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CITY OF ALBANY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Final Report to the Common Council

January 26, 2009

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Forward

Reverend Dr. Edward B. Smart

My fellow citizens and friends,

It is with a great sense of humility that I find myself at this cross road knowing the responsibility that you have entrusted to me has been an awesome task accounting for over a year, and yet no one is certain of what lies ahead.

I am grateful to Mayor Gerald D. Jennings and the Honorable members of the Common Council here in Albany for allowing me to serve the people as a member of The Gun Violence Task Force. I wish to congratulate my colleagues for their time and great work over the past year.

The recommendation and other documents submitted I pray will help us save lives and spare families who are suffering from the turbulence generated by illegal guns and the violence that ensues. The merchant of Syracuse stated in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, "this my comfort: when your words are done." Solinus responds "say in brief the cause." The document, we humbly present, contains suggestions, plans, documentation, data, opinions and untested solutions. The answer rests within us. "We the people of (Albany) in order to form a more perfect union," states clearly the role we all must embrace.

Fellow Albanians we must decide, we must make a decision that Guns and Violence on our streets and in our community has taken its last victim and we will no longer tolerate death and destruction in our Beloved Albany. We must fight back and struggle to recover that which has been taken from us. Our children are precious and I submit that our elected official, Albany's Finest, the DA's office, the County Sheriff and others who serve us cannot alone reclaim this our sacred trust. "Most sacrilegious murder hath broken The Lord's anointed temple" (Shakespeare, *Macbeth*).

The ultimate key, the catalyst for victory and restoration rests within us. Illegal guns and the ensuing violence have wreaked a terrible revenge upon our children and the citizens of Albany. We represent, in partnership, with this document a new age dawning, a new age that will make the institution of death and destruction seems an anachronism. When we stand together and demonstrate by our actions that we have the ability and the courage to stand up and say enough is enough. We must unite shoulder to shoulder and rebuke the destruction and death that threatens all that is good and just. We must recover, regain, recoup, and retrieve the Least, the Lost, and the Left Behind. We must amend our thinking and rectify our reluctance to expose community guns and their hiding places. We must reform and serve notice to all those that would take the lives of our children that Gun violence will no longer be tolerated in this sacred trust.

We will no longer be barren, sterile, and unfruitful, we shall give birth to a new productive Albany where Guns and its violence will not be tolerated. I encourage you to join me and others in "providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this ..." our Albany our Constitution our City.

Hon. Betty Barnette

After a years worth of meetings, discussions, public forums, debates and draft reports, the work of the city's Gun Violence Task Force is coming to an end. However, it appears that with all of the fine work that has been done relative to a final document to be presented for consideration to the Mayor and Common Council any such document would be incomplete without some discussion regarding the impact that race and poverty have on the proliferation of gun violence. On nearly every occasion in which the task force engaged in dialogue with community members the issue of race, poverty and the impact that each had on an individuals life were raised as issues of community concern. To live in a community where abandoned buildings are more numerous than the ones occupied, where it is the norm to hear gun fire daily, where the streets are littered with paper and broken glass, is not the environment from which a positive approach to life is fostered.

In his award winning book "Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America", Geoffrey Canada writes about his experience growing up as an African American male in the inner city and he writes that " as a young child he learned that only those that can fight will survive. When he reached adolescence, the knife was the weapon of choice, but for today's youth, which he calls, (the handgun generation) it is the pistol. Canada explains exactly what growing up in this war zone does to the psyche: fear, doubt and anger crowd the mind, driving out love, friendship and laughter. There is no post-traumatic stress syndrome, because there is no post".

The words used by those who presented themselves to the task force for testimony may not have been delivered with the same eloquence as Mr. Canada, however the passion was palpable. Although violence crosses geographic, socio-economic, ethnic and even racial lines, it was apparent during the hearing that the inner city communities were most often the primary location for either random or intentional gun violence. Community members spoke to the frequency of hearing gunshots being fired in their neighborhoods and to the feeling of hopelessness that was ever present relative to their plight. Some spoke to the unequal distribution of resources (i.e.: community centers, drugstores, neighborhood markets) and suggested that possibly the increase in gun violence could be linked to this perceived inequity. A community without hope is a desolate waste land where nothing can grow including promise for tomorrow. A young person without adequate educational preparation, who also lacks the care and concern from his community, will often make unwise choices to receive attention, thereby instant gratification.

"If you wonder how a fourteen-year-old can shoot another child his own age in the head and then go home to dinner, "Canada writes," you need to know you don't get there in a day, or week, or month. It takes years of preparation to be willing to commit murder, to be willing to kill or die for a corner, a color, or a leather jacket.

It is imperative that a frank discussion be had by stake-holders from City Hall to Arbor Hill, from the schools to the churches, from the gang leaders to the community elders a dialogue that would lend itself to solving a problem that has reached proportions far beyond anything that we would have ever envisioned for the city of Albany. Ego and fragile feelings must be left at the door, children are dying, and a generation's promise is being lost to senseless gun violence.

Reverend Valerie F. Faust

The meetings, over the past year, of the Albany Gun Violence Task Force were filled with spirited deliberations, passionate expressions by members and the public, out-bursts of anger and frustration, and an obvious display of urgency to work together to find workable and sustainable solutions that could alleviate or, at best, decrease the incidences of gun violence in the City of Albany.

My honorable colleagues and I worked diligently for the past twelve months to fulfill our task to come up with a document that would: shed light on the root causes of gun violence; explore solutions that may help to alleviate the problem of gun violence; and to turn in a final report of recommendations that the City of Albany can put into action to promote healthy families and children, thriving and safe communities, and chiefly, a significant reduction of gun violence.

To fulfill our goals, we solicited the help of professionals from around the country who shared their programs and initiatives used to fight gun violence in their own cities; we, attentively, listened to heart wrenching comments from parents who watched their young children run for cover as the sound of nearby gunshots filled the air; we heard from local politicians and ward leaders who were often angry about the continued gun violence in their neighborhoods; community activists voiced how fed up they were with, what they termed, inactivity by the leaders of the city in dealing with the problem; and representatives from Albany Medical center came to discuss a possible partnership with the city to help decrease the violence. All of us came together with one mind and one heart to end gun violence in our city. Although the expressions and views were different in many cases, and tempers flared at times, there was always unity around the main point – stop the violence.

My experience serving on the Gun Violence Task Force was both rewarding and very enlightening as I worked closely with a wonderful team of individuals who I greatly respect. I want to thank all of the people who came to the forums, the meetings and who sent emails to the Gun Violence Task Force to help us do a quality job. The final report that has emerged from this process is a testament of what can be done when the community comes together to solve a problem.

Leslie Fisher, M.P.H.

Archivist Attic: Some Thoughts and Vignettes : In Challenging Economic Times. Toward a City of Albany's(NY) Crisis Marshall Plan for Hope and Action on (Gun) Violence Prevention . Excerpts of My Own Adapted Commentary follow for use by other City, County , State and National change leaders and their publics to 'cherry pick – in walking that walk'. In: Final Report to City of Albany (NY) Mayor and Common Council , from The Task Force on Gun Violence . Panelists' Commentary Section. The Complete Task Force Report , forthcoming at:

<http://www.albanyny.org/Government/CityOfficials/CommonCouncil/GunViolenceTaskForce.aspx>
[x](#)

1. Some higher passions and historical authorities on why Albany (and elsewhere in NYS and nationwide) must and will succeed in violence prevention

- a. **Need to Change # 1 Public Myth**
- b. **From philosophy and theory to essential leadership practices : the Challenge of Crisis Change is now needed**
- c. **Forging a foundation for short range goals and objectives**
- d. **Toward working moderate to long range goals and objectives**

2 Thank you . And “Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue “(Deut)

1. A few higher passions and historical authorities on why Albany (and elsewhere in NYS and nationwide) must and will succeed in violence prevention * :

We must neither neglect to save a life in danger (Bible : Lev XIX: 16). Indeed, : “ Do not stand by when your neighbor’s blood is being shed” (Sifra Lev. on Lev. XIX: 16) (Contrast that with some American thinking or our many times “rights” to critiques but not responsibilities to “walk that walk” !).

.. “ When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof (where people use to socialize) so that you do not bring a blood guilt on anyone should fall from it” (Deut 22.8) The rationale of this positive and this negative commandment is one must anticipate all dangers and damages that might be caused by you or your property and that might bring about another's injury or death.(Even more so , perhaps, for the consumer product industry's and, where unreasonable, for the consumer's safety practices.) See also: Talmud. Bava Batron 2:5 on one's property (resources, monies, etc.) protecting someone else's property.

.. And from the Babylonian Talmud, Ketubot 41b: ruled from these Verses that “ a person should not raise a vicious dog or keep a rickety ladder in his house..”

..And the sixteenth -century Shulchan Aruch, the standard code of Jewish law ruled that if you dig a pit or well on your property , you have to make a railing around it or cover it so that no one falls in (Choshen Mishpat 427:7).

..And, in also from the Book of Exodus, “ Do not put a stumbling block before the blind (certainly anyone, especially to a young or older child who does not know the substantial or unreasonable risks involved nor can cope with them, e.g. a firearm)“(This also seems to mean giving false advise for his safety so as to make profit on injuries) (Lev IX, 14)

Do not make unto yourself idols : even to the extreme of ‘making you a (firearm) god’ or to our self greed .

And to many with other views, we quote Socrates who said about effective child violence prevention and safety: “If I could get to the highest plain in Athens, I would lift up my voice and say: “What mean ye, my fellow citizen, that ye turn every stone to scrape wealth together, and take so little care of your children to whom ye must one day relinquish all?” Or do we still, as some ancient “civilizations”, promote ‘pedicide’?

a. Need to Change # 1 Public Myth : In public health , injury and violence leadership values on cause, it is NOT always the person; nor community to ‘blame’ !

When the collective public, private and voluntary leadership does not carry out the ‘True North’- then that is the cause of woes! We are all a community, indeed obligated to help the needy and vindicate the poor and impoverished .

....

When I joined the City of Albany Gun Prevention Task Force, I was well familiar with injury , as a public health injury control historian , former program director at NYS Dept of Health and the Governor’s Office (successfully reducing pajama burns to children, changed mobile home fire standards, establishing child car restraint laws and aiding US Congress passage of poison control , toys safety/hazardous substances and other consumer product safety engineering regulations , laws and community -based grant program; and stopping other new imminent substantial injury risks into the state’s and nation’s market place) . With my public health roots in the Philadelphia ghetto, as one national resource and panel member for various federal governmental and national voluntary safety groups , i felt sure that i could transfer and apply those public health paradigms and archetypes to the Albany City Task Force Recommendations on the nature , extent causes and on modern prevention innovative practices on intentional (gun homicide and suicide) injury and deaths for i had written much about all that in profession journals and in the Albany Times Union written press, was in contact with nationwide colleagues’ works, had appeared on television news , had served with invited guest testimony for the US Surgeon General Hearings on National Goals and Objectives for the Violence of Suicide and presented at various City Common Council and other national testimonies, etc.....

But then , during our Task Force’s first public sessions and community forums - even with almost 45 years working in my public health profession - what soon ‘struck my passions and heart strings’ was to hear first hand from Albany citizens the common thread of the ‘lack of hope’ yet from families so dedicate to do the right thing for their children and families... and for many the feeling that government has let them down for decades

I was later equally shaken to hear the ole -school - blasphemy that the cause of violent injury behaviors was parents, alone, or the gun rights is fully preemptive and has nothing to do with gun violence prevention. These old canards of blaming the victim entirely for his or her condition had long disappeared from modern public health and injury prevention paradigms; and so has banning of all guns. - For the cause of injury is not just the person, his surroundings nor what the consumer product (s)he uses : The causative agent (like a disease germ) of violent and non-violent injury is kinetic (biological, thermal, electrical, mechanical, radiation) energy gone wrong ! In gun violence it's truly the gun being used illegally and improperly ; the lethal kinetic energy is severer than the use of a fist , knife or baseball bat and most other weapons and those are not substituted for the gun . Yet, some from the gun lobby have diverted blame by cutting off federal gun research , assuring loop hole trafficking and purchasing regulations and limiting other proven preventive gun safety approaches – even directly injuring the highest at risk for gun suicide – the gun owner ! That blame is a broad American tradition: we blamed workers in the industrial revolution for not following rules and directions (when the industrial injury risks were so substantial and unreasonable that even “being careful” would not make any difference) . We come from some religion-bases that blames and punishes the person who is the wrong doer, our nation’s rescinded Temperance Laws based on the evils of alcohol use.

The cause of gun violence is gun kinetic energy gone wrong. This does not mean as the NRA would prompt that solution is to “ ban the gun” (one does not ban the automobile -also ranking very high in injury and death associations) .The first injury prevention public health strategy ‘eliminates the energy source’ - usually by unsuccessful unproven attempts to change human behavior – then yields to nine other public health injury prevention strategies . Many of those effective strategies are recommended in our Task Force Report : ‘Separating the biological and mechanical energy away from each other in time or space (disease theory of embargos) from’ the next gun shooting victim (Cease Fire, Chicago), ‘modifying the energy that might go wrong’ using public health nurses visits or cost –saving universal school curricula in violence prevention , to a ninth and tenth preventive of using the best emergency care, many other criminal justice or physical and mental rehabilitation/ crisis grieving strategies for the victims and families.

So, there is hope if only we can use many of our reported modern best practices to reduce gun violence – applicable to Albany - from our Task Force Report. The Task Force members searched and applied the latest public research and practice tools on violence prevention and control from the criminal justice and prevention disciplines, the US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, the Children’s Safety Network, the American Public Health Association Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section ... even newest research citing older criminals who had lead poisoning as young children not currently able to limit their impulse control that can lead to gun violence - but mostly from each of our diverse Task Force membership experiences.

The Task Force Report IS NOT JUST a report , it cites where prevention actually shows cost-savings from limiting medical care, job loss, family incomes, and city/state and regional taxes . We cite the potential for improving the fine work already done by many of the City’s dedicated officials , its groups and residents that is leading the way on national city, rural and suburban violence prevention, limiting and after affects... But “ just being firmly opposed to ‘rainy days’ won’t keep

you dry in a storm' (Eugene Robinson. syndicated written press columnist ."Terrorists don't care about new cabinet ". Dec 2, 2008)

b. From philosophy and theory to essential leadership practices : the Challenge of Crisis Change is now needed.

'Your are not required to complete the task , but neither are you permitted to withdraw from it .'(Perke Avot , Talmud, 2nd century).

I feel our Report to the City Council and Mayor will not become, just another report :

- In the nineteenth century, Shattuck's Report in Boston or Chadwich's in England - on rational and the later on emotive public leadership for changing of poor housing conditions - was like any 'book-shelved reports' , unable to directly leverage real change) . Our Report for change agent leaders , will serve as a sea change, milestone and steppingstone , even during tough economic times.. during the challenge of change .

c. Forging a foundation for short range goals and objectives

For any report requires assurances that it will be acted upon efficaciously . And in these economic times there will by necessity some feelings for escape and diversion of our cited issues. All responses must be "yes we can- we have the will to do" . The City needs a Marshall Plan- sim to that US action that bailed out most of Europe after the WWII.

The greatest' sins ' are despair and no actions!

Even if we can not print federal money it is the time to spend - not to balance city, state and federal budgets in this Depressed Economy (Paul Krugman. New York Times. Op Ed. Nov 14, 2008. page 14) and not spend just helping upstate horses nor new edifices , but on poverty , violence and those most in need .

Our Task Force recommendations will succeed if the City gradient phases in it's priorities with short range to moderate to long range actions framings that are concrete, doable, specific, and time framed, and who professionally will do them :

. Promotion of all City organizations, groups and individuals - especially from the growing membership on the new Ad Hoc Coalition on (overall) Violence Prevention to plan ,develop and initiate - to all to be present at Common Council , Mayor or other forums when the TF final report is reviewed or acted upon. As the overlay of our national, state and city economic woes, "we can't do violence prevention, now!", we must advocate, just as reform advocate, Edna Goldman, in the 1900's Lower East Side, NYC , stood on an egg crate publicly advocating changes in the plight of poverty that led to that generation's foundation and governmental funding of The Settlement House's effective educational , prevention programs and worker's rights to safety .

. Promote among all of us media talk shows and news commentaries on the TF report and its constructive focuses ; The Fourth Estate has historically moved new evidence-based or promising ideas and reforms. My and our job is not yet complete.

. The City mandated a Task Force to prepare a Report; it knew then and now that costs are going to be involved - and those are expected to be set aside . Governance traditionally also required agency reorganizing of key qualified staff to assure Task Force Report Recommendations and priorities are carried out effectively.

. The savings to the City for years of nonexistent or ineffective violence prevention programming and the known cost savings and cost containment from our recommended evidence-based actions , must be ethically ‘water dropped ’ - not just as another cost to the City . On the other hand, many effective City violence prevention programs need enhancements.

. City resource re-allocations and reorganizations of personnel and other resources are needed ; regional and national foundations and other funding sources must be sought for the moderate range Marshall action .

. Our State University departments can offer part –time students to serve as development staff to seek and apply for new national or local matching funds and donations ; the University’s Research Foundations can offer that conduit to help manage those funds for newer community – based resources.

. (And, i still believe, even today, that the model of state public health law amendments (e.g. Public Health Law 70 Laws of 1986) to increase state rates for health department hospital Medicaid reimbursement to designated regional prevention centers - nationally considered for its prevention successes by the National Academy of Sciences and even earlier had led to federal government funding enhancement to regional (poison control) centers - is viable now or in the moderate future.)

d. Toward working moderate to long range goals and objectives

Leaders’ temperament trumps their intellect: Characteristics of superior modern governmental, private and voluntary leaders are honesty, integrity, credibility, competence, forward looking shared vision / innovator, persistence, public service dedication, compassion and passion and action for others’ leadership gifts, enthusiasm, obligation for life-learning and for what is right or just, and systems approaches- especially in times of change – of not just technical / rational / analytical – not just snapshots of each and every problem area - but also emotional, political, inspirational, mindsets and psychodynamics leveraging or reframing on power and influence .ⁱ Superb researchers and practitioners are not exceptions to these historical leadership dynamics and suitable interventions. Even the dictator Stalin, with his power and influence, who lacked integrity and justice, recognized that the ‘thunder of history’ towers over the present like a mountain.

My hope is high and so should be each Albanian in need of gun violence prevention- from gun homicide suicide or 'accident'. Much has been done; more leadership is essential. ...As Charles Dickens *Christmas Carol* asserted during the poverty of (our) similar Victorian Age , after his visit by 'Christmas Future' : We , as Ole Scrooge can change . He saw his (and our) legacy that the future need not be dismal - and so will we prevent violent injury !

....

2. Thank you . And “Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue “(Deut)

I have enjoyed and appreciated the chance to be part of our great Task Force Team and its extension – each of you in the City of Albany . i have learned much from each of you and I hope I have also served you as well, my brothers , sisters and all my fellow human beings – now we must act together!

Thank you.

Les Fisher

My opinions are mine alone . Copyrighted LFisher 2008

Les

* I realize that just using biblical cites as a rhetorical device , especially as proof texts, can degrade the Bible and can appear and act as meer pious flourishes , and at worse, can replace substantial thought and inquiry into the complex, ambiguous, contradictory nature of our world and the biblical text. Those shortcomings are not my intent. I have cited selected translations to stimulate another historical base for our IC work, with an attempt not to appear distracting from others' faith's values and views –all of equal importance . (Source: Benjamin M. (Three Book Reviews). Interpreting Torah. Sh'ma Dec 2008 .Jewish Family & Life. Congress NY (www.shma.com) page 16-17.

Les Fisher M.P.H

Safety/Leadership Consultant,(Archivist, American Public Health Association, Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section - www.icehs.org - See my monthly newsletter commentaries and monographs at members only, on the history of injury control leadership at extranet.icehs.org)
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See especially: Newsletters, related Archivist Attic commentaries : Forthcoming Dec 2008 (The Great Depression) , Nov 2007 (Latest Book Reviews) , May 2007 (The Triangle Shirt Factory Fire) ,Feb 2007 (Letter to New York State Governor on Cost Containment from Injury Prevention Programs) , June 2006 (New Emerging Risks) ,Feb 2006 (Challenge of Change),Sept 2004 (historical safety reforms in New York State on auto, poisoning and burn injury prevention and control).March 2004 (history of leadership of poison prevention and control movement)

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Hon. Gerard E. Maney

As a Family Court Judge for over 17 years, I have witnessed on a daily basis the devastating effects of poverty, drugs, violence and use of weapons in our community. I have established a Family Treatment Court to assist mothers and fathers who have substance abuse issues and a Juvenile Drug Court for teenagers with drug problems. A majority of those addicted to drugs and alcohol have experienced trauma in their lives caused not only by their addictions but also caused by violence.

To stop the violence, we must understand the effects that dysfunctional families and poverty have on our community. We need to address the causes of violence. The whole community must be engaged and involved.

During the past year, community members provided the task force with comments and suggestions several public hearings. This report represents the collective energy and hard work of each and every member of the task force and valuable input from community members. It provides recommendations, effective strategies and programs for consideration and implementation by the City of Albany.

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

As a former prosecutor in this county, I have witnessed at close quarters the devastation visited upon this community by the proliferation of gun violence. While the personal toll of such violence on individuals and their families is incalculable, the larger societal toll is no less devastating. When any of our citizens perceive their streets to be unsafe and their neighborhoods as no longer hospitable places to raise a family, the weave of our society begins to fray. Left unchecked and unchallenged, this unraveling will ultimately affect the entire fabric of our city.

For the past year, this task force has been engaged in an examination of the root causes of gun violence and the strategies employed by other communities to address the problem. We have re-learned the age-old maxims that poverty breeds violence, and that violence begets violence. These observations are nothing new, but bear retelling. Much of the gun violence occurring on our streets has been spawned by the despair and hopelessness that flow from lives lived on the margins of society. The disintegration of functional families, coupled with widespread substance abuse, has ushered in a generation of youth for whom violence is not just an option, but a culture.

To change that culture will require not only the allocation of law enforcement resources, but also a realization that police and prosecutors alone are insufficient to address the needs of this at-risk generation. Unless we address the root causes of violence and invest our resources in rebuilding families and neighborhoods, the threads of our society will continue to unravel and future generations will inherit a less vibrant, less hospitable city.

