucas and Hunt Rd, Jennings, MO 63136
 - c. 8/20/21, 4-8pm, Futra & UMUMC, 1141 Belt Ave.
 - d. 9/10/21, 3-8pm, Fairgrounds Park
 2. Bullet-Related Injury Clinic Community Healing & Recovery Groups
 - a. Wednesdays 7/7/21-9/15/21, 6-8pm
 - b. The T, 5874 Delmar St. Louis, MO 63112
 3. CommUNITY Arts STL
 - a. CommUNITY Arts Bus transportation to get youth who have been impacted by community violence to arts camps/programs
 4. The Collective STL
 - a. Wellness programs including chair yoga, mat yoga, meditation, journaling, hiking, art, kids' corner, music, food trucks
 - b. Saturdays in August & September, 9:30am-noon, Arch Grounds
 - More information will be shared on VPC's social media (@stlareavpc on Facebook & Twitter) and Blueprint4Summer
 - If you are planning a youth event, please email jessica@stlareavpc.org and we will cross-promote
5. Missouri Foundation for Health Firearms Survey
 - Jessi LaRose
 - Slides included in meeting PPT
6. Committee Updates
 - Violent Injury Prevention/Cardiff- Data sharing agreement with BJC signed
 - Policy & Systems Change- submitted ideas to Academic Health Department, will be planning more events around the police legitimacy/CBA recommendations
 - Evaluation- working with Homegrown STL to build capacity and infrastructure to survey Black males on their personal safety
 - Service Delivery- updating method to get to GVRN through 211, will print new cards/flyers
7. Cure Violence Update
 - <https://www.stlareavpc.org/heartbeat-of-hope-st-louis-monthly->
8. Partner Announcements
 - Story Stitchers- Dr. Echols will be at their July 30th StitchCast LIVE podcast event

Fri July 30 - Strauss Park

6:00 PM

**Covid Vaccine
Fears and Facts**

with Special Guest
Dr. Frederick Echols,
Acting Director
of the Department of Health
for the City of St. Louis

Food Truck

Free for 16-24 year olds!
6:00-8:00

7:30 PM - Talent Showcase!

\$200 for the Audience Favorite!

16-24 years old with Photo ID

3534 Washington Ave

STORYSTITCHERS.ORG



- From Poli- Through funding from Health Forward Foundation, our family in KC has launched #AliveKC <https://www.awcommunities.org/alivekc> #AliveKC is an initiative of Alive & Well Communities (AWC) that is raising awareness around racial justice issues stemming from communal and historical trauma. We are creating change through story in the Kansas City metro area, uplifting innovative solutions in the areas of restorative justice, Black women entrepreneurship, family preservation efforts, community decision-making, and community mobilization. Feel free to reach out to us with your questions by either calling (816) 482-3465 or emailing info@awcommunities.org.
- From Shelley Flynn-Harding- : We have an upcoming HomeGrown StL Mentoring Alliance training (supported by the Safe and Thriving grant) This training is for service providers, mentors and anyone who is interested in expanding and improving access to mentoring services to Black males in StL. To learn more and register here is the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/162587380231>

The HomeGrown StL Mentoring Alliance Presents:
**Mentoring Black Boys and Young Men
 in Today's Climate with Ernest Bradley,
 Men on Business**



Trainer: Ernest
 Bradley, Men on
 Business

You will learn:

- (1) strategies for recruitment and engagement
- (2) techniques and methods for supporting skill development
- (3) how to effectively incorporate experiential learning opportunities into your programming

August 10th 2021 from 10-12 via ZOOM

Register: tinyurl.com/ynwkjbz9

HOMEGRWNStL

- From Perri- Loyola Academy is looking for 6th grade students to attend the school



**LOYOLA ACADEMY
 OF ST. LOUIS**

Admissions Criteria

- Students must be eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program
- Completed application
- Signed Records Release Form or copy of former school's records
- Two current pay stubs
- Copy of prior year's tax return, w-2s and date filed page
- If applicable: SS award letter, Child Support award letter, Food Stamp award letter, and proof of Divorce/Separation
- Students and their families must be prepared to commit to an extended school day and an extended school year
- Students must show evidence of academic motivation and personal potential
- Students must demonstrate good student citizenship and character



Loyola Academy of St. Louis is a Jesuit middle school for boys who have the potential for college preparatory work, but whose progress may be impeded by economic or social circumstances. The Loyola community conducts a challenging program that supports families in preparing each student to achieve his full human potential.

- Rigorous content area preparation in English, Math and Science
- Evidence-based inclusive practices influenced by common core and other independent school curricula
- Integrative STEM education
- Eleven year graduate support program

Now Enrolling

Contact Information:

Perri Johnson,
 Director of Admissions,
 Loyola Academy of St.
 Louis
 Email:
admissions@loyolaacademy.org
 Phone Number:
 314-584-0194



- From Jessi- MFH just released a RFA to invite organization to apply for funds to plan and develop or implement a community-based, multi-sector, collaborative program that aims to minimize the use of law enforcement in situations involving individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. <https://mffh.org/the-foundation/funding-opportunities/diverting-to-care-request-for-applications/>
- From Kaleigh- For those of you engaging with or sharing info with families- St. Louis Public Schools still has FREE Pre-K spots available for this school year. Our program is full day for 3 and 4 year olds.
- From Theda- St. Louis County's Office of DEI & Human Rights Commission are hosting a series of events for their Equity Plan. <https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/administration/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/upcoming-events/building-equity-in-healthcare/>

9. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vpcquarterlyJuly21>

Next Quarterly Meeting: October 22, 2021