

# St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

January 22, 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.

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## AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions- Afia Twumasi, Alyssa Finner, Amanda Holmes, Amy Cunningham, Baleigh (CVC), Brigid Welch, Brittany Nieto, Carlette Lewis Rhone, Caroline Mitchell, Charles Bryson, Christina Brimm, Chris Fahy, Constance Siu, Ben Cooper, Craig Schmid, Darlene, Del Moeller, Elizabeth Vandenberg, Erin (CVC), Grace Anderson, Gwen Thompson, Hannah Kramer, Heather Bond, Jennifer Holzhauer, Hope Hopwood, Jessica LaRose, Joan Butcher, John Harper, Justin Storie, Kaleigh Lawrence, Katie Dalton, Keith Crafword, Kim Westerman, Laura Lytle, Lisa Potts, Luther Tyus, Lynn Waldhauser, Maggie Barone, Marcel Scaife, Marley Graviss, Mary Schuman, Mason Simmons, Matthew Brummund, Michele Mosley, Mike McLively, Nancy Spargo, Paige Vaughn, Paige Walden-Johnson, Paula Southerland, Perez Maxwell, Perri Johnson, Malika Poindexter, Poli Rijos, Rashma James, Rob Donnelly, Samra, Stephanie Herbers, Susan Colangelo, Susan Scribner, Sydney Theerman, Tara Aubuchon, Tara Stevens, Ted Simpson, Theda Person, Anne Trolard, Vetta Sanders Thompson, Victoria Anwuri, Vontriece McDowell, Warren Hayden, Wilma Calvert, Yusef Scoggin, Bryan Quick, Felice McClendon, Serena Muhammad, Jessica Meyers
2. Strategic Planning Update  
<http://bit.ly/vpcstratplan>
  - a) New Committee/Taskforce Sign up
    - o Communications & Cobranding Committee- Communicating what VPC is doing as a regional strategy as well as individual projects like the Gun Violence Response Network
    - o Municipal Engagement Taskforce- VPC is regional and needs a strategy to engage municipalities in addition to St. Louis City and County.
    - o Safe Spaces Taskforce- Creating standards and capacity-building for youth safe spaces and youth pop up events
  - b) Leadership Council
    - o Keep Current Structure- 22%
    - o Keep Leadership Council as Advisory Council- 44%
    - o Disband Leadership Council- 22%
    - o Other- 11%

c) Decision Making Structure

- Leadership Council- 22%
- Committee Cochairs- 33%
- Staff (Jessica, Lisa, Felice, Janae, Serena)- 17%
- Other- 28%
  1. All 3
  2. Staff w/ Leadership Council in support role
  3. Staff and cochairs
  4. Staff as advisors to a committee of Leadership & Cochairs
  5. Staff & Cochairs

3. DRAFT Mayoral Priorities

a) To be presented to all candidates. VPC cannot endorse but we want them to know what our priorities are going forward rather than waiting for the election then building awareness and support.

b) Infrastructure

- Maintain funding for the Office of Children, Youth & Families in the Mayor's Office with continued focus on violence prevention programming
- Commit to funding public health infrastructure to support the public health approach to violence prevention
- Assign staff to participate on the VPC Leadership Council and committees as appropriate

c) Investments

- Continue to fund Cure Violence, Cops & Clinicians, 911 diversion as an alternative/supplement to traditional enforcement policing
- Invest in remediation of known, evidence-based drivers of violence in St. Louis including vacancy abatement & remediation
- Invest in safe spaces for youth and young adults
- Use a rigorous, comprehensive strategy to allocating Prop S funds

d) Policing

- Community voice in police department collective bargaining negotiations
- Revamping the police performance evaluation process to include community policing
- Implement a rigorous mental health program for officers including mandatory preventative mental health evaluations by qualified clinicians and access to adequate resources to meet their mental health needs including time off and available mental health professionals from outside the department

SPEAC Mayoral Forum on February 10 at 6:30pm

(<http://bit.ly/stlmayoralforum21>)

4. Cure Violence Update

- a) Fully launched in December 2020
- b) 10 block catchment area in each of the 3 neighborhoods (Walnut Park East and West, Wells Goodfellow/Hamilton Heights, Dutchtown)
- c) The Steering Committee which consists of community members will begin doing more communications about the program so the community has a source of correct and complete information about the program