The suggestions contained in this report are only guideposts we have found along the way. They point to paths other communities have taken in similar circumstances. It is our hope that the Mayor and Common Council find these recommendations helpful in the difficult work that lies ahead.

Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser

I am one of those Young Americans who grew up in the days of the nation's New Frontier and watched our dreams for a Better America shatter before our eyes when our President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas, Texas 45 years ago on November 22, 1963, a day also on which a Dallas police officer on duty was shot to death in the line of duty. We watched with sadness later that decade as other of our leaders, Senator Robert Kennedy and The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. were also shot to death.

I grew up from 1950-71 in Bayside, Queens, NYC, and did not have to deal with gun violence and other violence. There is no reason why residents in Albany now in 2008 and beyond have to deal with gun violence and other violence.

I lived in Albany's Pine Hills in two of UAlbany's Grad Student Dormitories from 1973-75 and did not have to deal with gun violence and other violence. There is no reason why residents in Albany now in 2008 and beyond have to deal with gun violence and other violence.

My wife and I have co-raised four wonderful children here in Uptown Albany (Ward 14) and did not have to deal with gun violence and other violence. There is no reason why residents in Albany now in 2008 and beyond have to deal with gun violence and other violence.

During September 2002, I was increasingly concerned about media reports of gun crimes in Albany including shootings. I began to chronicle media reports of any type of gun crime including both the print media and TV broadcasts and TV websites. I included not only shootings with injuries/deaths and shots fired incidents (without injuries/deaths), but also included gunpoint on-the-street robberies/muggings, gunpoint in-store robberies, gunpoint armed home invasions, pistol-whippings, arrests for CPW (Criminal Possession of a Weapon). Over six years there is a steady drumbeat of various gun crimes in this City. Some of these gun crimes include juveniles as shooters and juveniles as shooting victims. As I write this statement, I read that last night (November 20) at a market along Ontario Street, an unidentified gunman chased a second man into the grocery store and opened fire with a 9 millimeter handgun and fled the scene.

Let us never forget that on our watch with the Gun Violence Task Force, since first meeting in late November 2007, seven individuals residing in this City of Albany have died as homicide victims by gunfire, as follows:

1. Michael Franklin, Age 56
2. Kenyon Hawkins, Age 16
3. Bobby Jones, Age 26
4. Victor Anderson, Age 25
5. Kathina Thomas, Age 10
6. Nathan Walcott, Age 38
7. Richard Bailey, Age 22

The devastation caused by such gun violence and the accompanying trauma to the families, friends, and neighborhoods of these gun violence homicide victims is incalculable in its enormity. Additional individuals, since the start of the Task Force, have been injured by gunfire.

Albany kids have been killing and injuring kids. A 15-year old has been charged with the gun homicide of ten year old Kathina Thomas, who was playing in front of her home when she was shot and killed. The defendant is alleged to have been using a shared “community gun”.

In the months leading up to the formation of the Task Force, during August 2007, a 15 year old, Shahied Oliver, was shot and killed and the 15 year old shooter was convicted and sent to State Prison.

Across time, police in our City have also been the victims of gun violence. Albany Police Lieutenant John Finn was the latest such victim. He was shot in December 2003 and died from his gunfire injuries during February 2004.

Each time a gunfire victim is treated at a Level One Regional Trauma Center such as Albany Medical Center Hospital, the average cost, from a review of the applicable literature, tends to be \$18,000, with some variation around our nation. Cases with major complications from gunfire injury such as SCI (Spinal Cord Injury), head injury etc may result in much larger immediate and lifetime care costs to society. Many gunfire victims through no fault of their own lack health insurance, and the costs are covered by Medicaid (part Federal, part State, part County), that is paid by taxpayers.

I rebut anyone who claims we have no money to spend for needed programs of various types to prevent gun violence and other violence. Each time there is a gunfire injury,

We are paying plenty already. We need to invest in programs in order to prevent gun violence and other violence in order to reduce the costs we are paying for such ongoing Hospital treatment each time there is a gunfire injury.

For cases in which there is justice system processing of gun offenders, there are the additional costs of police services, Albany County prosecutorial and public defender services, Albany County detention/incarceration services, and if sentenced to the State system, NY State incarceration costs (I have read that these average about \$37,000 per year per inmate) and post-incarceration parole services.

I have long held to a public health perspective which defines gun violence and other violence as a public health cluster of issues, not solely a police issue. I have noted at times that if we had a physical disease here in the City of Albany which caused the devastation caused by gun homicides, gun injuries, and community trauma from gun violence, we would have such violence termed an epidemic disease with appropriate treatment services from the health community.

There is a definite role I hope for AMCH (Albany Medical Center Hospital) in this attempt to craft a community-based solution to gun and other violence here in Albany. In 2007 prior to my Task Force service, I began advocacy before AMCH for implementation of a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program like ones developed in Baltimore (by Professor of Trauma Surgery Carnell

Cooper MD). Such programs have been demonstrated to reduce the rate of post-release retaliatory shootings, knifings and other violence by individuals treated for gunfire or other violence injuries (and released after treatment).

There is a definite role in our City and Region for a program such as the one pioneered by Professor Slutkin MD-University of Illinois at Chicago-Public Health School), which is named Chicago Ceasefire. Violence interrupters who are trained individuals indigenous to the various neighborhoods are present on the streets in order to hear what is ongoing and to be poised to constructively intervene in developing interpersonal situations so that mediation and defusing may occur and so that violence including gun violence may be prevented. We are fortunate that The Honorable Malcolm Smith, State Senator from Queens County and the incoming Majority/Democratic Leader of The NY State Senate, has strongly advocated Chicago Ceasefire as part of his program envisioned for locations around the State of NY in an effort to impact positively upon the gun and other violence afflicting our State. Hopefully Senator Smith will be able to secure much needed Federal and State funding, even in these difficult times, for such program implementation. As I have stated, we are already paying \$18,000 each time a gunfire victim is rushed to and treated in a Hospital, so securing funding for preventive programs such as Chicago Ceasefire is highly necessary.

I believe in larger societal contexts of gun and other violence. I have read important studies by our local Albany Catholic Diocese that here in the City of Albany a staggering 42 percent of young people under the age of 18 years are living in poverty. There is a longstanding, recognized professional social sciences and public health literature documenting the relationship between poverty and violence. We cannot succeed in attempts to eradicate gun and other violence from Albany while a key related condition of social justice-poverty including youth poverty, exists in our community.

From Day One of this Task Force in late November 2007, I have strongly stressed the importance of comprehensive attention to the core issue of illegally possessed, illegally transferred and illegally utilized firearms such as handguns in the City of Albany and how these illegal firearms enter this City, some of which are found in the hands of juveniles.

Four levels of Government (Federal, State, County and City) are funded specifically to ensure the public safety of the People of Albany. This responsibility includes comprehensive commitment and coordination to attack and reduce the flow of illegal firearms into this City. Whether you term this illegal flow gun proliferation or gun trafficking, the illegal supply lines must be comprehensively attacked and destroyed through law enforcement and prosecution.

Before and during the course of this Task Force's existence, people in Albany have continued to ask me and other individuals – where are all of these illegal firearms coming from? I have established through contact with The NY Field Division of the Federal

BATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms), specifically SSA (Supervisory Special Agent) Joseph Green, that the City of Albany has no legal impediment to releasing aggregated data on Original Source States (of first retail sale) for Crime Guns recovered by The Albany Police

Department and traced (through gun serial number) by BATF. The only constraint of course is that such data release does not jeopardize any open and ongoing criminal investigation. Of particular interest are those guns which may have a Original Sale to Street Recovery Time of under two years. Such recovered and traced guns in such time category are in a time range wherein BATF would suspect possible trafficking involvement.

I believe and I am hopeful that eventually the City of Albany will take the lead among various Cities and release as part of public education, such abovementioned aggregated data to the People of Albany. The People would benefit from such data and learning so that they could utilize the findings to advocate before their four levels of government for improved attack upon the proliferation or trafficking responsible for illegal firearms entering Albany, some of which are found in the hands of juveniles.

Federal Laws clearly indicate that the only legal means of purchase of a handgun is from a Federally licensed gun dealer. Such dealers are prohibited under Federal Law from selling such guns to individuals under the age of 21 years. Clearly juveniles under the age of 21 years here in Albany who are in possession of handguns have received such guns in violation of our nation's Federal Laws. The People of Albany need to learn what our Federal Government is doing here in the NDNY (Federal Northern District of New York) including agencies such as The United States Attorney and The Albany Office of BATF, to attack and destroy the illegal supplying of firearms into Albany including handguns found in the hands of juveniles.

Our nation's beloved Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned what is called The Beloved Community. We are now far from achieving this Beloved Community and entering the Promised Land when we have kids killing and injuring kids through gun and other violence, and when we have adults and kids killing and injuring adults and kids through gun and other violence.

We also cannot achieve The Beloved Community and enter the Promised Land when almost half of the young people here in Albany under the age of 21 years are living in poverty.

Some people have told me it is all futile, that we will always have illegal guns. My response is that the most powerful nation on this planet, our USA, a nation that can place a man on the moon, a nation that can advance Nanotechnology such as at University at Albany, can comprehensively work to eradicate this plague of gun and other violence.

Other people have told me that gun and other violence in Albany is not my problem, that it impacts other parts of Albany and that it is another community's problem. My response is that gun and other violence anywheres in Albany against one or more fellow human beings is gun and other violence against all of the residents of this City.

Kathina Thomas, killed by gunfire at age ten allegedly by a 15-year old wielding a "community gun", was our daughter, sister, cousin, niece, granddaughter.

Shahied Oliver, killed at age fifteen by another 15-year old, was our son, brother, cousin, nephew, grandson.

We also need to see an increased and concerted effort by the private sector from both the business community and the philanthropic/charitable community in efforts to address a comprehensive community-based approach to gun and other violence.

While our public sector even in these difficult times have obligations, most certainly the businesses as well as the overall business community including banks etc which benefit from operating here in Tech Valley has obligations to give back to the community.

As I have stated often, we cannot have true economic growth here in Tech Valley when we have essentially two Albanias---

-one in which the private sector and universities thrive on cutting edge technologies including but not limited to nanotechnology and biotechnology, and

-one in which almost half of our young people in this City live in poverty and in which neighborhoods are wracked by gunfire and other gun and other violence crimes, where children grow up thinking that gun and other violence is a normal part of everyday life.

Participation in the collective effort to craft a community-based solution to this plague of gun and other violence must be totally inclusive.

Some of our young people are caught up in the anti-social, destructive world of gang behavior. Such gang-involved young people need to be part of the ongoing conversation on addressing gun and other violence, since they too are part of the community. It is our obligation as the responsible adults to ensure that we include such young people, in addition of course to young people who are acting responsibly and not in trouble, in the community-wide effort to eradicate violence from our City.

I have dedicated my 34 year, ongoing professional career to comprehensive assessment/treatment of the incarcerated adult offender, as well as to comprehensive crime victims advocacy for needed crime victims services and programs etc. Effective programs which address crime issues do utilize involvement of offenders and ex-offenders who are straightening out their lives, among others.

We cannot conclusively address this plague of violence unless we include young people who are within the gang culture and interested in straightening out their lives, as well as those young people who are acting responsibly and not in trouble (some of whom may be victims of the violence).

In other words, the young people of our community from various neighborhoods and situations, need Seats at the Table.

We need to draw upon the dedicated faith communities across our City.

We need to enter into conversation with our incoming President-Elect Obama Federal Administration including through our Congress Member and our Senators, in order to leverage much needed Federal programs, services, and funding in addressing the ongoing issues of gun violence and other violence.

I want to thank the City of Albany for instituting this much needed Task Force.

I want to thank each of my fellow Task Force Members, and Councilwoman Barbara Smith, Common Council Liaison to the Task Force, for the tireless efforts of each individual to contribute to developing approaches for addressing this challenging cluster of issues around gun and other violence. I want to thank our Chair and colleague Reverend John Miller, and our Vice-Chair, Reverend Dr Edward Smart, for their respective leadership and wisdom.

I especially want to thank the People of The City of Albany and The People of The Capital Region for communicating with the Task Force either by personal appearances and testimony, or by letter. The diversity of dedicated citizens we heard from, including some ex-offenders as well as family survivors of gun homicides and other violence, and victims who survived gun and other violence, were most valuable to hear.

It is part of my Jewish Faith Community's tradition that "to save one life is as if you have saved the world" (The Jewish Talmud).

I understand in the Christian tradition, Jesus Christ said that "what you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto Me"

I understand that in the Faith of Islam, The Prophet Muhammad is said to have indicated that believers should seek for Mankind that which you are desirous of yourself, that you may be a believer, treat well as a neighbor the one who lives near you, that you may be a Muslim (one who submits to G-d).

We are all in this together from our various diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

We are at the early stage of our hopefully ongoing journey and efforts in this City, County, Region, State and Nation of addressing the gun and other violence destroying our neighborhoods, and the poverty impacting upon adults and young people, an intolerable condition of social injustice which must be eradicated in order to successfully eradicate the violence.

May G-d impart wisdom, understanding, compassion, empathy and all good qualities to the entire community as we work to continue this important first step.

May we all G-d willing live to see the day when the last gunfire will be heard, when the last illegal gun will enter this community, when the last illegal gun in our community will be recovered, when all gun violence and other violence will cease to exist.

G-d Bless.

Sincerely

Hon. P. David Soares

Every time one bullet finds a victim, two families must deal with the tragic consequences. One family will either spend time in a local hospital or arrange funeral services for a loved one. Another family will watch helplessly as their child is prosecuted and sent to state prison. We have a proliferation of handguns on our streets and a culture of youth that is all too willing to use lethal force to settle disputes.

The creation of an Albany Gun Violence Task Force was an idea long overdue. The impact on the quality of life for Albany residents as a result of gun violence cannot be overestimated, and should never be ignored. The expectation that thirteen people of diverse backgrounds could come together and create an absolute solution for gun violence, and the root causes, in the space of a year was an expectation too immense to realize. That being said, the recommendations, stemming from hundreds of hours of research and collaboration, should serve as the start of a dialogue not a record of its end.

To gather this group of diverse members is quite an accomplishment. We were diverse in our religion, politics, academics and backgrounds. We each brought to these meetings our own ideas, judgments and biases. We all had opinions about contributing factors such as poverty, unemployment and education, and had some disagreement as to the role that each contributed to the larger issue of gun violence. I am not alone in the belief that every task force member parted company with a much greater appreciation for the complex issues that lead a child to pick up a gun and shoot another child.

During this process, we sought best practices from communities near and far including Chicago, Rochester and right here in Albany. We had a number of public forums where we listened to individuals who had much to offer. We were delighted that our community was talking about gun violence and offering us their insight, some of which is captured in our final report. It is my hope that the recommendations presented to the Common Council and Mayor will offer some guidance, and at least a beginning to the work that lies ahead.

In the end, I believe it would be wise to heed the thoughtful words of Rev. Dr. Smart who finally stated what many of us have felt since the beginning. In slightly different words, he said that to start combating gun violence, this community must find its soul and do what is right by not allowing the violence. By standing up to it. By saying it is wrong and will not be tolerated. And by working with the police and the District Attorney's Office to stop the perpetrators. Because only by working together can we return the soul to our community.

It is time for our community to unite. To take back the streets and the children we have lost to the culture of urban violence. If we can do that, I know we will be successful.

Dr. Robert E. Worden

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the City on this Task Force, as much as I deplore its necessity. Gun violence exacts a horrific toll on society, with appalling losses on all sides of the violence: victims, offenders, their families, their friends, and their communities. And it is a problem as complex and daunting as it is urgent. Gun violence does not have a single cause, and it does not admit of a simple solution. Many factors contribute to the violence, and not all of them are equally susceptible to governmental or other efforts to change. But I believe that steps can be taken to reduce the violence, and the Task Force has hopefully identified a number of those steps in our recommendations.

We have engaged in a process designed to consider many different viewpoints on gun violence, building not only on the diversity of the Task Force itself but also on the experiences of the wider community. Our report is much better as a result of that diversity; if it is not the report that everyone expected of us, it is not for want of faithful effort. But it is only a report, and its significance will turn on the extent to which it spurs action. As a Task Force we had no authority to enforce laws, and we had no resources with which to deliver services. Our role was a limited one. We have tried to describe, at least in broad outlines, measures that promise to prevent or control gun violence. The benefits of our work for the City, however, are contingent on others to carry the recommendations forward, and to do so in an environment of extraordinary scarcity. I hope very much that in acting on the recommendations the City will now treat gun violence as the same high priority that prompted it to create the Task Force last year.

I acknowledge with gratitude the wisdom, patience, fortitude, and unswerving consideration shown by my fellow Task Force members. The work of the Task Force was intrinsically grim, and our meetings could only be somber, but I cannot imagine a group of people with whom I would have wanted more to share this responsibility. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the City's leadership – particularly Dominick Calsolaro and other members of the Common Council who were instrumental in passing the enabling ordinance, and Mayor Gerald Jennings – for their interest in subjecting this issue to public scrutiny.

Introduction

With the enactment of an ordinance in July, 2007, the City of Albany's Gun Violence Task Force was formed "to research and develop strategies to reduce gun violence." The Task Force was comprised of thirteen voting members, whose work was to be completed within one year. The Task Force was specifically charged to:

- prepare a report on the number and types of gun-related offenses, with as much detail as possible, in the City of Albany from the year 2000 to the present;
- compare the number and types of incidents to at least five other municipalities of similar size;
- research and report on programs used successfully by other municipalities to reduce gun-related violence and the approximate cost of such programs.

The Task Force itself specified a two-fold mission of assessment and recommendation.

- To the end of assessment, it is our purpose:
 1. to ascertain the root causes of gun violence;
 2. to examine the manifestations of gun violence; and
 3. to engage in dialogue with the people concerning gun violence.
- To the end of recommendation, it is our purpose:
 1. to identify resources to address gun violence;
 2. to suggest a strategy to alleviate gun violence; and
 3. to recommend programs to combat gun violence.

With this report, the Task Force fulfills its mandates and completes its work, with the hope that the information offered herein will prove useful to the City as it formulates initiatives to reduce gun violence.

The report includes four principal parts. First we summarize the organization of the Task Force and its work. Then we provide an overview of the gun violence problem, including a brief

review of the causes of gun violence, a consideration of the role of street gangs in gun violence, and a discussion of the supply of crime guns. Third, we summarize information on gun violence in Albany. Finally, we offer recommendations that, as a set, are based on several strategies, and which include multiple programs, identifying existing and potential resources wherever we were able to do so. We have not included, nor were we asked to formulate, specific financing packages for recommended infrastructure or programming. The Task Force understood its role to be one of recommendation and not implementation. Decisions about the priority accorded to preventing and controlling gun violence, and the allocation of public resources, are properly those of the elected leadership of the City.

Task Force Organization

Reverend John Miller was appointed to serve as chair of the Task Force, and at our first meeting, Reverend Edward Smart was elected vice chair.

The Common Council provided the Task Force with an Intern, Tehra Coles, a student at Albany Law School, to:

- attend meetings, take and provide minutes;
- undertake research as directed by the Task Force;
- assist in writing Task Force reports;
- supervise volunteer community members; and
- other such tasks as assigned.

We met as a Task Force semi-monthly, with a regular meeting time of 4:00 until 6:00 on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, for a total of 25 meetings, all but one of which was open to the public. The composition of the Task Force imbued its work with multiple perspectives on the problem of gun violence and appropriate ameliorative measures. In addition, the Task Force determined early on that we would set aside up to 30 minutes for public comment, at the conclusion of our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month; in the course of events, and particularly in the aftermath of the tragic shooting of Kathina Thomas in July of this year, we allowed for public comment at other meetings and in many instances throughout our meetings, and not only at their conclusion. The recorded minutes of these meetings are included in Appendix A.

We held four public forums for the purpose of community input. The forums were convened in different locations across the city, to facilitate participation by different segments of the community, but especially those most directly affected by gun violence. Hence the forums were held (1) at Philip Livingston School, on March 25, (2) at Giffin Elementary School, on May 15, (3) at Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy on August 19, and (4) at the VI Community Center on October 7. The recorded minutes of these forums are also included in Appendix A, along with

correspondence received by the Task Force.

The Task Force formed three committees: the Data Committee; the Prevention Committee; and the Community Action (or “Street”) Committee. The Data Committee gathered information on the incidence and type of violence in Albany and other cities, and assembled information on the effectiveness of various measures to control and prevent gun violence. The Prevention Committee identified root causes and immediate causes of gun violence in Albany, and investigated prevention and intervention programs in other cities. The Community Action Committee held conversations with people in the community to hear their concerns, experiences, and ideas about gun violence. One such meeting was with youth who attend Teen Night at the YMCA on Saturday evenings.

The Task Force has endeavored to take full advantage of information – including but not limited to scientific research – on violence-reduction initiatives in other U.S. cities, at the same time that we tried to take account of the potentially unique elements of Albany’s patterns of violence and Albany’s history and existing structure of community and governmental programs and resources. We did not wish to reinvent any wheels, and we did not presume that our individual and collective experiences and perceptions are superior sources of knowledge and insight about violence reduction, but neither did we presume that we should overlook our experiences or those of others who shared them with us, in favor of only research-based evidence. We have, therefore, drawn eclectically on accounts of the causes of violence and the effectiveness of violence reduction initiatives that can be found in scientific literature, on information about other promising but unevaluated programs, on the information provided by invited guests¹ and other members of the public at Task Force meetings and public forums, and on our own backgrounds and experiences. We reached out to the community as much as practicable. Many Task Force members reported conducting outside reading addressing gun and other types of violence. We have, then, sought to

¹ Invited guests included: Lisa Good (Trinity Institution), Ron “Cook” Barrett (City of Albany Department of Youth and Workforce Services Gang Prevention Program Coordinator), John Cutro (Restorative Justice), and Dr. Mark Gestring (Trauma Surgeon at Strong Memorial Hospital).

understand gun violence in statistical, scientific, and human terms, and to use all available information to formulate recommendations for its control and prevention.

The Problem of Gun Violence

Perspectives

The Task Force has at times referred to a “public health” perspective on gun violence, which treats intentionally inflicted firearms injuries not primarily as crimes but as health threats like tuberculosis. One proponent of this approach describes it thusly: “This approach is proactive rather than reactive, is pragmatic rather than doctrinaire, and has a distinguished history of success in addressing problems that affect the public’s health.”² Criminal justice approaches to crime and other public safety problems have become much more proactive over the past two decades, and more prevention-oriented, with some success in reducing gun violence. But the Task Force has not relied on any one perspective or approach, on the assumption that benefits can be achieved in many ways, and punishing gun offenders is not by itself a solution to the problem.

