

# St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

October 23, 2020 | 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.

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## AGENDA:

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

a) Alyssa Finner, Amanda Holmes, Baleigh Hill, Ben Scholle, Bridget Jones, Bryan Quick, CJ, Candace Da Silva, Carlette Rhone, Caroline Mitchell, Charles Bryson, Constance Siu, Craig Schmid, David Dwight, Debra Harper-LeBlanc, Del Moeller, Earl Strauther, Ed Bryant, Emily Vandas, Erin Pohl, Evin Russell, Gayla Gibson, Grace Anderson, Hannah Kramer, Hope Hopwood, Ida Casey, Jessica Meyers, Joel Sjerven, John, Justin Storie, Kateri Chapman-Kramer, Katie Dalton, Katie Noll, Kim Westerman, Kristen Mueller, LJ Punch, Lisa Potts, Lynn, Maggie Barone, Malika Poindexter, Marley Graviss, Mary Schuman, Mary Leopold, Mason Simmons, Michael Mancini, Mike Lamping, Morgan Fauth, Amber Cole, Nancy Spargo, Norman Mann, Paul Sorenson, Paula M. Southerland, Perri Johnson, Poli Rijos, Rashma James, Richard Rosenfeld, Serena Muhammad, Shameka Davis, Valorie Sparks, Vetta Sanders Thompson, Warren Hayden, Wilma Calvert, Felice McClendon, Rodrick Burton

### 2. CBA Recommendations Update

a) Report available at [stlareavpc.org/cba](http://stlareavpc.org/cba)

b) Questions/Concerns

- o Cost-benefit analysis for mandatory mental health evaluation has not been done yet
- o Must be careful about how the mental health evaluation data is used
- o Not all mental health evaluations are created equal
- o What alternatives are there to tear gas and rubber bullets?

1. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/06/05/less-lethal-weapons-protests/?arc404=true>

2. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-less-lethal-weapons-actually-do/>

3. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/08/04/tear-gas-bans-a-policing-change-not-gaining-traction>

4. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/dec/10/why-america-must-have-alternatives-to-tear-gas-and/>

5. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/06/what-nonlethal-weapons-can-do-to-the-body-george-floyd/>
6. <https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/riotcontrol/factsheet.asp>
7. Should have clear use of force policy (demonstration/protest vs. riot, clear escalation of techniques, multiple warnings, use alternative crowd control measures including pepper spray, sonic/acoustic weapons, mounted police, etc.
  - o What about aerial surveillance? We have not identified that as an evidence-based public health intervention. Other groups are advocating it, but VPC is not.
3. Community Engagement/Technical Assistance
  - a) What technical assistance is needed in communities?
4. Safe Space/Youth Events
  - a) Pivot from safe spaces priority due to COVID outbreak
  - b) Meant to respond to groups of youth congregating downtown with nothing to do to prevent it from becoming a police issue
  - c) Have already partnered with Dr. LJ Punch and StoryStitchers on events
  - d) Could look into how better to cross-promote events, but have purposely kept them small due to COVID restrictions
  - e) If you want to partner on a socially-distanced, safe event, email Lisa Potts (lpotts@stlmhb.com)
5. Cure Violence Update
  - a) VPC continues to staff the Steering Committee
  - b) Wells Goodfellow/Hamilton Heights is partially up and running, Walnut Park and Dutchtown should be receiving their training soon
  - c) The sites are still hiring through Employment Connection and Urban League
  - d) The Health Department is negotiating with a university partner to evaluate the program
  - e) The Steering Committee will be hosting a press conference to update on the progress
  - f) The Steering Committee is looking for youth members. To apply or nominate someone 25 or under, email Felice McClendon (felice@stlareavpc.org)
6. Gun Violence Response Network/211 Update
  - a) 211 intake is up and running.
  - b) Anyone who has experienced gun violence and needs services can call 211, press 2 to speak to a navigator, then tell them they were the victim of gun violence
7. Strategic Planning Group Sign Up
  - a) It's time for VPC to update our objectives, committee structure, etc.
  - b) We are recruiting volunteers to help with strategic planning
  - c) It will be 1 or maybe 2 meetings.
  - d) Sign up by October 30 at <http://bit.ly/vpcstratplan20>
8. Coalition Effectiveness Survey
  - a) We are again launching the Coalition Effectiveness Survey about how VPC is adding value to our members.
  - b) Please take the survey by November 6 at <http://bit.ly/vpcces2020>
9. Partner Announcements
  - a) Crime Victim Center is hosting Party with a Purpose fundraiser  
<https://fb.me/e/3ifimTZM3>

- b) The Y is hosting a youth event with VPC
- c) US Attorney's Office is hiring:  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/582519700>
- d) Poli, Nhial, & Paula are all presenting at the APHA Conference
  - o <https://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/462934>
- e) Women's Voices Raised has pivoted their Lock It For Love program to give away gun locks at County Libraries and City Libraries are joining, too.
- f) Planting event at Healing & Meditation Garden on 10/24
- g) WUSTL Institute for Public Health's annual conference, this year's theme is COVID-19. It'll be a hybrid event, happening next Thursday!  
<https://publichealth.wustl.edu/events/covid-19-pandemic-response-lessons-learned-and-recovery/>
- h) Nov 20th: The Collaborative for Community-Centered Conversations, known as Collaborative Café. This session will focus on Process for developing and launching a community advisory board (CAB) Steps for adding community partners to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) application <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/events/collaborative-cafe/>
- i) Forward Through Ferguson has launched their Racial Healing & Justice Fund. More info at: <https://forwardthroughferguson.org/healingjustice/>

#### 10. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

- a) <http://bit.ly/vpcoctober20>

Next Quarterly Meeting: TBD 2021