5. Partner Announcements

- a) In July 2020, the Conflict Resolution Center-St. Louis (“CRC”) launched its Eviction Prevention Mediation Program. Since then, CRC has conducted over 600 intakes and 360 eviction prevention mediations. 84% of these mediations fostered agreements, payment plans, and/or applications for funds through the City of St. Louis. And, in less than 6 months, the program disbursed \$172,000 of rental assistance to residents of St. Louis City. As the pandemic continues, CRC is continuing its Eviction Prevention operations in 2021. CRC is also expanding the reach of its other programming with its team of volunteer mediators. Areas of focus include: employment, neighborhood (community), and citizen/police mediation.
- b) You are invited to a Public Safety Awareness Meeting -- Cure Violence in St. Louis
- o Hosted by FBU (Federation of Block Units), part of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
  - o -- The Public Safety Committee/St. Louis Safety Group
  - o SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 at 10 AM
  - o Join Zoom Meeting
  - o <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2036453873?pwd=WEUzSWWhZT2xIzTIXemsMVliL1RIQT09>
  - o Meeting ID: 203 645 3873
  - o Passcode: 1932
  - o You can also call in with your phone, but that would obviously pre-empt your visual presentation. +1 312 626 6799
  - o Meeting ID: 203 645 3873
  - o Passcode: 1932
- c) Upcoming programs from Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice:
- o “Liberty & Justice for SOME: Our Broken Public Defender System,” Thursday, February 11 at 7 :00 PM
  - o Lunch & Learn with State Sen. Brian Williams on SB 60, the police accountability bill, Friday, February 19 at noon
  - o Registration is required for both at [www.womensvoicesraised.org](http://www.womensvoicesraised.org)
- d) Story Stitchers coming up: <https://storystitchers.org/portfolio/upcoming/>
- o Story Stitchers Youth Opportunity <https://storystitchers.org/stitchcast-studio-podcaster-page/>
- e) Homegrown STL upcoming Town Hall, Who is safe in St. Louis? Examining Why Black Male Personal Safety is Critical for A Better St. Louis. This Town Hall will highlight the widespread impacts of Black male personal safety on individuals and systems, and provide tools for actionable change. As part of this Town Hall, HomeGrown is conducting a survey with Black boys and men 12 years of age and older to better understand their perceived personal safety and personal safety practices. All eligible participants who complete the survey will have a chance to win one of eight \$20 gift cards for their participation.
- o To register for the Town Hall, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/who-is-safe-in-st-louis-tickets-136824350315>
  - o To take the survey, click here: [https://wustl.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_42ato0ZQzbZQC3A](https://wustl.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42ato0ZQzbZQC3A)
- f) Doors to Success Adult Education servings youth ages 17-23, has in-person classes with safety precautions available. must call to register 314-615-0221,

Mon-Thurs 9-12

g) From Poli:

- o <https://publichealth.wustl.edu/events/building-and-extending-community-engaged-research/>
- o <https://teespring.com/social-work-2021?pid=46&cid=2749&fbclid=IwAR22s7ZfgXDkbAnST-AhCOAtm8FQK5bbrXM6kAkY-RRGUL1zI1U-JciUkmw>
- o Family Care Health Center is hiring a community health worker
- o Pitch Partners, with the help of VPC funded 3 projects with the Neighborhood Leadership Fellows

- h) Upcoming landlord training focused on Evictions: You are invited to a Landlord & Rehabber Training, Tuesday, January 26, 6:30-8:30pm, Best Practices to Avoid Eviction, offered online in a Zoom meeting. Register here:
- o [https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctcOGspz4sG9z4ghj7B5JawFb\\_LDONfmEY](https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctcOGspz4sG9z4ghj7B5JawFb_LDONfmEY)
  - o Presentations to include: Karen Tokarz, Attorney, Washington University Law School Professor, President of STL Mediation Project, expert in dispute resolution, will discuss the successful outcomes of mediation as an alternative to eviction, and eviction moratoriums related to Covid-19
- i) Paige is teaching free youth dance classes with Pianos for People. Please share with youth ages 3-12. Register Link: <https://pianosforpeople.org/free-lessons/cherokee-studio>
- j) The YMCA has their first branch certified for teen mental health first aid.

6. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

<http://bit.ly/vpcjanuary2021>

Next Quarterly Meeting: April 23, 2021