Causes

Research on violence has identified multiple causes, or more conservatively, “risk factors.” Many factors contribute to gun violence, each to a currently unknown degree. The research is voluminous, and it has been summarized by authoritative scientific panels on at least two occasions, most recently in 1993, by the Panel on Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior.³ The Panel formulated a matrix of risk factors for violence, reproduced below. The risk factors include both macro- and micro-social factors, and individual factors of a psychosocial and biological nature. Each of those four categories of factors can be broken down into predisposing, situational, and activating factors. Activating factors, such as an individual impulse or a verbal exchange

² David Hemenway, *Private Guns, Public Health* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004), p. 8.

³ National Research Council, *Understanding and Preventing Violence*, Panel on Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior, Albert J. Reiss, Jr., and Jeffrey A. Roth (eds.) (Washington: National Academy Press, 1993). See also Denise C. Gottfredson and Erin L. Bauer, “Interventions to Prevent Youth Violence,” and Frederick P. Rivara and Arthur L. Kellerman, “Reducing the Misuse of Firearms,” in Lynda S. Doll, Sandra E. Bonzo, James A. Mercy, David A. Sleet, and E.N. Haas, (eds.), *Handbook of Injury and Violence Prevention* (New York: Springer, 2007); Andrea Carlson Gielen, David A. Sleet, Ralph J. DiClemente (eds.), *Injury and Violence Prevention: Behavioral Science Theories, Methods, and Applications* (Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2006).

Matrix for Organizing Risk Factors for Violent Behavior			
	Predisposing factors	Situational factors	Activating factors
Units of observation and Explanation			
Social			
Macro-social	Concentration of poverty Opportunity structures Decline of social capital Oppositional cultures Sex-role socialization	Physical structure Routine activities Access: weapons, emergency medical services	Catalytic social event
Micro-social	Community organizations Illegal markets Gangs Family disorganization Preexisting structures	Proximity of responsible monitors Participants' social relationships Bystanders' activities Temporary communication impairments Weapons: carrying, displaying	Participants' communication exchange
Individual			
Psychosocial	Temperament Learned social responses Perceptions of rewards / penalties for violence Violent deviant sexual preferences Cognitive ability Social, communications skills Self-identification in social hierarchy	Accumulated emotion Alcohol / drug consumption Sexual arousal Premeditation	Impulse Opportunity recognition
Biological	Neurobiologic "traits" Genetically mediated traits Chronic use of psychoactive substances or exposure to neurotoxins	Transient neurobiologic "states" Acute effects of psychoactive substances	Sensory signal-processing errors Interictal events

Source: National Research Council, *Understanding and Preventing Violence*, Panel on Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior, Albert J. Reiss, Jr., and Jeffrey A. Roth (eds.) (Washington: National Academy Press, 1993), Table 7-1, p. 297.

between disputants, are the factors that are most proximate to the violence. Situational factors, such as alcohol consumption or possession of a weapon, are somewhat less proximate factors in violence. Predisposing factors are the least proximate factors, but they are not unimportant, including poverty and the structure of opportunities in neighborhoods, the presence of drug markets and gangs, family dynamics, and cognitive abilities (and with them, school performance and attachment). The most straightforward conclusion that one might draw from this research is that violence is a complex social problem that does not admit of a simple solution, calling instead for a multi-pronged effort in prevention and control. These causes or “risk factors” are potentially points of leverage for violence prevention and control, and each of our recommendations thus addresses one or more of these risk factors.

Recent research on urban violence paints a picture that is less abstract and perhaps more indicative of patterns that prevail in Albany. In Indianapolis, a careful review of homicides in 1997 showed that 60 percent involved as victims or suspects people who were known as chronic offenders or members of loosely organized gangs.⁴ More than half of the homicides bore a connection to illicit drugs. Victims and suspects resembled one another with respect to age, race, sex, and criminal history: they were mostly young males, two thirds to three quarters of whom had criminal records.

Similar findings emerged from a comparable process in Rochester, where researchers described “three kinds of homicide.” One category, the least common, was the wrong place/wrong time homicides, which “include instances in which the behavior of the victim appears to not to have contributed significantly to the homicide.”⁵ The other categories, about equally common, were “rip-offs” in which “the victim was robbed and killed as a result of engagement in some illegal activity,

⁴ Edmund F. McGarrell and Steven Chermak, *Strategic Approaches to Reducing Firearms Violence: Final Report on the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership*, Report to the National Institute of Justice (2003).

⁵ John Klofas, Christopher Delaney, and Trisha Smith, *Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) in Rochester, NY* (Rochester: RIT, 2005), p. 52.

usually the sale of drugs,” and “disputes.” Victims and suspects in the latter two categories of incidents were, like those in the Indianapolis homicides, mostly young males with criminal histories. Homicides were concentrated in a part of the city known as the “crescent,” which is an area of concentrated disadvantage. The findings from both cities are compatible with the matrix of risk factors, highlighting the roles of poverty and opportunity structures, illicit markets and gangs, routine activities (particularly involvement in illicit activity), social relationships, and perhaps impulse.

Street Gangs and Gun Violence

Street gangs are found in cities of all sizes in the U.S. Definitions abound, but we understand a street gang to be “... any durable, street-oriented youth group whose involvement in illegal activity is part of its group identity.”⁶ Gang involvement has a dramatic effect on individual participation in criminal offending, including violence; during the period of active gang affiliation, gang members have substantially higher rates of delinquency, and they also carry guns at much higher rates.⁷ Fortunately, most youth – even most youth whose life circumstances put them at risk of joining a gang – do not join gangs; most research estimates a lifetime prevalence of about 6 to 8 percent (6 to as high as 30 percent in higher-risk populations), with membership peaking at age 14 or 15. Moreover, most youth who join gangs remain in the gang for a short period – a year or less.

Notwithstanding conventional assumptions about gang organization, most street gangs are not well-organized:

In most street gangs, leadership is ephemeral, turnover is often high, and cohesiveness only moderate. Codes of conduct often exist in rhetoric but are easily avoided or broken. Many street gangs are more a loose collection of cliques or networks than a single, coherent whole.⁸

⁶ Malcolm W. Klein and Cheryl L. Maxson, *Street Gang Patterns and Policies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), p. 4.

⁷ Terence P. Thornberry, et al., *Gangs and Delinquency in Developmental Perspective* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

⁸ Klein and Maxson, pp. 163-164.

Guns and Gun Markets

Firearms are a legal commodity in the U.S., of course, albeit subject to regulation by federal, state, and local governments.⁹ Tens of millions of handguns, and as many as 200 million other firearms, are already in private hands, and the stock of firearms – which are durable goods – increases through manufacture and importation each year. Firearms transactions are restricted by law. Federal law prohibits the sale of firearms to several classes of “prohibited persons,” including convicted felons and persons who have been adjudicated as mental defectives or involuntarily committed to a mental institution; in addition, persons under the age of 18 are prohibited from purchasing handguns. New York State law is more restrictive than federal law, and more restrictive than that of most other states. One must be licensed (and at least 21 years of age) in order to purchase or possess a handgun in New York State, and these licensing requirements create records of firearms transfers that are not required by federal law.

The legal market in firearms is often dissected into the primary market and the secondary market. The primary market is comprised of federal firearms licensees (FFLs), gun dealers who purchase new firearms from wholesalers or other distributors and sell them at retail. The transactions of FFLs are subject to federal regulations concerning background checks of buyers as well as record-keeping. The secondary market encompasses sales and other transfers of secondhand firearms by individuals who are not federally licensed dealers, and this market is not, in general, regulated in the same ways. Unlicensed individuals may nevertheless sell firearms, e.g., at gun shows, or through classified ads, and while they may not knowingly sell firearms to prohibited persons, they are not required to perform background checks, nor are they required by federal law to maintain records of the sales.

⁹ A very helpful treatment of these matters can be found in the report of a panel formed by the National Research Council. See National Research Council, *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*, Committee to Improve Research Information and Data on Firearms, Charles F. Wellford, John V. Pepper, and Carol V. Petrie (eds.) (Washington: National Academies Press, 2005), especially chapter 4.

The large and complex legal market for firearms contains many places at which guns may “leak” from the legal market into the illegal market, affording prohibited persons – especially offenders and juveniles – access to guns. While there are many permutations of legal and illegal transactions by which guns can travel from legal to illegal hands, one study highlighted the major routes of such “leakage”:

- FFL sells to legal possessor, from whom the gun is stolen and is thereupon (with or without further intervening transactions in the illicit market) used in a crime;
- FFL sells to a legal possessor and, with or without further legal transactions in the secondary market, the gun is later transferred in the secondary market to a prohibited person in a transaction marked by either illegality by the seller, who knowingly transfers the gun to a prohibited person, or illegality by the seller, who does not disclose his/her prohibited status;
- FFL knowingly and illegally sells to a prohibited person;
- FFL sells to a legal possessor acting on behalf of a prohibited person (a “straw purchase”);
- Guns are stolen from the stock of an FFL.¹⁰

In addition, FFLs may sell to legal possessors who subsequently use the gun in the commission of a crime, or who sells the gun in the secondary market to another legal possessor who later uses the gun for criminal purposes.

Little is known about the flow of guns through each of these channels, because many of the transactions are not recorded or, if they are, information about them is not readily accessible. Federal firearms licensees must keep records and make them available to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). ATF conducts a “trace” of crime guns at the request of state or local law enforcement, but notwithstanding its name, the trace is in most instances limited to the original retail sale, and does not include information even about subsequent legal

¹⁰ Glenn L. Pierce, et al., *Characteristics and Dynamics of Crime Gun Markets: Implications for Supply-Side Focused Enforcement Strategies*, Report to the National Institute of Justice (NCJRS, 2003).

transactions involving the firearm. Trace data concern only the licensed dealer who first sold the firearm, the purchaser, and the date, along with information recorded by the requesting agency about the possessor of the firearm, the offense in connection with which the firearm was recovered, and the date of recovery. Law enforcement and scholars assume that any crime gun with a “time to crime” – the time elapsed between the original retail sale and the recovery of the firearm by law enforcement – of less than three years was illegally trafficked. Trace data are useful to federal law enforcement in the investigation of potentially corrupt FFLs. And trace data tend to show that in states with more restrictive laws, large proportions of crime guns originate in other states – much of the supply of crime guns in northeastern states originates in southern states whose regulations are less restrictive.¹¹ But trace data afford us little insight into the supply chains through which crime guns travel, and unless local dealers are the sources of many crime guns, trace data do not provide much direction for local initiatives to reduce gun violence, especially in states – like New York – into which crime guns are imported (legally or illegally).

More generally, so long as local police are taking the step of requesting traces on recovered firearms (Albany and other cities that receive funds through Operation IMPACT in New York State are required to do so by the terms of their grant awards), and so long as local law enforcement makes earnest efforts to investigate and prosecute the suppliers of offenders’ crime guns, then supply-side approaches in states that already have restrictive gun regulations are very limited and of uncertain efficacy. With many points of leakage from the legal market to the illegal market, one can anticipate that even successful efforts to constrict the flow of crime guns through one channel will result in “substitution” through other channels. Thus, as the authors of one study speculate:

It may also be possible that illegal gun markets can adapt to single and/or modest interventions. Cook and Braga (2001) present strong evidence suggesting that criminals in Chicago were being supplied to a large extent by organized gun trafficking from south-

¹¹ ATF’s 2007 report on New York State showed that 10,444 firearms were recovered and traced, of which 5,492 could be traced to a source state. Of the 5,492, 1,619 (29 percent) originated in New York, while 1,897 (35 percent) originated in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, or Florida. Approximately 20 percent had a time to crime of under three years.

central states, in particular Mississippi, and that a modest increase in regulation—imposed by the Brady Act—shut down that pipeline. However, this large change in the market did not have any apparent effect in gun availability to violent people in Chicago, as the percentage of homicides with guns did not drop after 1994 (Cook and Braga 2001).¹²

In a state that already provides for restrictive regulation, sources of guns tend to be “diffuse,” and thus less susceptible to (further) supply-side interventions.¹³

Hence the Task Force commends Mayor Jennings for his involvement and membership in Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and we urge federal, state, and local law enforcement to continue to act vigorously against people who illegally carry guns or illegally transfer guns to prohibited persons. We would also endorse efforts to improve the extent and quality of the information that must be kept about firearms transactions, which would facilitate the analysis of the supply of firearms, with little or no additional burden imposed on legitimate gun dealers and owners in New York State.

Social Costs

The social costs of gun violence are arguably inestimable, including as they do the trauma experienced by its victims and their families and friends, the anxiety and fear that it causes residents and business people, and at the margin, the loss of population and tax base in the City. We note, however, that some of the other costs of gun violence can and should be factored into deliberations about public expenditures on the prevention and control of gun violence. By way of example, in 2000, a fatal injury entailed \$4,906 in medical costs and \$1.3 million in lost productivity; a non-fatal injury resulting in hospitalization entailed \$24,353 in medical costs and \$57,209 in lost productivity. The City can save money by spending money on violence prevention.

¹² Pierce, et al., *op cit.*, p. 20.

¹³ Scholarly opinion on this issue is divided. The National Research Council Committee reached the skeptical conclusion that further restrictions on supply would have uncertain effects. Some scholars are more optimistic. Daniel Webster and his colleagues list several measures that they claim would reduce illegal gun trafficking; see Daniel W. Webster, Jon S. Vernick, and Stephen P. Teret, *How Cities Can Combat Illegal Guns and Gun Violence* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2008). More cautiously, Philip J. Cook and Anthony A. Braga call for “systematic ‘experimentation’ with different tactics”; “Comprehensive Firearms Tracing: Strategic and Investigative Uses of New Data on Firearms Markets,” *Arizona Law Review* 43 (2001), p. 308. Other scholars advocate for loosening restrictions, arguing that the actual and potential self-defensive use of firearms by victims and would-be victims would serve to prevent crime; see e.g., Gary Kleck *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America* (New York: Aldine Transaction, 2005).

Some injury prevention initiatives have been shown to generate very substantial savings. For examples: the Harlem Hospital Safe Communities program costs \$16 per child and saves an estimated \$38 in medical costs; the Rochester Nurse Home Visitation Program saves \$5.30 for each dollar expended.¹⁴

¹⁴ Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, *Injury Prevention: What Works?* (Calverton, MD: Author, 2005).

Gun Violence in Albany

In partial fulfillment of the legislative mandate to “prepare a report on the number and types of gun-related offenses, with as much detail as possible, in the City of Albany from the year 2000 to the present,” we include as Appendix B the report, *Violent Crime in Albany: A Preliminary Assessment*, which was completed shortly before the Task Force was appointed. This report was prepared for Albany’s Common Council by Drs. Robert Worden, who is also a member of the Task Force, and Sarah J. McLean, and it was based on analyses of data from the Albany Police Department and other sources, covering the years 2000 through 2006. The authors summarize their findings:

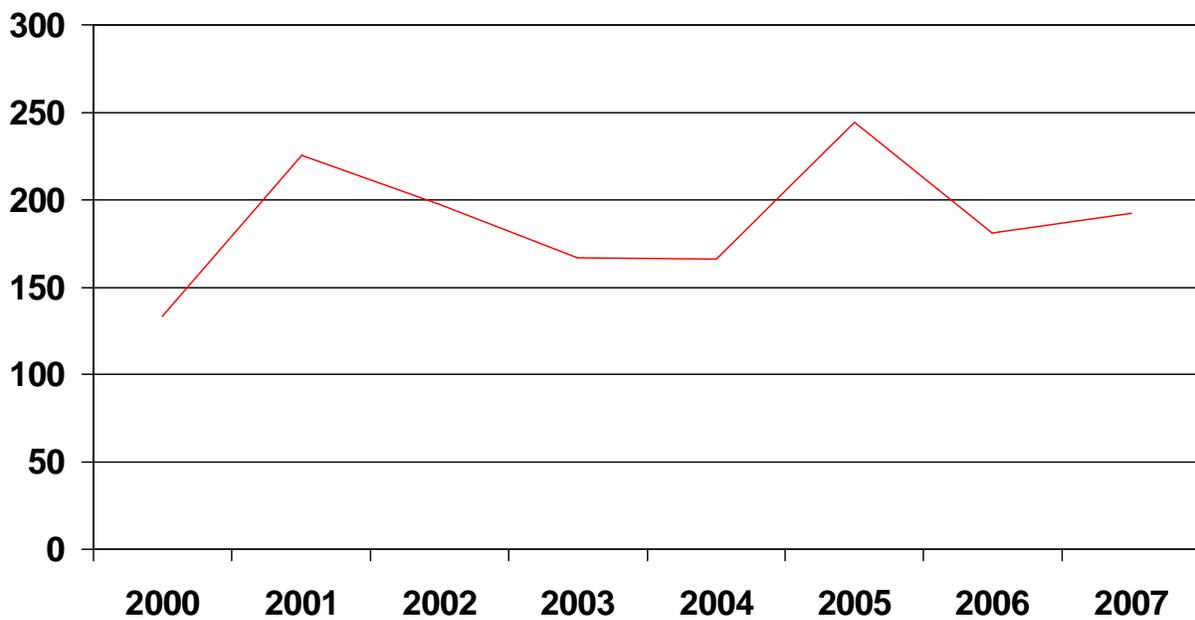
First, violent crime in Albany has for the most part tracked national trends, and especially trends in upstate New York, for more than a decade. Second, gun violence in particular is only a part of the larger picture of violent crime, most of which is not perpetrated with a firearm. But most criminal violence – even serious violent offenses – is not *life-threatening* violence, which is arguably a more pressing problem, and may be a problem that stems from different causes and is subject to different solutions. Third, violence perpetrated with a firearm has remained fairly stable in Albany across the years that we examine here, even while it has increased substantially in New York State (outside of New York City). Fourth, violence is concentrated geographically and socially: higher levels of violent crime are found in disadvantaged neighborhoods; men, African-Americans, and younger people are all disproportionately represented among victims of violent crime, and particularly among victims of gun crime [p. 1 of Appendix B].

Data on firearm related crime that were released by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in late-2008 enable us to extend the trend line beyond the parameters of the Worden & McLean report, through 2007. As the figure below shows, firearm related violent crime has, since 2001, fluctuated between 150 and 250 per year.¹⁵ The *rate* of such offenses has, of course, also fluctuated with Albany’s slowly declining population, from 13.9 offenses per 10,000 population in 2000 to 25.8 in 2005, decreasing to 20.4 in 2007. Most of these offenses – and most violent crimes – are robberies or aggravated assaults, and many of these crimes do not involve the *discharge* of a firearm; they are firearm related insofar as a firearm was in the possession of an

¹⁵ The source of this information is the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, *Operation IMPACT 2007 Annual Report*, p. 38. The counts reported there are not entirely consistent with those presented in the report in Appendix A; see pp. 2-3 of that report for an explanation of discrepancies.

offender. New York State began collecting information on *shootings* only in 2006, and only in cities that are part of Operation IMPACT.¹⁶ According to this source, the City of Albany experienced 35 shooting incidents with injuries in 2006, and 47 in 2007. Those incidents together involved 46 victims – persons struck by gunfire – in 2006, and 55 in 2007; 3 of those in each year were fatally injured. In 2008, according to APD figures, 52 persons were injured in 44 shooting incidents.

Firearm Related Violent Crime, 2000-2007



For cities of Albany’s size – among the FBI’s established population groups, Albany fits into the 50,000 to 99,999 group – Albany’s rate of firearm related crime is above the average. In 2007, the 433 cities in this population group reported a rate of approximately 11.42 firearm related offenses per 10,000 population.¹⁷ Among New York State’s Operation IMPACT cities, the rate of

¹⁶ The fifteen cities are Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Jamestown, Kingston, Newburgh, Niagara Falls, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Schenectady, Spring Valley, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, and Yonkers. (Nassau and Suffolk Counties are also IMPACT jurisdictions, which as counties have been excluded from these calculations.)

¹⁷ FBI figures break down only robberies and aggravated assaults by weapon and population group; cities of this size reported 11.09 firearm related robberies and aggravated assaults per 10,000 population. The FBI’s

firearm related crime was 23.97 per 10,000 population in 2007, a rate somewhat higher than that of Albany. Albany is also very near the IMPACT cities' 2007 rate of shootings with injuries of 4.7 per 10,000; Albany's rate was 4.99. Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, and Newburgh all had higher rates of shootings with injuries than Albany did, with rates of 8.51, 6.83, 6.6, and 5.32, respectively.

Another source of information about the incidence of gun violence in Albany has been compiled by Dr. Leonard Morgenbesser, a Task Force member. Dr. Morgenbesser has culled media reports of gun violence for the past six years; his complete (through November 12, 2008) media-sourced dataset is included as Appendix C of this report. These data on shootings in Albany provide a longer temporal perspective on this phenomenon than the New York State counts, but they are likely to omit some incidents that are captured in police records. The media-sourced data include 32 incidents of gun violence in 2006, and 37 incidents in 2007; we can infer from the data available from DCJS and reported above that these media-based counts represent underestimates by 9 to 21 percent.

We note that the Albany police recovered 112 crime guns in 2007, and 132 in 2006.¹⁸ Other Operation IMPACT jurisdictions varied widely: in 2007, for example, Rochester recovered 444 crime guns, Syracuse recovered 329, Yonkers 105, Schenectady 50, Troy 35, and Poughkeepsie 26. These figures are difficult to interpret, and they do not reliably reflect the supply of crime guns, since they also reflect the efforts and success of law enforcement in seizing crime guns. But knowledgeable members of the Task Force report that organized gun trafficking is not taking place on the streets of Albany.

data do not break down murder by both weapon and population group, but cities of this size reported a rate of homicides of 0.48 per 10,000 population; 68 percent of homicides are committed with a firearm, and if the same proportion holds (approximately) for cities of this size, the rate of firearm related homicide would be 0.33 per 10,000.

¹⁸ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, *Operation IMPACT 2007 Annual Report*, pp. 56-64. "Crime guns" include seized firearms that were unlawfully possessed, used in a crime, suspected to have been used in a crime, or recovered in relation to a crime.

