

## Public Records Request #3285

The following materials have been gathered in response to public records request #3285. These materials include:

- An Evidence-Based Approach to Violence Reduction

This information was provided as a response to a public records request on 1/22/20 and is current to that date. There is a possibility of more current information and/or documents related to the stated subject matter.

### Further Information

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For further information about this request or the Citywide Records Program, please contact:

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# An Evidence-Based Approach to Violence Reduction

Office of the City Manager  
January, 2019



# GOALS OF TODAY

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Review key points from 1.6.20 Council presentation

Agree on committee charge and expected outcomes for violence reduction work

RECAP



# DEFINING THE ISSUE

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- **Violence takes many forms in our communities** and can affect residents across their life span, with widespread impacts to individuals, families and communities
- **Violence is recognized as a public health issue** resulting from exposure to numerous risk factors arising from contextual, biological, environmental, systemic, and social stressors
- **Violent trauma is a recurrent disease** – locally, 1 in 4 victims experience repeat victimization or death after violent trauma
- Current **approach to violence prevention and reduction is fragmented** and relies heavily on policing and the criminal justice system
- Timing is right for a **more integrated approach** that supports extensive **cross-sectoral collaboration** with an emphasis on violence prevention and interruption and a reliance on data and evidence



# MULTI-LEVEL RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE PERPETRATION

## COMMUNITY

- Concentrated poverty
- Diminished economic opportunities
- High residential mobility
- High level of family disruption
- Socially disorganized neighborhoods

## INDIVIDUAL

- History of violent victimization
- History of early aggressive behavior / high emotional distress
- Involvement with drugs or alcohol
- Exposure to violence and conflict in the family



## SOCIETAL

- Rapid social change
- Gender, social, racial, and economic inequalities
- Poverty
- Weak economic safety nets
- Cultural norms that support violence

## RELATIONSHIP

- Parental substance abuse or criminality
- Authoritarian parenting practices
- Association with violent / delinquent peers
- Low socioeconomic status of household

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory model. Adapted from World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION

| Category                       | Programs  | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Local Examples  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Youth Prevention               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood/home visitation</li> <li>• Mentoring programs: delinquency</li> <li>• School-based violence &amp; bullying prevention programs</li> <li>• Extracurricular activities for social engagement</li> <li>• Summer youth employment</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurse-Family Partnership</li> <li>• Early Head Start</li> </ul>  |
| Justice-Involved Interventions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multisystemic Therapy for juvenile offenders</li> <li>• Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for offenders</li> <li>• Functional Family Therapy</li> <li>• Restorative Justice</li> <li>• Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care</li> <li>• Drug Courts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple practices in use within programs primarily administered by Mecklenburg County, Sherriff’s Office</li> </ul> |
| Policing                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot spot policing</li> <li>• Focused deterrence strategies</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime analytics</li> <li>• Priority offenders team</li> </ul>  |
| Planning & Policy              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol outlet density restrictions</li> <li>• Firearm access laws</li> </ul>  | X Some regulation, state preemption   |
| Health Model                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence interruption programs</li> </ul>  | X Potential gap   |

What Works for Health Tool Evidence Ratings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Accessed 10/18/19 at [https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/policies?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=violence&items\\_per\\_page=10&f%5B0%5D=field\\_program\\_evidence\\_rating%3A1](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/policies?search_api_views_fulltext=violence&items_per_page=10&f%5B0%5D=field_program_evidence_rating%3A1).  
Scientifically Supported or Some Evidence



# EXAMPLE CITIES – BEST PRACTICES

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- **Broad, collaborative partnerships** plus a Lead Agency (typically not a law enforcement agency) with intentional management structure
- **Community voice and agency** in both the planning process and implementation of violence reduction strategies
- **Informed by data and evidence**, includes monitoring and evaluation
- **Youth engagement**
- **Neighborhood problem-solving**
- Building **strong police-community relations**
- Focus on **systemic issues** and root causes
- Implementation of **public health violence interruption** program:
  - Focus on most at-risk populations and neighborhoods
  - Employment of violence interrupters
  - Provision of wrap-around social services
- **Community will** to invest in evidence and sustain efforts over the long term





# CITY OF CHARLOTTE PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES

|          | Program / Strategy  | Best Practice | Evidence-Based |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------|
| Direct   | Hot Spot Policing   | Yes           | Yes            |
|          | Focused Deterrence  | Yes           | Yes            |
|          | Youth Diversion Program   | Yes           | Yes*           |
|          | Youth Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Envision Academy</li> <li>REACH Academy</li> <li>Right Moves for Youth</li> </ul>   | Yes           |                |
|          | Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design   | Yes           |                |
| Indirect | Youth Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor’s Youth Employment Program</li> <li>Charlotte Out-of-School Time Funding</li> </ul> | Yes           |                |
|          | Nuisance Abatement  | Yes           |                |
|          | Employment Programs   | Yes           |                |
|          | Housing Programs  | Yes           |                |
|          | JumpStart Safety Micro-Grants**   | Yes           |                |

Note: Programs that are evidence-based undergo additional levels of academic scrutiny and evaluation; best practices are generally accepted, standardized methods or programs that have proven successful over time.

\*Based on local program evaluation

\*\* JumpStart Safety Micro-Grants are community-led which is an evidence based strategy to building community capacity, but the program itself has not undergone rigorous evaluation

- ✓ The City of Charlotte currently employs several evidence-based violence reduction strategies
- ✓ Program and example city research suggests there is room to explore additional evidence-based approaches that could have impact
- ✓ Collaboration and information sharing among departments and governments will be necessary to address violence as a public health issue
- ✓ Policing is a critical component, but is only one piece of addressing violence
- ✓ This expanded conversation is a step towards broadening the discussion and being more strategic and intentional

**Future steps will require a comprehensive, collaborative, data-driven approach to ensure sustainability**



# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR DISCUSSION



# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION

**City, County, Partners and Community work together** to reduce violence, increase economic opportunity, and build healthier, more resilient communities

Community Collaborative Approach in Priority Areas

Implement Violence Interruption Program

Invest in Community – Led Efforts

Use Data & Evidence

## Expected Outcomes:

Violence Reduction, Healthier Neighborhoods, Increased Access and Awareness of Youth and Family Programs and Services, Increased Community Capacity

# COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Committee should **establish an evidence-based framework** to **reduce violence** in our community with an **assessment of current city programs** as well as **programs in benchmark cities**.  
This is the first step of a strategic process.

*\*The time frame for developing this framework is 60 days.*

*\*Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb 4, 12:00pm-1:30pm*



# DISCUSSION