Illustrative Incidents

These statistics do not tell the painful story of gun violence, the immediate and wider consequences of which take a heavy human toll that cannot be summarized numerically. Individual vignettes of gun violence may tell more of that story. Here we offer brief narrative summaries of fifteen incidents that occurred in the City of Albany, organized into a taxonomy of nine categories. These narratives were drawn from the Morgenbesser Media-Sourced Database of 574 Albany City Gun Crimes (of all types) from September 2002 through November 28, 2008. These vignettes, we hope, will offer added insights into the nature of gun violence in our community and the very human dimension of the impacts of such violence.

At the least, these incidents are a vivid reminder of the enormous, continuing costs of this gun violence to this community. In addition to the cost of initial emergency room care for gunfire victims (the national average ranges between approximately \$14,000 and \$18,000), there are the added justice system costs of police, prosecution, public defender, jail detention, and if sentenced to state prison, the cost of state incarceration and later post-release parole supervision. The New York State Department of Correctional Services estimated the annual per capita cost at about \$37,000 per year for an adult felon.

This taxonomy may also have implications for criminal justice system processing of offenders, including what happens to them when they are incarcerated (i.e. assessment, counseling, treatment) and what happens to them once they are released from institutional custody and paroled back to their respective communities (i.e., parole supervision and community re-entry support services).

1. Domestic Violence

- a. Perpetrator Tyrone Ware, Homicide Victim Damanyia Coles (Female)

Tyrone Ware is serving 20 years to life for Murder 2nd Degree. On or around 29 December 2003, he beat and shot to death 24 year old Ms. Damanyia Coles, his girlfriend and the mother of five children (none fathered by Ware), shooting her once in the head and twice in the chest. The victim's body was buried and discovered in a backyard.

b. Perpetrator Jamar Johnson, Homicide Victim Tyrone McCoy (Male)

Jamar Johnson, age 31, will be sentenced 16 January 2009 following jury conviction on 24 November 2008 for Murder 2nd Degree, Conspiracy and two weapons charges. He will be facing life in state prison. Johnson shot to death the male victim, Mr. Tyrone McCoy of Brooklyn, outside of the victim's estranged spouse's apartment complex. The victim's estranged spouse is facing an upcoming trial. The DA's Office contends that the spouse, who has been charged also, and Johnson plotted to kill the victim, escape with his money, and live "happily ever after." The homicide was committed on South Pearl Street, the Prentiss Apartments.

c. Perpetrator William Rodriguez, Victim [name withheld]

William Rodriguez is serving 0-5 years for Criminal Possession of Weapon (CPW) 2nd Degree. On 10 March 2008, at 230 AM, Rodriguez threatened his girlfriend at gunpoint with a loaded .25 caliber handgun. "Investigation showed that Rodriguez had punched the victim in the stomach, face and body, while pushing and shouting at her. Rodriguez then held a loaded .25 caliber handgun to her head and stated 'I'm gonna shoot you in your (expletive) head and your brains are gonna scatter.' There were three children present during some of these incidents and the loaded handgun was found hidden in the crib of one of the children."

The Task Force did not specifically examine the linkage between firearms and domestic violence in Albany, and we note that the incidence of domestic gun assaults in Albany is low in absolute and relative terms (see p. 16 of Appendix B). But as Lisa Frisch, of the Legal Project, points out, firearms play a significant role in domestic violence in the U.S. (see her letter in Appendix A),

and in Albany, as the events described above illustrate. Moreover, spousal violence has collateral, detrimental effects on children.¹⁹

2. Bystander

a. Defendant [name withheld], Homicide Victim Kathina Thomas (Female)

On 29 May 2008, 15 year old Defendant allegedly fired a handgun, referred to as a “community gun,” at another male and the bullet struck and killed ten year old Kathina Thomas, playing on her front step at 445 First Street at 815 PM. Charges included Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The defendant reported being with friends at the time of the crime.

b. Perpetrator Tyril Jarvis, Homicide Victim Glenda Jones (Female)

Tyril Jarvis of Brooklyn is serving 6-15 years in state prison for Manslaughter 2nd Degree and for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree. On 15 April 2003, while walking up Second Street at around 5 PM with her two-year old son at her side, Ms Glenda Jones was fatally hit by gunfire from a shooting involving two groups of young men who had been at each other for two days. Tyril Jarvis, then age 20, fired a .38 caliber handgun, killing Ms Glenda Jones.

c. Perpetrator Leon Gause, Homicide Victim Chatesha Hilton (Female)

Leon Gause is serving 0-15 years in state prison for crimes associated with the homicide of Ms Chatesha Hilton, including Criminal Possession of a Weapon, 2nd and 3rd Degree, but the jury acquitted Gause of Murder, Assault and Reckless Endangerment. Ms. Hilton, 24 years old, sitting in a car at 4 PM in front of 43 Lexington (near Orange), with her six month old son, was shot to death in the gunfire directed at her 23 year old boyfriend, who was also in the car and the intended target of the bike-by shooter. Ms. Hilton was shot in the head and the firearm used to kill her was a 9 mm handgun. The murder occurred on November 11 2002. The 19 year old

¹⁹ See, e.g., B. Robbie Rossman, “Longer Term Effects of Children’s Exposure to Domestic Violence,” in Sandra Graham-Bermann and Jeffrey Edleson (eds.), *Domestic Violence in the Lives of Children: The Future of Research, Intervention and Social Policy* (Washington: American Psychological Association, 2001).

defendant alleged self-defense, contending that the boyfriend of Ms Hilton pulled a gun first that afternoon, and that a day earlier the boyfriend also shot at him on First Street.

3. Teen-on-Teen Shooting (kids injuring/killing kids)

a. Perpetrator Nahjaliek McCall, Homicide Victim Shahied Oliver

Nahajaliek McCall is serving 15 years in state prison for the gun homicide of then 15 year old Shahied Oliver at a party in Arbor Hill at 7 Lark Street, the Skyline Apartments on 18 August 2007. McCall was convicted and sentenced under the state's juvenile offender law. McCall and Oliver were acquaintances, McCall was 15 years old at the time he murdered Oliver.

4. Multiple Gun Homicide

a. Defendant [name withheld], Homicide Victims Kenyon Hawkins, Bobby Jones, Victor Anderson

Defendant, age 31 years, was charged with this 30 January 2008 triple gun homicide, committed in a residence about five blocks from the State Governor's Mansion. The victims included 16 year old Kenyon Hawkins (an Albany High School student), 25 year old Victor Anderson, and 26 year old Bobby Jones. Defendant noted he was drinking and smoking marijuana with Jones, a friend, then became depressed and shot the three victims to death. Jones shared the residence with his girlfriend and the 165 year old (Kenyon Hawkins) who was the girlfriend's brother. The victims were shot in the head at point blank range. Hawkins, the high school student, was playing a video game and curled up when he saw the Defendant approaching with the gun. The Defendant's 3 year old godson was asleep in another room. Bobby Jones' aunt told the media, referencing the Defendant, "We took this young man in when he did not have nowhere to go, we gave him food, we gave him a home."

5. Gun Homicide on Street

a. Unknown Perpetrator(s), Homicide Victim Richard Bailey

On the evening of 20 October 2008, at South Lake and Yates in the Pine Hills Section of Albany not far from Albany Medical Center Hospital, 22 year old University at Albany student Richard Bailey was found lying on the ground in the street with a gunshot wound to the head. Bailey was returning to his residence from a party with friends after taking, earlier in the day, the examination in NYC for becoming and NYPD police officer (victim's father is retired from the NYPD, residing in Wantagh, Long Island). The Albany Police Department is seeking to speak with an individual photographed on a surveillance camera riding a bike near Madison Avenue shortly after the murder. Also, a witness reported seeing up to three young men fleeing the crime scene area rapidly on bikes and Albany PD wishes to speak with these young men as well.

6. Armed (Gunpoint) Robbery

a. Perpetrator Roger Chapman, Robbery Victim (Cabdriver)

Roger Chapman, age 16 at the time of the crimes, was sentenced to 0-8 years in state prison and 3 years post-release supervision for a 15 January 2006 attack upon an Albany cabdriver. The Cabdriver was threatened with a handgun and stabbed multiple times in the leg, resulting in a severed artery; the victim was treated and released from AMCH (Albany Medical Center Hospital). Chapman was sentenced for the crime of Attempted Robbery, 1st Degree.

7. Criminal Possession of Weapon

a. Iquan Carter, age 17 at the time of the crimes, was sentenced to six years in state prison and 3 years post-release supervision for Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Third Degree. During a 29 August 2006 vehicle stop with two co-defendants, Albany PD smelled marijuana and also seized a visible, loaded (with 7 live rounds) .380 caliber handgun. One co-defendant pleaded guilty to the same charge and faced five years in state prison. Another co-defendant was acquitted in a jury trial.

8. Armed Home Invasions

Various armed home invasions have occurred in Albany across the years involving perpetrators wielding guns and other weapons. Some may be drug-related with prior relationships between the perpetrators and the victims of the armed home invasions.

a. Home Invasion on 23 October 2005 at residence of University at Albany students

On 23 October 2005, at 2 AM (a Sunday morning) at 517 Washington Avenue, a male and a female forced entry into the first floor apartment and at gunpoint seized credit cards, purses, cellphones and cash in the amount of approximately \$800. The five residents, ages 21 and 22, all University at Albany students, were not hurt at the time of these crimes. Albany PD was seeking to apprehend the perpetrators and learn why the forced entry at this apartment at gunpoint occurred, etc. It is not currently known if the perpetrators were apprehended and processed by the criminal justice system.

b. Home Invasion/Gunfire on 28 October 2008 (South End of Albany)

On 28 October 2005, just before 6 PM, two armed males knocked on a first floor apartment at 89 Elizabeth Street asking for a person named Morris Johnson. The downstairs tenant, named Leyward Morris, age 57, told the intruders that Morris Johnson, also age 57, lived upstairs. One of the intruders then pushed his way into Morris' apartment and pointed a handgun at Morris. The intruders then marched Morris, at gunpoint to the Morris Johnson upstairs apartment and ordered Leyward Morris to knock on Johnson's door. Morris Johnson opened his door and Leyward Morris darted into Johnson's apartment with one of the suspects in tow. Johnson slammed the door on the suspect's arm and the suspect opened fire, as did his co-suspect. The two suspects then headed downstairs and returned to the Morris apartment and out the back window. Albany PD recovered a .22 caliber handgun along with several 9 mm shell casings in the second floor apartment of Morris Johnson. Police do not have a motive but believe it may

have been drug-related. If apprehended, the suspects face attempted murder and burglary charges.

9. Retaliation Gun Homicide

Various gun crimes across time in the City of Albany have reportedly arisen as retaliations for earlier shootings.

a. The following is an example of a gun homicide of a teen (in the South End), reportedly as retaliation for another gun homicide (across town in Arbor Hill) of a teen earlier in the day

The initial shooting took place on 3 June 2001, when 17 year old Broderick Green was shot to death at 130 PM when he emerged from a market in Arbor Hill at 188 Colonie Street. The power of the gunfire (from a .40 caliber semiautomatic handgun) blew Green off of his feet (while he was holding a soda) into an alley one house east of the Market, killing Green. Police had contended that the perpetrator, Marshall Anson Ayers, fired into a crowd and killed Green. They believed that Ayers went to the market in Arbor Hill to start a confrontation arising from a neighborhood rivalry.

Later that same day, 17 year old Shakira Chambers was shot to death while sitting on a stoop in Albany's South End at Elizabeth and Third Street. This shooting was reportedly in retaliation for the earlier shooting in Arbor Hill. Chambers was sitting with a 17 year old male named Javon Morton, who pulled Chambers in front of him as a human shield when the gunfire erupted, and Chambers was hit by five bullets from two handguns. (A year later, Morton was shot to death and as of May 2003, his murder had not yet been solved.)

Ayers was acquitted of the Green murder but was later prosecuted and convicted federally for illegally possessing the murder weapon, as a convicted felon. He was 25 years of age at the time of his 2003 sentencing. The federal sentence was enhanced based upon "obstruction of justice,"

to wit, Ayers ordered one of two friends with him at the time of the murder to get rid of the gun. At Ayers' instruction, his friend Moore cut the gun into several pieces and hurled the pieces into the Hudson River. This illegal firearm had an obliterated serial number and was believed to have originated outside of New York State. He was released following a prison sentence of six years on 27 June 2008 (and currently under 3 years of supervised release).

Alphonso Davis, age 24 years at the time of his sentencing in 2003, is serving a sentence of 46.5 years to life in state prison for the Chambers homicide, with convictions for Murder 2nd Degree, Attempted Murder 2nd Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon, 2nd Degree. Sherrod Craft age 23 at the time of his sentencing in 2003, is serving a sentence of 46.5 years to life in state prison for the Chambers homicide, with convictions for Murder 2nd Degree and Attempted Murder 2nd Degree.

- b. Another more recent case of a retaliation gun homicide was the murder of 24 year old Elleek Williams of Colonie. Williams was shot around 12:40 a.m. on May 16, 2006 outside of Yana's Grill (located at Sheridan and Lexington Avenues) and was pronounced dead at Albany Medical Center Hospital at 3:30 a.m., succumbing to three gunshot wounds in the upper and lower torso. The victim had been celebrating his birthday with family and friends. The victim stepped outside for a cigarette, at which time he was shot. The alleged 17 year old shooter, also of Colonie, was apprehended three days later and the .22 caliber handgun used to commit this crime was recovered. The defendant and the homicide victim knew each other.

As has occurred in some of the gun violence incidents in the City, the alleged shooter and victim had prior episodes of being gunshot victims. Williams reportedly had been shot in April, the month prior to his becoming a gun homicide victim. The defendant had been shot in February, a few months prior to the murder of Williams.

During a pre-trial hearing, prosecutors identified the alleged shooter as a reputed member of The Jungle Junkies, a street gang based in the City's Arbor Hill and West Hill sections. Prosecutors further identified the victim as having associated with members of OGK (Original Gangsta Killers), a street gang based in the City's South End section, and they contended that this was a case of gang retribution. A key 20-year old witness, noting that she inadvertently drove the alleged shooter to the Grill and watched him shoot Williams, reported that the defendant later told her he shot Williams to avenge his own shooting from February. However, the trial judge ruled that during the trial the prosecution was prohibited from discussing gangs. The jury found the defendant not guilty on all counts on March 10 2008.

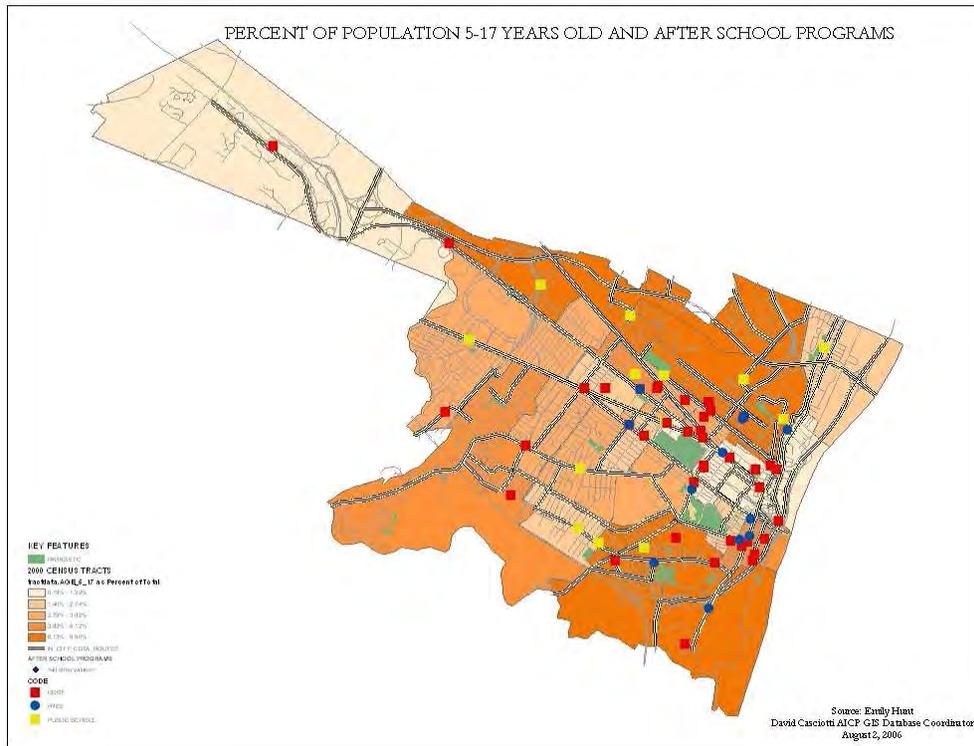
The Social Context

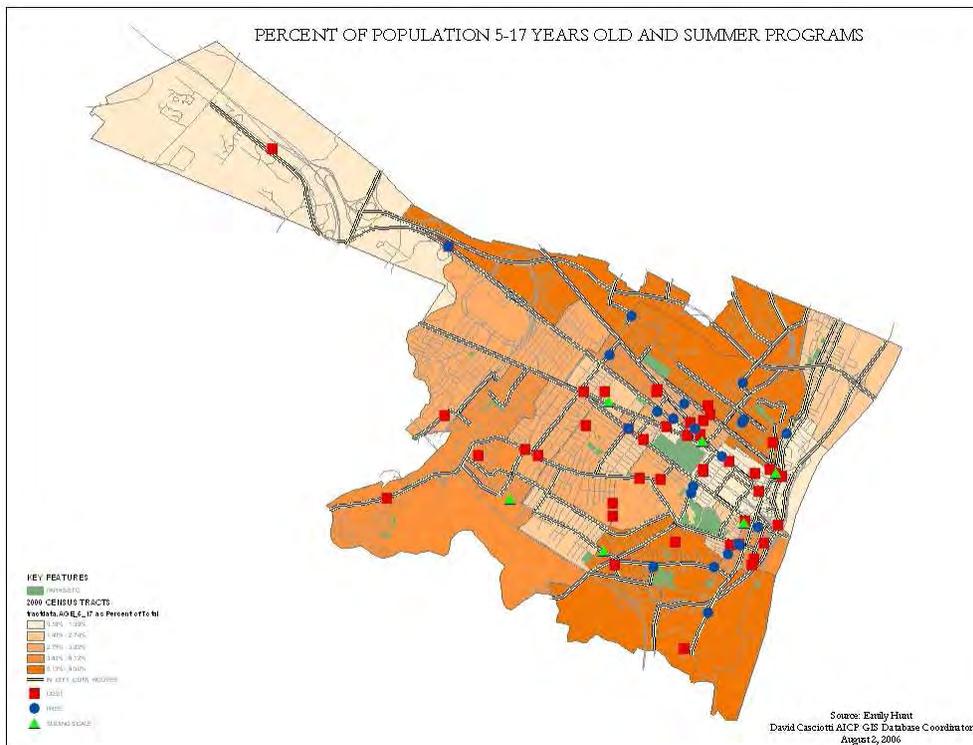
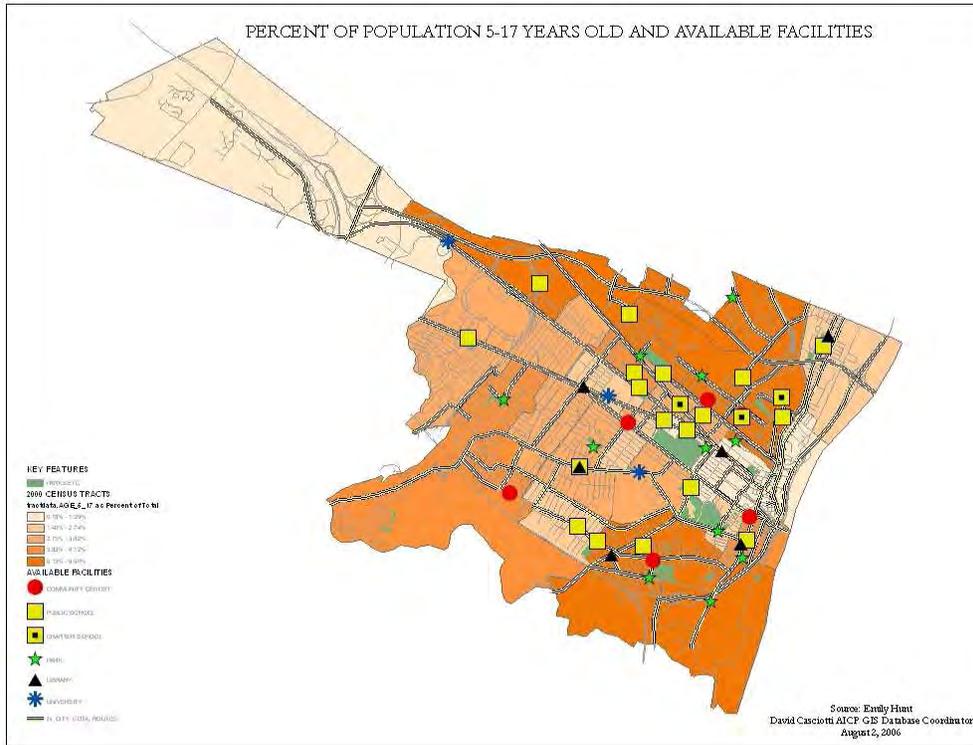
Gun violence is perpetrated by individuals against individuals, but within a marked social context. As the analysis of gun violence in Albany shows (see pp. 10-14 in Appendix B), gun violence is concentrated in several parts of the City, and they are the parts of the City with the highest rates of poverty, the highest rates of unemployment, and the lowest rates of high school graduation. This is no coincidence, and a lasting solution to the problem of gun violence will not be achieved until and unless these larger social problems are addressed. These are not merely areas of disadvantage, but areas of cumulative disadvantage. It may be more remarkable that many youth and their families retain any attachment to the wider society and hope for their futures than that some youth and some families succumb to the despair and hopelessness that makes gangs and drug dealing more attractive than homework and legitimate employment. More than one quarter of Albany's population lives in poverty, and as a recent report by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany points out, 42 percent of Albany's children live in poverty.²⁰ Poverty is particularly high in some neighborhoods, as the Census maps in Appendix D illustrate. Unemployment and a lack of a

²⁰ Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, *Poverty in the Diocese of Albany: A Threat to the Common Good* (Albany: Author, 2008).

basic (high school) education follow parallel geographic tracks (see Appendix D). These cumulative disadvantages set the stage for many social ills.

Resources that offer a partial antidote to these ills, such as after school programs, community centers, summer programs, parks, libraries, etc., are not sited to maximize youths' access to these resources, as the maps below show. These geographic incongruities between the youth population and youth resources may be due to a host of factors (including zoning restrictions), but whatever the reasons, they highlight the need to make the resources not only available but also accessible.





Street Gangs

People who are in a position to know – Albany’s gang prevention coordinator, and members of APD’s Children and Family Services Unit – report that Albany’s gangs are predominantly youth gangs, with members ages 12 to 19. They are loosely-structured organizationally, with identities that change over time and membership that is fluid, but across approximately six to eight youth groups (as many as ten with “reputations”), they generally conform to an uptown/downtown cleavage that originates in now-defunct high school boundaries. An estimated 150 youth are members, one third of whom might be considered “core” members, and only half of those are most centrally involved in violence. Most of these youth remain in school. These gangs tend to be more expressively violent than instrumental in nature, seeking identity and respect, adhering to the values of a street code that embraces violence; group rivalries contribute to and reinforce the gangs’ cohesiveness and stimulate much of the violence. Adult groups include the more widely recognized Bloods, Crips, and Latin Kings, among others, with an estimated 100 members. Adult gangs in Albany tend to be more instrumental, involved in the drug trade, and less violent.

These sources add that the City already has prevention programming in place, but it appears to be underresourced. Programming includes prevention, starting in 4th or 5th grade, as well as intervention for current gang members (such as tattoo removal). It is certainly conceivable – though we lack data on this – that as in so many such programs, the resources are stretched to extend services even to needy youth who are not at high risk of gang involvement; such programmatic dynamics are fairly common. Additional resources for youth services more generally could be expected to free gang prevention resources for the youth most at risk of gang involvement.

Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force finds that the City should expand and coordinate prevention programming, and forge new ways to collaborate with governments at all levels within the Capital District region.

The following recommendations come with the unanimous support of all Task Force members.

1. The City should form an Implementation Coalition that is charged with the further development of the Gun Violence Task Force recommendations, and monitoring efforts to put them into practice. The Coalition should include as members residents of the City of Albany who possess knowledge of or interest in issues related to gun violence, and should also include representation of appropriate City and County agencies, the Albany City School District and its teachers, and other community stakeholders. The Common Council and the Mayor should develop a list of priorities for implementation. The Coalition should formulate a budget, and explore any and all potential sources of funding, seeking the assistance of businesses, philanthropic organizations, and institutions of higher education. The Coalition would be expected to report back to the Common Council periodically, as mandated by the Council.

Recommendations 2 through 6 concern the establishment of an infrastructure for on-going violence prevention.

2. The City should actively support community violence prevention by:
 - a. Compiling, publishing, and maintaining a resource directory, listing agencies, programs and activists in the community whose services and activities may be of assistance in addressing problems relating to gun violence.
 - b. Organizing and coordinating the efforts of existing activists and community leaders, many of whom have participated in Task Force meetings and Public Forums, and tapping other community resources, such as neighborhood associations, colleges and universities, and the faith community. The role of neighborhood associations is especially vital in promoting public safety through informal social control, establishing and enforcing appropriate norms of civil behavior, and wherever possible, efforts should be made to foster the capacity of neighborhood associations to perform these functions.
 - c. Identifying and designating or hiring a community-wide anti-violence coordinator, who would be responsible for performing the functions described above (in [a] and [b]), and

also working with City agencies to seek grant and other support for violence-reduction initiatives.

3. The City should take the lead in applying to violence prevention the same multi-agency collaborative model used for New York State's Operation IMPACT, facilitating the efforts of City, County, State, and Federal agencies to share information and coordinate their activities to better ensure that dysfunctional or high-risk families receive needed services. Under the rubric of Operation IMPACT, city, county, state, and federal criminal justice agencies make formal commitments to participate as members of a task force, they meet as a task force on a monthly basis (and subgroups or working groups of task force agencies may meet in addition), they share information, and they coordinate their efforts tactically and strategically.
4. The City should establish a working relationship with the Albany County Health Department, which would serve as a springboard for a number of efforts, such as the development of programmatic grant proposals and other initiatives to address gun violence as a public health problem.²¹
5. Common Council should pass two resolutions: Bill of Rights for Children and Resolutions on Parental Responsibilities.
6. The City should establish, or work with the Albany County District Attorney to establish, an advisory council that would serve purposes of public education and community liaison on matters of gun violence. The council should include community members, who are representative of the community, and representatives of the Common Council, Albany Police Department, and District Attorney's Office, and it should meet regularly.

Recommendations 7 through 16 concern specific violence reduction programs and other initiatives. These programs can be expected to provide net social benefits – that is, to save more in the medical, justice, and other costs that they obviate than the City and other sponsors would expend on the programs themselves.

7. The City should work with the Albany City Schools on the development or adoption and implementation of classroom curricula that are designed to reduce violence and aggressive behavior, and which are delivered to all of the students in a school or grade (making them “universal,” rather than delivered only to high-risk students). Several reputable sources have

²¹ One example of such an initiative is Harlem's Safe Kids/Healthy Neighborhoods Injury Prevention Program, which reduced injuries caused by assaults as well as other types of injuries. See Leslie L. Davidson, Maureen S. Durkin, Louise Kuhn, Patricia O'Connor, Barbara Barlow, and Margaret C. Heagarty, “The Impact of the Safe Kids/Healthy Neighborhoods Injury Prevention Program in Harlem, 1988 through 1991,” *American Journal of Public Health* 84 (1994): 580-586.

favorably weighed the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of programs of this nature, and “model” curricula can be found. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services reviewed studies of the effectiveness of such programs, concluding that programs of many different kinds and at all grade levels are effective.²² The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention offers a Model Programs Guide that includes classroom curricula as a program type, of which two dozen or more are model programs that address violence and aggression.²³ The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence also offers information on model programs, based on their review of scientific evidence of effectiveness.²⁴ one such program, which we cite here as an illustration, is the PATHS (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies) Curriculum, which they describe as “a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior problems in elementary school-aged children while simultaneously enhancing the educational process in the classroom. This innovative curriculum is designed to be used by educators and counselors in a multi-year, universal prevention model.”²⁵ The City might also seek guidance from the New York State Department of Education.

8. The City should work with the Albany County Department of Health and other service providers to maximize the reach of the public health nursing program. The County program “Provides home visits to pregnant women, new parents, infants and children to coordinate needed health and support services. In addition, the nurse provides health education related to prenatal care, growth and development of infants and children, nutrition, safety in the home and available community resources.”²⁶ Programs of this kind are effective in preventing child abuse and neglect, which is a risk factor for delinquency, and one such program – the “Nurse–Family Partnership (NFP) program, was shown to reduce violence by the visited children in a long-term follow-up.²⁷

²² See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Effectiveness of Universal School-Based Programs for the Prevention of Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, MMWR 2007; 56 (No. RR-7).

²³ See http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/mpg_index.htm.

²⁴ See <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/index.html>.

²⁵ See <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/modelprograms/PATHS.html>.

²⁶ Accessed at http://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/programs_services.asp?id=231 on October 24, 2008.

²⁷ The latter finding is reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and it is surmised that the program is effective “because it concentrates on developing therapeutic relationships with the family and is designed to improve five broad domains of family functioning” [http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/TitleV_MPG_Table_Ind_Rec.asp?id=368]. However the evidence of effects on violence by visited children is inconclusive according to the Task Force on Community Preventive Services; see Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing Violence: Early Childhood Home Visitation and Firearm Laws, Findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, MMWR 2003; 52 (No. RR-14).

9. The City should form a Crisis Team that is formally organized and trained, ready to be deployed in the community. The Crisis Team would assist the City in the immediate aftermath of violent events involving firearms, serving as a liaison among the City, the community, and medical services, and deescalating the tensions associated with such violent incidents. (We would note that a Crisis Team consisting even of volunteers would have at least modest budgetary implications if it is properly organized and trained.)
10. The City should continue to work with Albany Medical Center to establish a hospital-based violence-prevention program, building on the models represented by programs at Rochester's Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong, at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, and others. (Further information on this type of program is included in Appendix E.) These programs target patients who are admitted with intentionally inflicted injuries, especially firearm injuries, who are at demonstrably elevated risk of repeat injury, and who as recent victims may be especially receptive to behavioral change. Eligibility may be restricted to some categories of victims; Rochester's program, for example, focuses on juveniles, while Baltimore's program focuses on victims who are on probation or parole. The programs provide case management with referrals to a variety of existing services, based on an assessment of each client's needs, and may involve periodic meetings with social workers, probation or parole officers, group therapy, and home visits. Evaluations of several such programs show that they are effective in reducing violence. Albany should fashion a program that is well-adapted to the needs and current resources of this City, seeking support from any and all appropriate sources, including publicly funded and third-party medical insurance (also see above, under Recommendation 1, concerning sources of funding).
11. Treating the CeaseFire-Chicago program as a model for a prevention program, the City should adapt and implement such a program here in Albany. The program implemented by the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention (CPVP) should not be confused with Boston's Operation Ceasefire and similar initiatives, for they are quite different. The goal of Ceasefire-Chicago is to prevent shootings. Outreach workers recruit high-risk individuals as clients, encouraging them to pursue education and/or employment and discouraging them from violence. In addition, "violence interrupters," who are in general former gang members, work on the street (and also in hospitals) to intervene in emerging conflicts to mediate and prevent retaliation. Ceasefire-Chicago also employs public education to discourage violence, coordinates with the efforts of faith-based leaders in the community to prevent violence, and works to mobilize the community against violence. A recently completed, independent evaluation of Ceasefire-

Chicago found evidence of its effectiveness in reducing violence, and the program model has been adopted in Baltimore, Kansas City, and several New Jersey cities. The Task Force notes that Ceasefire-Chicago is not an inexpensive program, and it is supported in Chicago entirely by funding from outside sources, including the State of Illinois and private philanthropy. Further information on Ceasefire-Chicago is included in Appendix F.

12. The City should explore the implementation of a focused deterrence initiative. Focused deterrence initiatives are multi-agency efforts to enhance the threat of criminal punishment for those at the highest risk of violent offending, to communicate that enhanced threat directly to the targeted population in the hopes that they may be deterred, and also to facilitate their choice to desist from violence and a criminal lifestyle by making services available. Initiatives of this kind have been successful in Boston, Indianapolis, High Point (NC), Cincinnati, East Los Angeles, and Lowell (MA). Further information on focused deterrence is included in Appendix G.
13. The City should expand gang prevention programming, identifying both gang prevention and gang intervention initiatives that are consistent with what is known about the social, economic, and personal factors that push and pull youth toward gang membership and activity, and which would complement or strengthen the program(s) currently provided by the City.²⁸ Several types of programs should be considered²⁹:
 - Primary prevention, including afterschool activities, dropout prevention (the City already operates an award-winning truancy abatement program), and job programs (this could include the creation of a hotline accessible to youth who are feeling pressure to join gangs);
 - Secondary prevention, targeting children ages 7 through 14 who display early problem behavior (and younger children as appropriate);
 - Intervention, targeting active gang members and associates;
 - Suppression;
 - Reentry (Albany County recently initiated a reentry program).

The Implementation Coalition should identify and prioritize the opportunities for additional or strengthened and expanded programming.

²⁸ The City operates a gang prevention program that includes educational sessions for elementary and middle school students, gang awareness seminars for school and other agencies' staff, a recreational program for age-appropriate youth on Saturday evenings during the school year ("Teen Night"), visits to prisons and colleges (the "Choices" program), and counseling and referrals.

²⁹ See National Youth Gang Center, *Best Practices to Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model* (Washington: Author).

14. The City, in conjunction with the Albany City School District, should explore the development of additional forms of alternative education, beyond (or instead of) those currently utilized in the Albany City schools.³⁰ Research on alternative education indicates that the effectiveness of these initiatives turns to a large extent on the strength of program implementation, the degree to which at-risk youth are targeted for participation, and the nature of follow-up that is provided to ensure that effects are not short-lived. Albany's alternative education programming should conform with evidence-based practices.
15. The City should develop and implement parent training programs. Effective parenting is indisputably a major factor in children's social development. Supportive parent-child relationships, parental supervision, and appropriate and consistent parental discipline, all shape the positive development of youth, and interventions that improve parenting skills could be expected to reduce violence and other delinquency. Parent training can take many different forms – parent education, parent support groups, parent aid – and be delivered through several different settings – churches, schools, community centers, or at home. Many parent-training programs have been offered as components of broader family interventions that target juvenile offenders or high-risk youth, while other programs are (or can be) free-standing. One such program, for example, includes a basic and an advanced curriculum for the parents of children up to 10 years of age who display behavior problems or are at high risk.
16. The City should take creative steps to put currently unused physical resources into service for community purposes, as facilities for social, recreational, educational, and other activities that could be expected to generate benefits in violence prevention. For examples: schools could be

³⁰ Although the Task Force has been unable to collect information from the School District other than that which is publicly available at the District's web site, we gather that alternative education in Albany takes the forms of:

1. "in-house" programs at the middle school and high school levels, for both underachievers and disruptive students, which provide for smaller classes separate from mainstream classes;
2. a program for students in grades 10 through 12 "aimed at students who enjoy hands-on learning";
3. the Middle School Alternative Program, serving 7th and 8th grade students with more serious behavioral problems, with classes held at the Adult Learning Center;
4. the Tutorial Opportunities Program for Students (TOPS), for students in grades 7 through 12 who violate the District's Safe Schools Policy, with a capacity of 60 students in three rooms of 10 students each, with two (presumably half-day) sessions per day; and
5. Harriet Gibbons High School, for up to 200 9th grade students in a "smaller, more personalized learning environment."

used as after-hours community centers, including afterschool programming³¹; vacant buildings could be used for community and vocational training centers.

³¹ Additional afterschool programming would be a violence-prevention asset. See OJJDP's Model Programs Guide (http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/afterschool_recreation_prevention.htm), and also see information available from the Afterschool Alliance (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>).

APPENDIX A

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

4:00 PM

Evangelical Protestant Church, Albany, NY
(Clinton St & Alexander St)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust
Leslie Fisher
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq.
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden

Task Force Members Absent:

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Council Members Present:

Rev. John Miller recognized Common Council President Shawn Morris, 4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee), 10th Ward Council Member James Scalzo (Chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee), and 1st Ward Council Member Dominick Calsolaro.

AGENDA ITEM: Kick-off Meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force, created by Albany City Ordinance Number 71.11.06. The Task Force shall be completed within one year after the appointment of its members at which time the Task Force will cease to exist. Common Council appointments were made by Resolution Number 71.111.07R at the Common council Meeting of November 5, 2007.

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM. Rev. Miller introduced Mayor Jennings for the purpose of addressing the members of the Task Force.

Mayor Jennings thanked the members for the willingness to be of service to the citizens of the City of Albany, and wished them well as they go about their very important business.

Rev. Miller announced that Judge Maney called, and said that he expected to be late to the meeting. Judge Maney had a court-related appointment.

Rev. Miller went around the table and asked each member to state their background and why they wanted to serve on the task force. What experiences do they bring to the table? What are their expectations?

Rev. Miller said that this first session would be largely devoted to “housekeeping” items i.e. how often to meet, where to meet, what time of the day or night to meet.

Rev. Miller anticipated that the members would also be going out into the community.

Rev. Miller told the Task Force that Council Member Barbara Smith, vice chair of the Council’s Public Safety Committee, would be the Task Force’s liaison to the Common Council.

Should the meetings be open or closed? The consensus was to have the meetings open, unless matters of privacy or confidentiality needed to be considered.

Ms. Barnette suggested one closed meeting where the members could get to know one another. This meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th—at the same location—4:00PM

Rev. Miller said he anticipated that the Task Force would need some items like a chalkboard. Chief Tuffey offered the use of a flip chart, and any other materials that the Task Force may need.

Ms. Banks suggested that the meetings be held at different locations around the city.

Dr. Morgenbesser suggested the possibility of some public hearings, and that the meetings should be open.

Chief Tuffey stated that it is very important to hear from the kids.

Rev. Smart spoke of the possibility of a “gang summit” and that the Task Force should also talk to the officers on the street.

Mr. Fisher believes that their should be “evidenced based” research done.

Ms. Banks followed up on the above points by supporting a “gang summit” or “team rally.” Also, public hearings should not serve as a forum for people to simply “blow off steam.” It would be a good idea to visit families at their own homes, by going door to door in the community.

Rev. Miller was encouraged that folks at the jail even wished him and the Task Force well as they undertake their business.

Perhaps the Task Force can break into small groups, and go out in the community.

The Task Force will need an **Agenda** for each meeting, and Mr. Fisher agreed to prepare one.

Rev. Miller wanted everyone to recall that there are two main charges for the Task Force: Assessment and Recommendations.

Dr. Morgenbesser sees the need for a three-pronged approach: data—public policy issues—and that phenomenon that encompasses everything else.

Rev. Faust does not want to go into this with pre-conceived ideas---things may shape the planning as the group moves along---and new ideas (not pre-conceived) may be created.

Ms. Banks wants to see a rapport built with the children.

Rev. Faust hopes that people like Judge Herrick and Judge Duggan can be brought in to discuss their experiences from interaction with youth and family members from the community.

Rev. Smart wanted to know what caused the legislation passed by the Common Council to declare Albany as an unsafe city?

The legislation actually states:

“Beyond the immediate harm to the victims and their families, these violent gun acts have a detrimental effect on the social character of the City, **leading to a perception that Albany is an unsafe city** which hurts the efforts of the city administration to promote Albany as a place to live, visit, or invest in.”

Chief Tuffey took exception to describing Albany as an unsafe city. There are deep-rooted problems that start in the home. These must be addressed. We need help from the community to resolve some of these problems with a perception that Albany is not a safe city.

Ms. Barnette said that perception becomes reality. We must go deeper, and we can't ignore other things going on around in the community e.g. stepping over trash to get in their homes. Etc.

It was decided that the Task Force would meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 4-6PM. The next two meetings will be 12/4 (closed) at the church and 12/18.

Rev. Smart said that it would be better for him to have morning meetings, because as a pastor, he does most of his work in the evening. He also asked if it was permissible to send a designee.

The group agreed, although they did not want to see a designee take over the role of the appointee.

Mr. Fisher wondered if the members should not direct their comments to each other through the Chair.

Rev. Miller said he preferred to have open dialogue, and the members agreed. A vice chair can be designated at the next meeting, in the event that Rev Miller will be unable to attend some future meeting.

A discussion was held over the charge of the Task Force. Dr. Morgenbesser wondered if it was their charge to study only gun violence, or is it “youth gun violence”, or is it “violence”, or is it “youth violence?”

Rev. Miller stated that “gun violence” is the charge of the Task Force, but the group's assessment may cause them to look at “violence” as a whole.

Chief Tuffey stated that core problems lead to gun violence. APD sees the violence starting with youths younger and younger all the time. Often it is no surprise to his officers who is involved, based on past encounters with certain youth.

Dr. Morgenbesser believes that the NYS Legislature can act to curb the flow of guns that originate in New York State. He has been waiting since September for a FOIL answer from ATF.

Chief Tuffey said he does not hold out any hope for getting help from Washington. Many of the elected officials are afraid of the National Rifle Association (NRA) lobby.

Rev. Faust doesn't believe it is fair to say that all the problems begin in the home. Often, a child who goes bad, is from a very loving and supportive family. The Task Force will learn a lot about other factors such as economics and racism.

There is no one cause---as there is no one solution. Why is there a demand for guns? It is largely because there is a market for it—people to make money selling guns.

Ms. Banks wants the group to keep focused on what brought everyone together. Guns brought us to the table, and gun violence is what the main focus should be.

Rev. Miller is disturbed, and disappointed, that many young people do not learn from the bad experiences of others. He recently visited with some young people who got in trouble, and yet were friends of Ms. Banks' son, a victim of gun violence.

Mr. Harris (**representing Albany County DA Soares**), believes that the group should stay on gun violence. Later, as they move on, they may talk of other types of violence (i.e. domestic, sexual assaults, etc) As Chief Tuffey said, many of the problems begin in the home. How can we get the community more involved?

A discussion was help in reference to an intern who would be accomplishing the following tasks (among others):

1. Take minutes at task force meetings, including public comment, and write up minutes for distribution to Task Force members, the Mayor and Common Council Members.
2. Undertake research as directed by the Task Force.
3. Copy and distribute to Task Force members research reports gathered by Task Force members, and any reports or research results prepared for the Task Force.
4. Help the Task Force write reports.
5. Supervise volunteer community members and/or students who wish to work with the Task Force.
6. Undertake other tasks as requested by the Task Force.

Council Member Smith spoke from the audience. She said that an intern would be funded in the amount of \$5,000 (half from the Council and half from the Mayor). The intern, who was to be recommended, declined the position.

Council Member Calsolaro thanked the members of the Task Force for serving. He is pleased to see such a great group of individuals come together for this purpose. When he first proposed a Gun Violence Task Force 3 or 4 years ago, he never envisioned that the group would be as good as this one.

Rev. Smart asked if some coffee and a little food could be provided if they were going to have evening meetings. Rev. Miller agreed to provide some coffee and food.

Rev. Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Marsolais
Acting Secretary
518-434-5088

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

4:00 PM

Evangelical Protestant Church, Albany, NY
(Clinton St & Alexander St)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust
Leslie Fisher
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq.
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden
Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Task Force Members Absent:

None

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee),

AGENDA ITEM: Second Meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force, created by Albany City Ordinance Number 71.11.06. The Task Force shall be completed within one year after the appointment of its members at which time the Task Force will cease to exist. Common Council appointments were made by Resolution Number 71.111.07R at the Common Council Meeting of November 5, 2007. **This meeting is known as the "Get to know one another meeting."**

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Rev. Miller asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 2007. Dr. Morgenbesser wanted to add that he has been waiting for a September 2007 Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request to be answered by ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms).

Hearing no other changes Chief Tuffey made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, and seconded by Robert Serenka. The minutes were approved, as amended.

Mr. Fisher said it would be a good idea to highlight action points in future minutes.

Since this was a “get to know one another” meeting, Rev. Miller thought everyone could learn a little more about each other by having the members name five books that have influenced their lives.

Each member of the Task Force, along with Council Member Smith and Acting Secretary Marsolais, named several books and how they have been influenced by these readings.

After the exercise, Judge Maney wanted to let his fellow Task Force members know that he had a commitment each Tuesday, which will necessitate his late arrival. On Tuesday afternoon, he holds a special court for juveniles. It is very intensive and is making a difference in the lives of these youth and their families.

Rev. Miller wanted the Task Force members to help themselves to the food and drink he had available.

Rev. Miller said there was one more housekeeping item to take care of---the selection of a vice chair. Ms. Banks nominated Rev Smart with a second from Judge Maney. Rev. Smart was approved unanimously.

Chief Tuffey said that Robert Worden had a report that he had been working on before the Task Force was even formed. Mr. Worden handed out the report entitled, “Violent Crime in Albany – a Pre-Assessment. Report to the Common Council (dated 8-1-07).” Prepared by Robert Worden and Sarah J McLean (School of Criminal Justice – University of New York at Albany and the John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety).

Ms. Barnette wanted to know who will be speaking on behalf on the Task Force, particularly when the media asks questions. The media will zero in on one or two of the members. The Task Force, as a body, should decide the parameters.

Judge Maney said that someone could speak on procedure and consensus, but agreed that there will be a lot of media attention focused on the work of the Task Force.

Mr. Fisher thought that the Chair could be the spokesperson.

Chief Tuffey said that he routinely receives requests from the media to comment, and at times the media will attempt to tie his comments back to the Task Force. When he speaks he will make it clear that he is commenting as the Chief of Police, not a spokesperson for the group.

Mr. Fisher handed out a number of reports to the members of the Task Force for the purpose of possibly guiding our end product report. Look at reports from Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, the Great Lakes, among others.

Suggested Action Points:

1. Look at Task Forces and other projects around the country
2. Look at Albany and what’s working
3. Look at reports and data

Dr. Morgenbesser said we need a range of core principles. Go back to the gun trafficking situation. This is just as important as prevention issues. He is still waiting for statistics from ATF, in answer to his September, 2007 FOIL request.

Task Forces sometime break into committees.

Mr. Fisher said that data AND prevention are important to look at.

Dr. Morgenbesser said the key is how to balance all of this.

Chief Tuffey said it is a national problem---yes----but let's look at, and focus on, Albany's problems. How has the City changed? Get input from the children. Why are these things happening to our children?

Mr. Fisher said it is a combination of things. The issues are not unique. Use both approaches, where appropriate.

Chief Tuffey said that in the larger cities, the gangs are more entrenched. It is more a part of the culture.

Ms. Banks wondered if it would be prudent for the members to do some homework and brainstorming on their own, at home.

Rev Faust said we should go back to what was discussed last week. Identify the purpose and map out a path. We should meet with the youth of our city. Make up a series of questions such as "Why is it exciting to have guns?"

Perhaps we should have committees. Not everyone in the community would receive just anyone. Should we have a "street committee?" Add committees as we go along.

Ms. Banks said the member should all do their own homework on the matter. Think about what they want to do. Look at other Task Forces like one she is familiar with in the Carolinas.

Judge Maney said we should start with a mission statement. A data committee? Identify 2 or 3 priority issues. Form sub committees.

Action Points:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Form a Data Committee2. Prevention Issues Committee3. Community Action Committee or Education Committee a/ka/ "Street Committee" |
|--|

Law, legislative or regulatory committee may be too much for mandate. Perhaps start with 3 committees.

Rev. Smart said at the end of the day some suggestions, or actions, may have to be put in legislative form. We need to provide a forum to listen. Listen to gang members, high school students, and parents. Bring in those people. Give them an opportunity.

Rev Miller said we must go out and get them. Knock on doors. How do we best divide ourselves and go out in the neighborhoods?

Under the heading of assessment, we need to know what questions to ask.

Ms. Barnette said that we should clearly define what our mission is.

Rev. Miller said that the charge of the Task Force is to prepare a report at the end. Do we also consider interim reports?

Judge Maney again emphasized, we need a mission statement

Action points:

All Task Force members should draft a mission statement, and bring it to the next meeting.

Next meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force is Tuesday, December 18th at 4:00PM at the Protestant Evangelical Church.

Rev Smart also suggested that there be public hearings, perhaps early on in the process.

Rev. Miller noted that there were a lot of well-attended neighborhood meetings around the city leading up to the formation of the Gun Violence Task Force. There is a lot of “stuff” from people who wish to be heard.

Rev. Smart suggested an alternate location for a meeting could be at the 100 Black Men location---388 Clinton Avenue.

Rev. Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:10PM.

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD AND BEVERAGES REV. MILLER.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Marsolais
Acting Secretary
518-434-5088

AMENDED 12-18-07

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

4:00 PM

Evangelical Protestant Church, Albany, NY
(Clinton St & Alexander St)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Hon. P. David Soares & Mark Harris, Esq.
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden

Task Force Members Absent:

None

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)
1st Ward Council Member Dominick Calsolaro

Members of the Public Present: 5

AGENDA ITEM: Third Meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force, created by Albany City Ordinance Number 71.11.06 (As Amended). The Task Force shall be completed within one year after the appointment of its members at which time the Task Force will cease to exist. Common Council appointments were made by Resolution Number 71.111.07R at the Common Council Meeting of November 5, 2007.

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM.
There will be pizza arriving at 5:00PM!

Rev. Miller welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. The visitors in the audience were told that a mechanism for public participation/comment had not yet been developed. A mechanism will be developed as the Task Force moves along.

Due to the holidays, **the next meeting of the Task Force will be Tuesday, January 15, 2008.**
(Generally, meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month)

The meeting site will be at the Public Safety Building – 2nd Floor – 165 Henry Johnson Blvd (4-6PM)). Chief Tuffey will brief the members on how the Police Department keeps and maintains records, and will also give an overview of the operations of the Police Department.

Les Fisher made a motion to change a paragraph in the December 4th minutes, as follows:

Mr. Fisher handed out a number of reports to the members of the Task Force for the purpose of possibly guiding our end product report. Look at reports from Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, the Great Lakes, among others.

Hearing no other changes Chief Tuffey seconded the Chair's motion to approve the minutes, as amended. The minutes were approved, as amended.

Rev Miller asked if everyone had worked on a Mission Statement.

Rev. Miller, Mr. Worden, and Chief Tuffey handed out a copy of a draft mission statement

After a great deal of discussion, it was decided that the Mission Statement developed by Rev. Miller, would be accepted, as amended. The Mission Statement of the Gun Violence Task Force will be as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT of the ALBANY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The mission of the Albany Gun Violence Task Force is twofold: assessment and recommendation. To the end of assessment, it is our purpose

- 1. to ascertain the root causes of gun violence;**
- 2. to examine the manifestations of gun violence; and**
- 3. to engage in dialogue with the people concerning gun violence.**

To the end of recommendation, it is our purpose

- 1. to identify resources to address gun violence;**
- 2. to suggest a strategy to alleviate gun violence; and**
- 3. to recommend programs to combat gun violence.**

It is our vision to develop a working partnership inclusive of the Task Force, city agencies, existing programs, and the citizens of Albany to fulfill the purposes identified.

Albany Gun Violence Task Force

John Marsolais, Acting Secretary, will mail out Mission Statement to everyone.

(John Marsolais e-mailed the Mission Statement to all Task Force Members on 12-24-07)

At the previous meeting, December 4, 2007, members of the Task Force approved the formation of three committees, as follows:

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data Committee2. Prevention Issues Committee3. Community Action Committee or Education Committee a/ka/ “Street Committee” |
|---|

Mr. Fisher recommended that a 4th committee (Legislative Committee) be considered.

Chief Tuffey said that recommendations of the Task Force would go to the Common Council for potential legal/legislative action.

Mr. Fisher asked if legal issues would be considered by the 3 committees.

Rev. Miller felt that they would, at least for the first two.

Mr. Soares said that we might hold off on a 4th committee, until we scope out the details of what the committees will do.

A discussion ensued among Rev Miller, Mr. Worden and Rev Smart regarding how accomplishments will be identified. That can be determined by looking at what the mission statement called for.

Mr. Soares suggested that we keep the adopted mission statement and remain flexible.

Rev Faust wanted to be sure that the mission statement identifies goals.

The committees will have deliberations that tie back to the mission statement.

Rev. Faust said that the point of the committees is to “chop up” the work, and to come back with certain goals defined. Some information will overlap, but the committees must start somewhere, and remain focused.

Rev. Miller said that the number of committees does not have to not be limited, but—for now-- we will stick with the three committees, and come back with a report of committee discussions at the next meeting.

Chief Tuffey wanted to remind everyone of the report handed out by Mr. Worden at the last meeting. This report was developed before the Gun Violence Task Force was formed. There is a lot of good data in the report.

Mr. Fisher recommended that each committee prepare a preliminary report, which will be due March 31, 2008. The objectives of the report should be to come up with specific and doable recommendations, based on each committee’s deliberations.

Rev. Miller does not want to impose a specific date on the committees.

Rev. Miller asked Council Member Barbara Smith, how often does the Common Council want interim reports.

Council Member Smith , Gun Violence Task Force liaison to the Common Council, stated that the Council would like to hear on a periodic basis—perhaps a couple of times-- before the final report.

Mr. Harris, suggested the following, to move things along (there is about a month to the next meeting):

Mr. Harris recommended that four members be on each of the three committees. Perhaps a law enforcement person on each committee and a church representative on each committee, and the others can fill in based on their interest-----this way we have input from all sectors. These committees can meet before the next full meeting of the Task Force. They can review the mission statement and decide the issues that should be looked at. It is possible that there will (at least, initially) be some overlapping work among the committees. At the next full Task Force meeting, start setting up dates for community members to give input. (Here or other locations?) Mr. Harris wholeheartedly agrees with Chief Tuffey that there is a uniqueness to the situation in Albany which the Task Force needs to address. In other words, what is it about Albany that causes the problem here? Let's get input and see what we can do about it.

The three adopted committees, and their members are to be as follows:

DATA COMMITTEE

Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Dr. Robert E. Worden

PREVENTION ISSUES COMMITTEE

Hon. Betty J Barnette
Leslie Fisher
Michael P McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Robert L Serenka, Esq.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE a/ka/ "Street Committee"

Allison Banks
Rev. Valerie Faust
Rev. Dr. Edward B Smart
Hon. P. Davod Soares
Chief James W Tuffey

Dr. Morgenbesser mentioned a potentially good meeting listed on the DCJS website (2/4-6), costing \$100. Rev. Miller may attend.

Mr. Fisher encourages members to look at the Great Lakes report and Cease Fire Report, previously handed out.

Chief Tuffey suggested that the Task Force members look at the ordinance again for other reports that may be beneficial. (New York State Reports? Impact Community Share?)

Dr. Morgenbesser suggested one study done by John Klofas, professor of RIT, who looked extensively at gun violence issue. Worked with Rochester Police Department.

Mr. Fisher said some of the larger studies he handed out at a previous meeting, looked at parts of a city---not necessarily the entire city. Therefore, these studies would be good for Albany to look at.

Rev Smart wanted to get a schedule of upcoming meetings.

Rev. Miller reminded everyone that meetings are generally the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. January is different. **The next meeting is at the Public Safety Building, on January 15, 2008, from 4-6PM.**

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Possible future locations:

100 Black Men, Clinton Avenue

Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church (across from Albany County Family Court)

Church at Clinton and Quail (Mr. Soares)—old Guardian Society

Rev. Miller very interested in alternatives to incarceration, as most people know. He asked Mr. Soares if there are any new programs/initiatives going on.

Mr. Soares spoke about a program that OSI is conducting.

Acting Secretary Marsolais will send all Task Force members a copy of the contact list (with e-mails added) and a copy of the City ordinance that established the Gun Violence Task Force.

Rev. Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:00PM.

THANK YOU FOR THE PIZZA REV. MILLER.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Marsolais
Acting Secretary
518-434-5088

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

4:00 PM

Albany Public Safety Building, Albany, NY
(165 Henry Johnson Boulevard)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Hon. P. David Soares & Mark Harris, Esq.
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden

Task Force Members Absent:

None

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)
5th Ward Council Member Willard Timmons

Members of the Public Present: 1

AGENDA ITEM: Fourth Meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force, created by Albany City Ordinance Number 71.11.06 (As Amended). The Task Force shall be completed within one year after the appointment of its members at which time the Task Force will cease to exist. Common Council appointments were made by Resolution Number 71.111.07R at the Common Council Meeting of November 5, 2007.

MISSION STATEMENT of the ALBANY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The mission of the Albany Gun Violence Task Force is twofold: assessment and recommendation. To the end of assessment, it is our purpose

- 1.to ascertain the root causes of gun violence;**
- 2.to examine the manifestations of gun violence; and**
- 3.to engage in dialogue with the people concerning gun violence.**

To the end of recommendation, it is our purpose

- 1. to identify resources to address gun violence;**

2. to suggest a strategy to alleviate gun violence; and
3. to recommend programs to combat gun violence.

It is our vision to develop a working partnership inclusive of the Task Force, city agencies, existing programs, and the citizens of Albany to fulfill the purposes identified.

Albany Gun Violence Task Force

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Rev. Miller welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. The first order of business was the approval and recommendations of the minutes from the meeting on December 18, 2007. There were no comments, a motion was made and approved by consensus.

REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Data Committee – The committee met and determined the below listed three tasks would be completed by the committee:

- Build on the Worden and McLean report, *Violent Crime in Albany*, to conduct an analysis of police department data (including numerical data and qualitative data) to reach informed conclusions about risk factors for gun violence
- Use information from crime reporting in cities that are comparable to Albany's economic condition to identify 2000 and 2006 violent crime rates in those cities, with keep note of trends from 2001-2005.
- Review and assessment of prevention and current programs and practices in Albany

****SEE ATTACHED DATA COMMITTEE REPORT****

Mr. Morgenbesser informed the Task Force that Agent Green of the NY Bureau of Tobacco and Firearms Office communicated that the Board on Upstate Cities indicated that data on gun seized should be out at the end of the month or beginning of February.

The Chair stated that he hoped all members had received a copy of the report by Bob Worden and asked if there were any comments for the Data Committee.

Comments:

1. Establishing medical costs for victims in the City of Albany
2. Considering data on the social effects and costs of gun violence
3. Determining how many families are effected financially

Prevention Committee – Mr. McDermott reported that he had a packet of information collected by DCJS about prevention strategies that were used in different places around the country. He stated that members of the prevention committee were provided with copies and asked if any other members would like a copy.

Their Committee talked about bringing in various groups as a resource and possibly sending out letters to Albany High School, Trinity Institute, Brother Usef and various other groups. The Committee is open to suggestions. The Committee is also trying to come up with a working definition of Prevention.

Comments:

1. Including an age range
2. Using a broad age range of 9yrs to 24yrs (Even considering Family Court Act age is 16yrs)
3. Get approval of a draft letter of invitation for persons coming to speak before a committee
4. Develop Sub-Committee letterhead
5. Keeping all members of the Task Force informed when testimony is scheduled before a Sub-Committee

Community Action Committee (Street Committee) – Reverend Smart stated that the Sub Committee elected Reverend Faust as Captain. Their meeting was held at the Albany County District Attorney’s Office. He read the Committee meeting notes to the GVTF.

****SEE ATTACHED STREET/COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES****

Goals of the “Street” Committee:

- Chief Tuffey would arrange meeting with YMCA through Cook Barrett
- Chief Tuffey would compile names and possibly some faces of youth who were incarcerated for gun related crimes/offenses to be used at community outreach meetings
- Ms. Banks to schedule a “Speak Out” against gun violence on March 5-7, 2008 at Albany High School
- Reverend Smart will contact six (6) local churches seeking venues for future committee meetings
- Reverend Faust will reach out to AHS, Harriet Gibbons, Hackett Middle School and one (1) elementary school seeking to schedule anti-gun violence talks with groups of students
- There may be questionnaires given at the various outreach, community and school meetings
- Working with Chief Tuffey on the demographics of the most effected neighborhoods to begin outreach

Comments:

1. The three (3) Sub-Committees could coordinate the efforts to contact the schools so as to not have the schools inundated with calls from the Task Force and possibly designate one (1) person to schedule the various meetings
2. Having the staff person (once selected) do the scheduling
3. Interacting with people who may have or may be incarcerated for gun related crime
4. It was suggested that Reverend Miller would be good person for this type of outreach, considering his relationship with the courts and his help within the community

There was discussion on the status of the interview process. Council Member Smith stated that there were 2 interviews held and has more resumes to review. She has enlisted help from Albany Law School with posting the job requirements and seeking resumes. Reverend Miller suggested that Reverend Faust, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Worden handle the scheduling.

There was discussion that there may be an impending truce between “Uptown and Downtown.” The Chief clarified that there is no official truce at the moment and that low-key discussion would continue between the two (2) sides. Hopefully, with help from the community things will remain under control.

Reverend Miller than opened the floor to Chief Tuffey and Officer Tony Bruno for a presentation on how the department is using and compiling information using an advanced mapping system.

PRESENTATION:

In 2006, Chief Tuffey took a look at re-organizing the Albany Police Department (APD). He believed that putting more resources out into the streets and allowing officers' access to more information while out on patrol would make it easier to make the City safer.

There are maps of City programs and where they are located around the City that was put together by a Common Council intern last summer that the Task Force will get to look at. The presentation will show how the department can layer the maps to show a variety of information, including the "Block by Block" zones.

New Technology

The Chief, as part of the reorganization, wanted officers that were out on the streets to get all of the tools and information that was contained within the stations to them while on patrol. The department developed the technology to be able to get the information out to the officers that they need to do their jobs and also, develop the systems to get the information in.

The Part 1 Index Crime Map is one of the single most important maps the department uses. This map is updated on a weekly basis. As part of the reorganization, an Information Coordination Unit was formed. Part I is from FBI UCR crime reporting, which is the nationwide standard for reporting crime. Some examples of Part 1 crimes are rape, robbery, murder, violent persons crime. The department added to their Part 1 map to show theft of motor vehicles, shoplifting, larceny, theft from vehicles, and theft from buildings. The maps are actually updated twice a day internally, even though the maps are produced once a week for the Commanders. The ultimate goal is to have the information updated on an hourly basis. The map has a key that identifies the types of crimes. This information is available to all the officers and supervisors in their vehicles and at the stations. All the maps have the capacity to be overlaid to show specific information or all the information at once.

The department developed a new tool that would allow tips to be sent by email and for tips to be called in by phone going to the same location. That information would go directly to the Information Coordination Unit.

Neighborhood Associations information is available on the maps. They have specific maps of certain areas to have a visual of the area during incidents. There are field interview cards that are filled out whenever anyone is contacted by the police for some reason or interviewed on the street. Officers can therefore know what is going on so that they don't duplicate efforts. The officers can also access who's wanted and warrants.

For example, the Information Crime Unit identified a crime pattern around the Albany Medical Hospital area. They did mapping on when and where the crimes were happening. The ICU checked out a known offender database for people who are known for committing these types of crimes. The department obtained a photo of the individual from a surveillance video committing a larceny. ICU posted this information on the website and broadcast the photo and the person was identified within two days. The criminal photo was posted on a special want website and was then captured within minutes. When there is a rash of crimes, the department takes a look at who may have recently released from incarceration and who has that type of m/o for those crimes.

"Block by Block" Initiative

The Chief wanted to bring the City entities together and bring that information to one forum to began identifying nuisance properties. The department used concentration maps and analysis to identify where there was Part 1 and violent firearm related crime and came up with four Zones. Three of the

areas have already been identified as Impact areas, but were adjusted based on the density of issues that they see.

Zone 1 – West Hill Area over southward across Central Avenue into part of Pine Hills neighborhood

Zone 2 – West Hill/Arbor Hill area to cover Colonie Street and Swan Street

Zone 3 – South End Area from Hawk Street to Green Street between Morton Avenue and Third Avenue

Zone 4 – Park South area from Lake Avenue to Dove Street between Myrtle Avenue and Madison Avenue (will be extending to include Swan Street)

Comments/Discussion:

Reverend Smart asked about other statistical data being a factor in the zones, such as low income, abandoned houses and unemployment. Chief Tuffey answered that some of it is and some of it is not. The zones were developed based on the highest concentration of crime in those areas. He stated that we do not see anywhere near the crime there used to be east of Henry Johnson Boulevard, but have seen crime migrate west.

The Chief stated that there are 900-abandoned house and most of them are in these zones. The department is targeting abandoned houses by going door by door. The landlords are listing the abandoned property as their mailing addresses making it difficult to contact them. The department is tracking the landlords down to get them to register their properties on the Vacant Building Registry and/or go to court with Code Enforcement.

When the Fire Department did their study on vacant houses, they color coded the properties based on condition. When the properties are being visited again, the owner, Code Enforcement and ALDC, evaluates if the property is rehab able. One of the problems is when a person registers their vacant property on the registry, they can submit a plan that states they are not going to do anything with the property. That is an issue the department is trying to address. The Common Council recently passed legislation that would increase the fees for vacant/abandoned properties.

The City of Albany and Albany County are having discussions and developing a system to work together on the vacant property issue. At this point, a property owner cannot go before the Board of Zoning Appeals if they have an open case. There will be a map created color coded based on agencies and departments, to identify repeat issues with properties and which agencies have been involved with the property. District Attorney Soares stated that some of the vacant lots could be a benefit to the communities by transforming them into community parks.

Officer Bruno stated that they have been looking at economic factors such as Section 8 housing, which has building permits, proper zoning and business hours. The department has done mapping based on zoning around the City of Albany. The department has visited every business in Zone 1 to talk about crime prevention, code problems, fire safety issues, keeping front of the business clean, blocking of view of storefront window and to make sure the business is zoned for proper usage.

The next map that is available has data from the police department, fire department, buildings and code enforcement, tax maps, and the recent reassessment. The officer enters an address he gets a photo of that address and all the above listed information on that property. The officer can also access if there is a parolee, someone on probation, or if there are warrants at that address. The goal is to

get it where it is a shared system between the departments and agencies so that everybody is informed and they know what they would be walking into. The department is working with Code Enforcement to develop a system that compatible with APD's system or using the same system so that information could be viewed in real time. The department knows where every Section 8 house is in the City. If someone is arrested and uses a Section 8 address and they not supposed to be living there, Albany Housing Authority can take away that Section 8 voucher.

There about 900 outstanding warrants for arrest. If the department looks at the map and notice there are 20 outstanding warrants in an area, they would gather 4-5 officers to go into that area. Most warrants are for minor because of not paying a court fine and things of that nature.

There was more discussion on information sharing between the Albany County Health Department and Social Services and the City of Albany. Chief Tuffey explained that those agencies would have to have systems compatible with the APD system. There would be information that the County departments deemed confidential and would not be accessible. Mr. Fisher inquired about information being released by New York State law for informational purposed. Chief Tuffey and Mr. Soares both agreed that NYS law would not require the release of confidential information.

Reverend Smart asked about the lack of services in the "Block by Block" zones and finding, which services that all the zones have in common. Mr. Soares stated that once all the information is put together, then it would become apparent which services would be needed. Reverend Smart inquired about the transportation availability in those areas. Chief Tuffey stated that the department knows which buses travel through those areas and that the CDTA buses are equipped with GPS. He stated that CDTA is evaluating how they do business.

Mr. McDermott asked do the police department track the guns for instance; this was a location where someone was arrested with a gun. The Chief answered yes, by looking at the reports they have. The department looks at if a gun was found in an area, who lives within 3 blocks of that area and look at drug arrests, also. The department looks at and map where an individual who may have been arrested for drugs is from in the City and you could see that there is a direct correlation in certain parts of the community where they are buying drugs where they live and not other parts of the City. The number of people coming into the communities to buy drugs has dropped drastically.

Council Member Smith described the differences of the three maps that, in conjunction with the police department, the Council's summer intern created. There are three maps: the summer programs, the facilities and the after school programs. She stated that the dark tan areas represent the age range of youth age's 15yrs to 17yrs. The darkest colors on the map signify the highest concentration of youth of that age range. The facilities map show where there are buildings that could be potentially used for programs. The after school map show that where there is the highest density of youth, that is where the least programs are. The red marks are the programs that cost a fee, the blue symbols are free programs and green symbols are parks. The intern also did memos on transportation issues.

The Task Force took a 10-minute break

Chief Tuffey stated that every house is marked with a number and they know which houses have a ROP. The department will need the other entities to assist with fighting crime. The truancy program is an all hazard program helping to identify services that may be needed for the families involved. Residents will see a high visibility, such as street sweepers out during the day and things of that nature. As the department moves from zone to zone, they will be leaving maintenance people to maintain the progress that has come from the "Block by Block" initiative. He stated that the Department of General Services and National Grid would be out testing the streetlights to see which ones need an upgrade

Reverend Miller (Chair) opened the floor for questions and comment.

Comments

Ms. Banks asked about the other agencies pulling together and issues outside of crime

Chief Tuffey Albany County Probation, NYS Division of Parole, Albany County District Attorney Office, NYS Probation and NYS Police working with the City of Albany Police Department. The department would be meeting with the State Police about redeployment. The Governor announced that they would be redeploying 200 officers that would not only work inside the police department but across the lines to the DA's office.

Council Member Timmons asked about the Albany County Sheriff's Department participation.

Chief Tuffey stated that Sheriff's would be participating. The police department works more with the Sheriff's department Narcotics Unit. There are talks going on that would bring some of the Sheriff's in and show them Urban Policing.

Ms. Banks stated that it seems like the focus has been just on crime, but as a Task Force are they going to talk about these areas being a poverty area.

Mr. Soares stated that part of the problem is that we have the public health organizations and public safety organizations operating under independent silence. But under the Chief's leadership this County has come a long way in basic information sharing with law enforcement. He stated the most important thing is using the information obtained to identify problems.

Chief stated that all problems would not be solved in a year, but they will be able to identify what they are and work towards a strategy.

Mr. Fisher stated that with his background sometimes starting at the end and then work towards the beginning. Where is the written plan that would outline what or who the police department would meet with?

Chief Tuffey stated that back in 2006 the department was reorganized and a strategic plan was put in place, a redeployment of their resources. After that, they made some recommendations and were given some direction of visions that the Mayor had of bringing people together. The department is doing that now and doing reports and building what the next steps need to be. First we need to identify in the City what we have and what we need to do and what are the other pieces that we need to bring into this realm.

Mr. Serenka asked if there were any plans to measure response time.

Chief Tuffey stated that the department has Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3. This system is based on what resources the department has available. If there were an emergency, an officer would be there immediately. He stated that prevention should have nothing to do with response time.

Mr. McDermott stated that when you look at the uniqueness of gun violence in the City of Albany, based on the mapping, what does that tell you about the City.

Chief Tuffey stated that it tells him the four zones are the most problematic.

Ms. Barnette stated that she believes response time, prevention and perception are all related.

Chief Tuffey stated that sometimes a Priority 1 call would come in before an officer could respond to a Priority 3 call and he may need to be redeployed. He stated that when resources are stretched during peak hours, that is when the Priority system comes into play.

Ms. Barnette stated that response times in certain areas are perceived to be longer than other areas around the City. She asked the Chief is the mapping changing the perception.

Chief Tuffey stated that he thinks the perception is better than it was a few years ago. He stated that the department also calls the caller back to let them know what the outcome was from the call.

Dr. Morgenbesser inquired if this technology gives the police a better picture of what kinds of weapons are out there.

Chief Tuffey stated that they have been finding 9's and 22's. The department has come across what they call "Community Guns." He stated that he is not seeing resurgence in rifles.

Reverend Faust stated that she would like to know how could they incorporate the maps into the Task Force findings.

Chief Tuffey stated that he is hoping to have the maps available to the public before this year is over.

Mr. Worden stated that one of the things that are working for the City of Albany is the strategic focus on combating crime and with scarce resources, strategic focus is key. He stated that through the interagency coordination there has been a dramatic decline. In response to the response time discussion, he stated that typically when a person is disappointed with the police response time, it could be due to a lack of being told an approximate timeframe. He suggested that maybe dispatchers could give an estimate time of arrival.

Reverend Smart wanted to go on record commending Chief Tuffey and District Attorney Soares for their tremendous efforts. He made a motion to see if the Task Force could hold meetings in each of the "Block by Block" zones. All were in favor. Chief Tuffey stated that he would look into sites for a meeting in each of the zones.

Next meeting would be held at Sweet Pilgrim Church on Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

A motion was mad. All were in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

On behalf of:

John C. Marsolais
Acting Secretary
518-434-5088

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

4:00 PM

Evangelical Protestant Church, Albany, NY
(Clinton St & Alexander St)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden

Task Force Members Absent:

Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present: 3

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Rev. Miller asked for a moment of silence for the three recent shooting victims on Delaware Avenue.

Rev. Miller commended the Albany Police Department for their good police work, by the quick arrest of the alleged gunman----- and his comments were met with unanimous applause.

A brief discussion was held concerning the origin of the gun. Chief Tuffey could not comment in great detail beyond stating that the gun used in the crime was not stolen.

He did, again, reiterate that factors such as turf, vengeance, personal relationships, often enter into gun violence crimes. Rev. Miller said that it's like having a ticking bomb ready to go off.

Rev. Smart said that he knew many of the family members affected by the loss of a loved one in this recent tragedy. Some of them are pillars of the community.

Dr. Morgenbesser reminded the Task Force that he is still trying to get Albany Medical Center to have a program at Albany Medical Center for gun violence victims and their families.

Rev. Miller asked for, and received, approval to accept the minutes of the January 15th meeting.

Rev. Miller asked if there are any subcommittee reports.

Mr. McDermott presented the Task Force with a Prevention Issues Subcommittee report. Their next meeting will be on February 8, 2008.

Mr. Worden said that the Data Committee did not meet but that he did undertake some analysis of shootings in the City of Albany, with the assistance of data from the Albany Police Department.

Dr. Morgenbesser showed a chart that he said revealed some startling data—that an analysis of guns used in NYC crimes, showed that the highest percentage of guns come from New York State itself. Not outside of New York State, as one would think!

Chief Tuffey said that there is a lot more to it than what the chart shows. Were they stolen? Were they purchased legally? It still shows that 85% of the guns originated outside of New York State.

Mr. Fisher wondered if the victim and perpetrator are usually from the same general area.

Mr. Worden stated that the sex, race, socioeconomic background, criminal history, are often the same.

Rev. Miller said that he had seen some scary things in parts of the south, where guns were displayed openly.

The Community Action Subcommittee (a/ka education, a/ka street subcommittee) did not meet since the last general meeting.

Ms. Banks spoke about the DCJS program/conference she just came from. There was a lot of useful information about how important data is, and how the various police departments and schools can work together. She was disappointed that there were apparently no local school officials there, with the exception of newly elected Albany School Board member, Melissa Mackey.

Chief Tuffey mentioned that there are 17 Project Impact areas in the state, and Albany is one of them. He is looking at getting a crime analyst center sited in Albany, and he is meeting with the District Attorney and NYS DCJS on Friday to discuss.

Mr. McDermott said it would be useful to have some school district people in to speak.

A discussion was commenced when Dr. Morgenbesser brought up the possibility of having an emergency room version of scared straight. Some members of the Task Force thought that it was not clear that this would have a beneficial impact; in fact, it may have the reverse effect of glorifying the event like wearing a badge of honor.

Chief Tuffey reiterated previous remarks that we should not lose our focus. Look at family issues, and intervene before someone even picks up a gun.

Rev. Smart reminded the group that the majority of these crimes are not seen by the family as a glorified thing. Mothers lose their children in these crimes. Chief Tuffey agreed that it is a small cadre of these guys who wear their wounds like a badge of honor.

Ms. Banks said that the key is to prevent the event before it gets to the point of someone ending up in the emergency room of the hospital.

Rev. Miller wanted some suggestions on who should be on the list of invited guests to speak to either one of the subcommittees, or the whole Task Force. Some of the initial names/positions are as follows:

- Harris Oberlander- Trinity Institution
- Principal of Albany High School
- Teacher’s Union representative
- Dr. James Crucetti, Commissioner, Albany County Health Department

Chief Tuffey said that there should be protocols put in place. Open forums? Restrict to the subject/topic

Mr. Harris felt it was important to set up a meeting later in the day for public input.

Mr. Fisher and Rev. Smart spoke about the Community Action Committee (a/ka education committee/street committee) sending out questionnaires. Perhaps there are things not being done in the schools.

Mr. Worden said we should look at what programs the school district has, and compare them to evidence-based programming.

Ms. Banks said that we should get the power point presentation that DCJS used at the recent conference she attended.

Other possible presenters:

- Cook Barrett, Gang Prevention Coordinator
- John Cutro, Restorative Justice Program
- Lisa Good, Drug Treatment Program at the Homer Perkins Center
- Representative of the *All City PTA* (different than PTA that conducts fundraisers, etc.)

Rev. Miller now wanted to discuss ideas on how to give the public the opportunity for input at Task Force Meetings.

It was decided to provide the public with an opportunity for input, during a half hour segment at the end of the first meeting of each month (1st Tuesday of each month). Those meetings could begin a half hour later and give the public an opportunity to be heard from 6:00PM to 6:30PM.

These “public input opportunities” are different than those when a specific issue is being discussed. For example, if the Task Force is having a ‘public forum” on a specific issue---not one of its regular meetings---the public will have an opportunity to weigh in on the particular subject being addressed at that public forum.

The date and site for the first forum to be decided.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Morgenbesser spoke of the need to study of what resource exist—and what resources are needed---when situations of gun violence arise.

Rev. Smart spoke about the many efforts that take place, particularly in the black community—to provide guidance and support to family members impacted by gun violence. There are many ways---not the least of which is spiritual—in which the community demonstrates their support.

Mr. Harris wished to inform the Task Force that Mr. Soares was unable to personally attend the meeting, due to an emergency

The next meeting of the Task Force will take place at the Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church (Clinton & Ten Broeck Street, just up from the Palace Theatre) on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 4:00PM. Judge Maney said that members of the Task Force may use the parking of the Albany Family Court Building (across the street on Clinton Avenue).

A motion was made to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
By John Marsolais

THANKS TO REV. MILLER FOR THE BEVERAGES AND COLD CUTS

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 18, 2008

4:00 PM

[INSERT LOCATION], Albany, NY

(address or intersection)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden
Hon. Betty Barnette

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present:

revisions to the last week minutes: "Mr Fisher: pointed out that the information may assist in coming up with economic cost factors savings in gun violence prevention programs"

The Task Force unanimously decides to change the format of the meeting and allow for the public to comment first.

CM	Comment	Response
Donald Collins	(former homicide prosecutor from New Orleans who now resides in Albany) When he heard about this meeting he decided to come down and offer his support. He is concerned that he does not see where the Federal Government is represented in Senator Collins plan. This issue is more than a statewide problem. Is concerned with celebrities like Fifty Cent being used in any media campaign	
Laurie Meyers	(Colonie resident) Here son was murdered in Albany in 1994. She wants to know what the Task Force is planning on doing. What is going to happen beyond just meeting? We have to take back the streets. The National Guard used to have a program for at risk youth for 16 weeks. Many of them were not educated enough to know they had options outside of violence. We need to focus on education as well Asks whether the Task Force has ever met with any kids and asked them about this issue.	Ms. Banks points out that it is the kids on the street that need to be canvassed more so than the ones in school. Chief Tuffey says that they have met with kids at the YMCA.
Mr. Scarf		

Community feedback:

RS: Mr. Scarf, you and a few others have mentioned about meeting with people who are working with them → a gang seminar is in the works, because we believe as some of you believe that we need to → I believe as a community that the person should come forward themselves (who killed this little girl) admit that you made a mistake

Mr. Scarf (again) → I cannot in my wildest imaginable dreams I cannot imagine holding a child as it is dying. I was convicted of a felony, a white collar crime → I got to know a lot of people and to see a child die in your arms and to hear about it, there has to be answer to the problems that are happening in Albany → it doesn't matter if you're living in Delmar or wherever, but I would implore you to listen to people → Jenna Foundation for Nonviolence, this foundation should come in and speak with kids, it's a grass roots program

→ the stamp of a felony on the forehead, can it be held in abeyance b/c I'm luck enough to have the education but so many kids have to carry that from job to job and one of the reasons the recidivism is so high

John Coutreau responds: comes down to shame → the way that people respond to shame is to do one of five things, one of the main ones is to attack others or avoidance behavior (drugs, exhibitionist) the stigmatizing types of shame → we need to change our tactics to reintegrating change

RM: I have walked many people through the process of getting a certificate of relief of disabilities

Allah Son Allah: if you want to work then someone will hire you. I did 14 years and got to work. But in order to survive in jail I had to turn into a monster like the other prisoners but when you make it back out you're a monster and the federal programs have the halfway house program but the state system just sends them straight back out → you don't get hired b/c you didn't take advantage of the pre-release program → the problem is if you don't present yourself in a respective form

RM: the task force has filed an interim report with the task force and the final report is due in November. → a community has got to become so outraged by this that it identifies the person who fired the shots, there were all kinds of people who were on the scene who saw the shooter and by the next

Jose Lopez: applied to be a member of the board but wasn't selected → I know the police have to be involved in this solution but what are you going to do for people in the streets and the police have to do more than they are → don't want

Tom Scarf: I've lived in every district of Albany from west end to central and the problem transcends committees → the shooting the other day has no excuses or reasons, when you have a community where people will shoot a gun into a street filled with kids → I look at the panel and see that no members of gangs are on the panel. I look at Jose Lopez and wonder why he wasn't selected → in major cities around the United States cities have enlisted the help of gang members and I don't see anybody here who can give the same perspective → I can remember when I was a child in this city I remember when shootings were on the front page for weeks. What has happened to our city. He's the 6th chief (CT) under this administration and he's the first that's qualified to do this → it's not about white against black → it's about another little child was born and another child was killed in the ghetto → another little child was killed in the ghetto → we have to stop that → need to be able to profile the buses coming out of NYC into Albany → look at bad cops and implore the chief to tell the community who the bad cops are → need to go into the community and talk to the people

- until a 400 million dollar convention center maybe we should put it into putting more officers on the street. We don't know if the convention center is going to be good or bad

RM: remember we have an overwhelming majority of young kids that don't do wrong

Robert Mosely: resident of city of Albany forever → I have a prevention type idea to stop this type of violence → the police officers should have the same type of "campaign mentality" and go into the community and in the neighborhood → have meetings where they can talk w/ the members of the community and police officers to get a handle or start working together to address the situation and both sides should try to come together → need have rapid response to the needs of the community not just to 911 calls →
→ was in the service and part of a strike force →

Alex Jackson: I think police are trying to do the best they can but we have to come together more → the police get information after they make arrests and we have to start questioning and putting pressure on everyone including the adults that are rapping with the kids and see if they can give them information

→ as a community of black people we need to inform our community about what is going on b/c all officers aren't out to kill or shoot anyone → I wrote out something that maybe they could tell the gang members when they begin. We need more trust from the community when people come in and make sure that they are not doing the wrong thing and get them jobs in the community → we've got the power to get rid of them

we need to give these kids information and let them know → need adults to talk to kids and let them know the life they are living is wrongs

Senator Malcolm Smith (NYS minority leader of New York Senate) part of the reason why it's important I got this invitation and decided to come today is because we recognize that this gun problem is a major problem in this state. What affects Albany

effects everywhere → we had a summit reasonably where we had members from Chicago Ceasefire and → we have a plan called Operation SNUGS → four components:

- 1) Site intervention, which involves the community partnering up with law enforcement
- 2) National, State, and local funding initiatives → we have project ceasefire that can do pilot program with intervention in the hospital →
- 3) Use of Celebrities and centers, we have engaged a number of celebrities from the Youth summit to say that guns is not something that is attractive and shouldn't feel good about it → Centers, there are a number in our community public and private
- 4) Gangs, guns, and gainful employment we are looking to get to companies where they are receiving state funding and state subsidies and ask them to make a serious effort to provide gainful employment → everyone is not going to be a lawyer, a doctor, etc. →

I know that Senator Breslin is also committed and I wanted to stop by and report the results of the summit → this is a state wide problem → we are all in this together

Ruth Pellum (founder and director of Music mobile) and I would like to speak to the tremendous need for programs on the street. We live in neighborhoods and we don't live behind barriers and we should be able to join together to provide leisure time and I remember in 1977 when I began music mobile when there were roaming jazz groups and puppet shows and I have seen when kids come to programs they are reminded of the way that we are with each other then the outcome is remarkable → I'd like to see if there is anyway that business and corporate people can come together during the off hours from 3pm to 12 am → violence doesn't follow a school schedule → there is also

CM: Jamaica, Queen → potential corruption in the police department and → I went to AHS and Philip Livingston school and I had 3 teachers that cared about us and Mayor didn't care → why is Mayor not here? There is a 15 million dollar debt and maybe that facility could have been built w/ that money instead. Why did it take a death to cause it

Allah Son Allah → I saw 14 years in jail for concealing drugs in the palm of my hands → and what I have been seeing is sickening and I don't know how to catch criminals → when I was a kid and saw CT coming I ran → I lost my sister 5 years ago --> the officers need to shake the people down that's hanging out in the corner → If he doesn't have id then he needs to go downtown until you know who he is that way when something goes down you know who was there and don't have to ask around → my kids are young and they can't play outside → my wife can't take 2 hours of their day and drive over to where you guys live to play → when we had Office Wilcox it was getting taken care of b/c he was from the hood → my family can't sleep at night → I have to stay employed → I'll be at every meeting and on CT's telephone everyday until I see result → I'm not leaving Albany or running to Schenectady or Troy → I don't see too many officials neighborhood maybe I need to bring my kids to your house to play → I've been there and I'm not afraid to talk to them → I've paid my debt to society and I need it today → I

can't afford for another little girl to die in vain → if they're on the street when they're not supposed to be then they need to go back → I've helped change laws and prevent laws from going down, I'm here to help with police or congress → downtown looks good Mayor Jennings, the Tulip Festival was nice but what about my neighborhood → I might even find a gun in the backyards → these people aren't going to just put their faces on the news and tell what they know because they are afraid → we need somewhere for our kids to play in their own neighborhood. We can't enjoy the neighborhood like this we have to be able to communicate and approach the officers and it's not always → have to approach the people on the corner → not checking the right pockets and ids → how you going to go to Afghanistan and catch bin laden but you can't catch an uneducated kid w/ a handgun → [has a t-shirt with pics of family who are all victims in some way] → those are the main concerns of Hoodcare, where are the kids going to go → I need to know where our kids are going to play at and after daycare → daycares that are available are in the crossfire where a lot of the shootings take place

Commenced the meeting:

(Speaker) **John Coutreau**: anyone interested in being paid to help address this issue should come see me and we are in the process of addressing this issue → Trinity House → those at the epicenter of violence who have the power to stop that violence → when we make judgments about who is committing the violence we make dangerous assumptions → we started doing interventions pro bono → what has happened as a result that the community has been doing to address the issues of gun violence the outcome of that work → we find out assumptions about who is committing the violence and why are wrong → we have a pretty simple process

→ we hear about an incident and look at who was affected by it and asked simple questions
→

RS: We need to

CS: Need to let people listen to the people. I can't believe that it would be conducted this way but we need to let the people speak.

(CS) Mr. Scarf: has Malcolm smith ever been to a meeting before (CS)

CT: I don't think anyone is trying to exclude anyone and we have had two forums where the for → and I do walk the street → maybe let people speak for 15 minutes

AB: since the issue of gun violence has taken place, this is the most attention of this issue has gotten at all → we need to come out everyday → and we need have meetings everyday

agrees to extend time

CM: this wristband is worn because of a violent assault that took place more than a year ago → I can say that we all need to work together and I have devoted a great deal of my life to getting guns out of the hands of youth and I think that we need, especially at this emotional time, we need to try and find a way to work together.

my assailant used a brick not a gun and was 16 at the time, we are in the process of beginning the restorative justice program to see that his reentry into society is a successful one → the energy and anger in the room was palpable → I hope that the task force will take this experience that when a tragedy takes place it can't be meetings as usual

CM: I sat here a hour and a half listening to everyone express the emotions → (talking to RM) said he should be removed → CT, we need people like myself and others from the streets to speak with young officers →

Shawn Morris: they have to finish in November the Common Council meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month and other things going on in the city trying to find out how to address this issue. The Public Safety meetings also take place.

John Coutreau: there's a meeting at 40 N Main of Family and Friends of violence victims → 1st Tuesday @ 6:30 → it's an opportunity to connect with other people → we are looking to get people who are already doing this kind of work to become consultants for our organization → there are usually gang members, former gang members, people who have committed homicides and come out of jail and decided to help →

LM: restorative justice has been proven to work but it has been rejected in Albany → if someone 16 or under hasn't killed somebody

John Courtreau: a lot of the incidents we deal with never hit the system → there's a project in Harlem called the Harlem restorative justice program, which conferences homicides that have never been charged. the communities most effected by that have a place to go to take care of it w/o retaliation. → our process works by allowing the community most effected to determine the type of response that is going to repair the harm that has been done. We will run a program that works in parallel w/ courts or outside of court

RS: we need about 15,000 dollars to have a march for life to restore families to have to help to have a day where people can bring their guns in and so that it demonstrates to our entire community → can Common Council give the task force a money to get a well named person to come in so we can get 15,000 people to get people to come together.

Shawn Morris: we can talk about it

AB: I have proposed that when Nov. is up that we have a gang task force that doesn't sleep that is a group of trained individuals that are from the community to be out on the street

CM: who is putting the guns in our community?

LM: last night I spoke to the common council of the city of Albany and reported of 500 types of gun violence activity → my understanding is that, with very few exceptions, that the county attorneys look to the feds to take jurisdiction of this b/c if you are convicted of a federal gun trafficking crime you do more time → I've asked the Common Council to petition the US attorney to tell me how many people he's prosecuted or gun trafficking and bringing guns into Albany → if it's too hard I want to get that law changed → I will never accept gunfire in this community → if we had a disease that caused as much sorrow as this guns then the doctors would be all over the place

MH: the reason that the federal gov't prosecutes gun trafficking then it's b/c they cross state lines and that's a federal crime

LF: I am delighted to see this assembly → we have to start at the grass roots level →

John Coutreau: relayed examples of violence incidents they have handled → most of the time there is a gun near by so that if something happens they can get it quick → some kids sell drugs to support their parents drug habit → parents don't have the capacity to care for their children

Mr. Mosley: nephew said that they get their guns from Walmart and they are modeling what they see in the streets

CT: every state has their own rules, straw purchases, etc. that's the type of things the law enforcement struggle with

Terry O'neal: I think it would be very helpful if we were to tell the media to stop calling it a stray bullet

CT: we classify it that way b/c the girl wasn't the intended target

LF: would recommend putting it to the media in a constructive way

LM: when you have a city with a climate like this, we are damn lucky that more people haven't been killed by so called stray bullets →

Mr. Moseley: we have to address the southern states to stop making it so easy to get them guns

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING AT FIRST ISRAEL AME

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

4:00 PM

Albany Police Department Conference Room, Albany, NY
165 Henry Johnson Blvd.

Task Force Members Present:

Leslie Fisher
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden
Hon. Betty Barnette

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust
Allison Banks
Hon. Gerard Maney

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present: 0

Guests: 3

Dr. Virginia Ryan
Ms. Marybeth Miller, Asst. Commissioner of Albany Public Health

Rev. Miller called meeting to order at 4:03 PM

The next meeting will be at Sweet Pilgrim Church.

Rev. Smart said that the doors to his Church are also open for meetings. They have recently contracted for better parking and are very good cooks.

Mr. Morgenbesser introduced the guests: Dr. Virginia Ryan and Ms. Marybeth Miller

DATA COMMITTEE

Task Force members in this group:

- Hon. Gerard R. Maney (absent)
- Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
- Dr. Robert E. Worden

Mr. Robert Worden said that the tentative meeting had to be canceled because he caught the flu, but it will be rescheduled.

STREET COMMITTEE

Task Force members in this group:

- Allison Banks (absent)
- Rev. Valerie Faust (absent)
- Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
- Hon. P. David Soares
- Chief James W. Tuffey

Rev. Smart said they will be at the YMCA @ 8am and 9am this Saturday.

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Task Force members in this group:

- Hon. Betty J Barnette
- Leslie Fisher
- Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
- Rev. John Miller
- Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Mr. McDermott reports that the group met last Friday with Beverly Jackson, with the Pathways to Peace Program, which has been in existence for several years. The program is run out of Rochester Mayor's office and receives some funding through local business grants. The program serves people 12-25 years old and provides parenting programs, violence intervention, anger management, tours of Orleans Correctional Facilities. Ms. Jackson is willing to come and speak to the group.

Rev. Miller said that the group should be open to meeting with Ms. Jackson because they have been so innovative in Rochester.

Updates on Old Business

Mr. Harris reported that the program that he advised on 2 weeks ago, involving sending letters to owners of vacant lots, was going well.

In a conference call, **Dr. Mark Gestring**, head of trauma at a Rochester hospital, spoke with the group about a program he founded aimed at stopping repeat gun violence. The program functions without any funding and instead collaborates with other hospital departments as well as child protective services. This hospital based violence intervention program primarily deals with children between the ages of 12 and 18.

The program is made up of several individual agencies that help to identify who needs their help by utilizing a screening process. This screening process asks whether the patient is stable enough to be treated in the hospital and then released, will they be going to a safe place when they leave, are they on some sort of probation, are they in a gang, then a mandatory social work and psychiatric evaluation is conducted.

A social worker that helps regularly with the program says that the focus is on the family and they try to get service providers in contact with the victims within the first 24 hours.

The program began with the founders making some key assumptions: 1) no kid should ever be shot or stabbed, 2) the injury was probably because of some sort of high risk behavior, 3) kids under the age of 18 have someone that is probably supposed to be responsible for them, and 4) if intervention doesn't happen now then they will probably be shot again.

They have to deal with the reality of recidivism. If you are shot or stabbed once then your chances of it happening again go up as do your chances of getting killed the second or third time. In addition, they have found that people may be more reasonable and peaceable when they have just been shot and may be more willing to change their behavior.

A pediatric psychiatrist, also part of the program, said that they seek to assess the needs of the community as well. For instance, they try to prevent retaliation by contacting service providers and provide immediate follow up after someone has been shot. When child protective services does have to get involved it is usually because of neglectful behavior by the parent.

Sometimes children have to be kept in the hospital even though they are physically well enough to leave. The trauma surgeon decides if the child needs to stay in the hospital. While the hospital still tries to get paid for the time the child is in the hospital, that is not the focus of the program.

The organizations that work with the program bring their own resources. One organization has received multiple grants by virtue of their participation with the program. While this program may not work for Albany, Dr. Gestring recommends the process start with wherever people go when they get injured and then get the hospital involved by creating a screening process.

-----TEN MINUTE BREAK-----

Rev. Miller says that his committee should follow-up on what was discussed in the conference call and that **Hon. Betty Barnette** should be in charge and report back.

Councilwoman Smith reminded the group that the common council was expecting a report from the Task Force soon. It does not have to be long, perhaps 7 to 10 pages in length.

Rev. Miller said that the report should be submitted on **April 1**

Rev. Smart recommended that we have a community forum so members of the community could voice their opinions.

The Task Force collectively decides to hold a community forum either March 24, 25 or 26 in Arbor Hill Area. **Chief Tuffey** will call the school board to see what is available. We will look at the minutes from all the meetings we've had and create a theme for the meeting.

Joyce Hawthorne, guest, recommended that Lisa Goode, who works for Trinity, be invited to come and speak with the Task Force. Ms. Goode conducted a whole conference on dealing with the trauma of gun violence.

The Task Force collectively agreed to invite Ms. Goode to come and speak to the group.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes from the last two meetings were approved.

Harris Overlander, Ms. Goode's boss, may be invited to come speak as well at some point.

Mr. Serenka has already drafted the letter to the school board.

Councilwoman Smith recommends reading Code of the Street by Elijah Anderson and is about youth violence and competing values.

Chief Tuffy also recommends reading Come on People by Bill Cosby

Meeting adjourned

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

4:00 PM

Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church, Albany, NY
(Clinton Avenue & Ten Broeck Street)

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Hon. Betty Barnette
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U Miller
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Hon. P. David Soares & Mark Harris, Esq.
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present: 1

Task Force Chair Rev. John Miller called the Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

There will be a Community Forum on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 in order to give the community an opportunity to provide comment to the Task Force. The Community Forum will take place from 7:00PM – 9:00PM at the Livingston Middle School.

The next two Regular meetings will be on April 1st and April 15th. One possible site is the 100 Black Men Building, Clinton Avenue.

Reminder that a preliminary report is due to the Common Council on April 1st.

The following members will work on putting a draft report together:

Rev. John U Miller Dr. Robert E. Worden Robert L. Serenka, Esq. Ms. Allison Banks
--

Tonight's meeting features a guest speaker, Lisa Good, Executive Director of the Homer Perkins Center.

Ms. Good spoke about an intervention program she coordinates, once a violent act has taken place. This program aims to work with those impacted (either directly or indirectly) by this violent act. The program looks at what impact did the violence have on the victim, their family, their friends, and the community at large?

There is a need to assess what services are available for the grief and loss that is felt.

She puts together an "urban grief team" of volunteers. Being at funerals, or being with a family marking the anniversary of the loss of a loved one as a result of a violent act.

People need a "safe place" to come back to after a tragic event.

If the needs are not addressed, there is a higher chance for more crime and substance abuse.

There is a need for healing, particularly among young people whose brains are not fully developed until age 25.

Ms. Good held a "healing conference" where she sought to accomplish the following:

1. Increase awareness of the mental impact of violence/gun violence
2. Break down the isolation that occurs---who is it "safe" to talk to?
3. Taught self-care skills

When a violent act occurs, a person at risk may not reach out. He/she may mistrust. There may not be adequate health care available. A pre-existing condition may only worsen.

A person may fall into "survival mode" and turn to drugs or alcohol.

There is a need for intervention.

At a recent funeral for a gunshot victim there were a large number of youth in attendance at the funeral. Some could be approached; others could not. There needs to be a coordinated response from the community. How to approach? Who to approach with?

At the scene of the crime, at what point do you try to gain access to people? What is the best point of intervention? Who do you intervene with? Who should be the lead agency, if one exists? The County and hospital should have a role. Mental health services are needed.

The longer you wait, the less chance that intervention will be successful.

Use "circles of impact." Try to attain the right group of people. Who can have the greatest impact?

Often closure comes when there is a level of "justice" achieved (positive justice).

Crisis intervention on the most basic scale can be helpful. Those who were closest to the crime, have the greatest need.

When there is a lack of a mediating system, post-traumatic stress is at its highest.

There may be “force silence” Traumatic stress may be high and the silence may create a pathway to recurrence.

We as a community must make a commitment to a multi-pronged response.

Earlier it was mentioned that a lead agency should take charge. Trinity Institution/Homer Perkins can be such a lead agency.
--

Need for a funding proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LISA GOOD:

Tele: 518-436-1104

e-mail: l.good@homerperkinscenter.org

Michael McDermott will try to arrange a teleconference call with *The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention (-Ceasefire-)* at the April 15th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20PM

Respectfully submitted:

John Marsolais
Acting Secretary
518-434-5088

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

4:00 PM

Evangelical Protestant UCC, Albany, NY

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq.

Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Council Members Present:

Members of the Public Present: 2 + 2 members of the media

Minutes from the last meeting were approved

Street Committee (No Updates)

Task Force members in this group:

- Allison Banks (absent)
- Rev. Valerie Faust (absent)
- Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
- Hon. P. David Soares
- Chief James W. Tuffey

Data Committee

Task Force members in this group:

- Hon. Gerard R. Maney (absent)
- Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
- Dr. Robert E. Worden

Mr. Worden reminded everyone that each committee has been asked to provide a 3 paragraph status report for inclusion in the interim report to the Common Council.

The Task Force unanimously decided that it would be best to give the report only to the Common Council and let them decide whether to resale it to the media.

All Sub-committees should submit their reports to the drafting team (Mr. Serenka, Mr. Worden, and Rev. Miller) next week so that it can be completed and voted on at the next meeting.

Prevention Committee (No Updates)

Task Force members in this group:

- Hon. Betty J Barnette
- Leslie Fisher
- Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
- Rev. John Miller
- Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

NEXT MEETINGS:

The Two Meetings in May will be at Pastor Smart's church, First Israel on Hamilton and refreshments will be provided.

The meeting on April 15 will be at the DA's office and the representatives from all the local hospitals will be invited.

Reflections on the Community Forum:

The turnout was very good, however, it would have been nice to have more kids and parents.

Hope was a repetitive theme as was the need for programs that give children an alternative to being on the streets.

We need to have meetings at the YMCA and try to reach out to the kids and teachers as well as parents.

Make sure that the final report includes things that are able tangible and capable of being implemented including: recommendations as to necessary legislation, programs, things that private institutions can be doing, child protective services role etc.

Mr. Morgenbesser agreed to write letters to representatives of the area hospitals and invite them to the next meeting to sit in on the Operation Cease Fire program.

Discussed the pros and cons of supporting a hypothetical bill that would ban plea bargains in gun cases. Mr. Soares was of the opinion that it was a bad idea, while Ms. Banks thought it might be worth pursuing. Rev. Miller made the point that it was not the Task Force's place to lobby for legislation. There was also a discussion of how the decision of whether a defendant is released on bail is made. Mr. Soares explained that the DA can only make a recommendation but, in the end, it is in the sole discretion of the judge.

Mr. Soares discussed a program he plans to publicly introduce soon, which would target the labor end of gun and drug sales. The program would have a website that listed various things the city needed done (i.e. cleaning the park). Kids could show up, be issued a credit card, complete the work, and then have their pay put on the card. The money earned could be redeemed for the same items kids are mostly stealing now (dvds, game systems, tvs, shoes, etc.). The program would utilize some of the empty storefronts within the community by turning them into "banks." There will be eligibility requirements in order to join the program (grades and enrollment in school).

Chief Tuffey agreed to contact the YMCA to find out if they have any openings for a Youth Forum date.

The next community forum will take place **May 13, 14, or 15** (ideally) at **Griffon School** from 7 to 9

Minutes taken by:

Tehra Coles
Gun Violence Task Force Intern

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

4:00 PM

District Attorney's Office, Albany, NY

Lodge Street

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present: 2 + 2 media (chan 13) + 1 guest (Mary Beth Miller)

Handouts: Memo from Dr. Morgenbesser Re: Federal BATF. Aggregate Trace Data for Crime Guns, Including 18 County "Albany Region," Calendar Year 2007

Meeting called to order @ 4:07

Minutes from April 1 approved

Rev. Miller passes around an unsolicited letter from CREO supporting the Gun Violence Task Force

Chief Tuffey has a call in to the school district but has not heard back regarding whether using Griffin for the 2nd community forum is possible.

The Task Force decides that May 10 or May 24th would be the best Saturdays in May to meet with kids at the YMCA.

Task Force Members took time out to read the report Mr. Serenka put together.

Members unanimously approved the report.

[The final draft of the report was emailed to the Common Council by Hon. Barbara Smith on April 21, 2008]

Task Force Members welcomed back Rev. Faust.

Meetings in May (6, 20) will be at Pastor Smart's Church
First Israel

There were no updates from any of the subcommittees.

Dr. Morgenbesser distributed a memo in fulfillment of a promise for information on Federal BATF data.

Task Force members participated in a Conference Call with Dr. Candace Kane, who heads Operation Cease Fire in Chicago, Ill.

A handout of slideshow slides is distributed.

The **critical elements** of Operation Cease Fire are:

- Having the right workers with the right skills
- Having the right participants
- Having the right community
- Having the right partners
- Taking the right approach
- Having a good relationship with law enforcement
- Taking the right measures of effectiveness/accountability

The District Attorney's office provided an overview of why, from their perspective, a zero tolerance gun policy is undesirable.

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Hon Shawn Morris (President of the Common Council)

Members of the Public Present: 9

Call meeting to order @ 4:05 PM

Mr. Fisher hands out NY Times article: "US Appeals Court Rejects City's Suit to Curb Guns"

Mr. Fisher hands out American Academy of Pediatrics letter.

Minutes from April 15, 2008 approved

MAY 15TH will be the next Community Forum
It will be at Griffen Elementary School at 7:00PM to 9:00PM
Tehra will email a copy of the flyer to Chief Tuffey and he will distribute them
throughout the area

Discussion of Interim Report to the Common Council

- Chief Tuffey emphasized the need to come up with programs specific to Albany.
- Dr. Morgenbesser suggested taking a look at the possible role of the county health department as well as how illegal guns are coming into our community.
- Pres. Morris said that the task force final report did not come up during the last Common Council meeting.
- Mr. Serenka requested more written feedback about what the Common Council thought about the potential recommendations.
- Pastor Smart asked that the members not forget the root causes of gun violence and the unemployment levels among minorities.
- Mr. Harris acknowledged that there are root causes, including unemployment, but the people that are committing these crimes are kids and not usually unemployed adults.

A discussion followed about the effect having an unemployed, illiterate, or incarcerated has on a child. The “no snitching” phenomenon was also discussed. Mr. Harris emphasized that the DA’s office was going to be requesting that kids who refuse to testify be incarcerated for contempt.

Ms. Banks said that the street committee was supposed to be going to talk with several families within the community.

The Task Force members will be meeting with kids at the YMCA
On Saturday May 10, 2008 at 8:30 PM

The Next Task Force Meeting will be at
Pastor Smart’s Church, First Israel AME, at 4:00 PM

Chief Tuffey agrees to bring information about the Micro-stamping Bill.

Discussion about contacting the management of the hospitals. Ms. Smith has been in contact with some hospital representatives and will keep the group updated. Dr. Morgenbesser has also been in contact with a couple of doctors.

Invite Cook Barrett to the next meeting. Chief Tuffey will introduce him at the Saturday YMCA meeting.

Possible Invites to future forums and meetings:

- churches
- school districts
- hospital
- family court

~ Task force meeting is adjourned and the public is invited to speak ~

Adjourn Task Force meeting, invite public to speak at 6:06

Community member 1: The main issues are: the disconnect between neighbors and the distribution of resources.

Minutes submitted by
Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force

Thanks to First Israel AME Junior Officers: **Roslyn Daniels and Michaela Yarn** for preparing the food!!!

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

Hamilton St.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U. Miller

Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Police Chief Tuffey

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Members of the Public Present: 6

Guests Present: Dr. Howard Snyder, Albany Med. Er doctor

Leticia Smith, Albany Med. social worker

Pastor Smart handed out "Building the Temple" Annual Conference Report.

Meeting called to order at 4:08 PM

Minutes were approved, with a few additions.

The press conference discussed during the last meeting did not take place. Rev. Miller explained that the PR person from the police department did not think it was a good idea. Instead Rev. Miller was put down as the contact person and was interviewed by the media.

Mr. Harris and Pastor Smart expressed concern that the press conference was canceled despite the group having made the decision to have it. Pastor Smart requested that from now on, once a group decision is made, it not be changed without consulting the group. Mr. Harris agreed, pointing out that only having the flyers did not work as the turnout to the forum was very low. Mr. Serenka agreed as well and emphasized that this group is a committee and that changes should not be made without consulting the members. Rev. Miller said that he was “properly chastened.”

Albany Medical representative Dr. Henry Snyder was invited by Ms. Smith. Rev. Miller asked him to give an informal statement.

Dr. Snyder said that shootings and stabbings have become a critical problem in 2008 for the medical community. Rarely a day goes by without seeing one. He is happy to be here along with Leticia Smith, a social worker with the hospital.

Ms. Banks asked what the procedure was for when someone is shot.

Leticia Smith replied that the social work will primarily talk to family and friends about not retaliating.

Ms. Banks asked how many social workers were on staff.

Dr. Snyder said that there were 4 or 5 total.

Mr. Fisher asked if there was any follow up by the county or the hospital after the patient is released.

Leticia Smith said that their work is primarily done pre-release.

Dr. Morgenbesser asked what a level one trauma center is.

Dr. Snyder replied that, as a level one trauma center, Albany Med has the operating capability to handle all trauma within a 5 to 10 mile radius and referral zone. Almost all shootings and stabbing in the Troy, Schenectady, and Albany area comes to Albany Med. They report the shooting to the appropriate criminal area although usually the police are already involved at that point.

A Community Member asked how the retaliation issue is really addressed if there are multiple family members and only one social worker.

Dr. Snyder replied that retaliation threats occur often in the waiting room. They deal with it on a daily basis.

Ms. Banks asked if the social worker program is new at the hospital because she did not recall seeing one when her son was killed.

Leticia Smith responded that it had been around for about 7 years and that sometimes they are not there after midnight.

Mr. Serenka asked what Dr. Snyder would consider the optimal situation and what skill sets would be needed to make it work.

Dr. Snyder replied that 24/7 would be desirable because trauma does not respect 9 to 5 hours. One social worker is clearly not enough. It requires a team, perhaps involving clergy.

Leticia Smith said that a couple years back they used Cook Barrett as a gang prevention specialist.

Pastor Smart agreed that a total team was a necessity and should include people who will get to the core of why these things are happening. Volunteers could be an avenue to take, but that could be hard.

Dr. Snyder said that it may require a multi-faceted approach similar to what is done for victims of sexual assault.

Ms. Smith said that someone would need to be paid in order to make the program work. The people in the other programs we looked at were getting paid. Funding should not be an insurmountable barrier. As it stands, funding is going to more classic programs. We need to be more creative in that area.

Ms. Banks said that we need to get the community involved, perhaps utilizing people who have been affected by gun violence before.

Dr. Snyder agreed saying that it is definitely an important piece because it's a lot different to hear information from a friend or a neighbor.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that his hope is that there is a way to get some quantitative data on the number of repeat victims. This information may strengthen a philanthropic request.

Dr. Snyder said that the data is available in the trauma center and is listed under recidivism. He may be able to request the information from the larger network as well. They are the busiest trauma center in the state of New York.

Mr. Fisher pointed out that the information may assist in coming up with a cost factor.

Mr. Serenka asked how the dialogue could be continued.

Members agree to summarize the information and research they have collected. Some members expressed interest in forming a sub-group to focus on working with Albany Med. This sub-group would meet independent of the GVTF.

Rev. Miller said that Dr. Snyder would like to attend the next meeting was welcome to do so. Also, last Saturday, some of the group members went to the YMCA and spoke with 30 kids about gun violence. They also spoke with Cook Barrett and Derek Johnson. Chief Tuffey, Rev. Miller, Mr. Fisher, and Pastor Smart each attended. The meeting was organized by Chief Tuffey.

COMMUNITY FORUM DISCUSSION

Rev. Miller: while there was a very poor turnout, there was more dialogue between the task force and those who attended. The peer group has replaced the church and the family and that's a huge issue.

Tehra will organize the notes from the forum and email them to the members.

Mr. Fisher: Social Darwinism has been in the country for a long time and we have to tackle the gun violence issue. We can separate out the energy (the gun) from the human and ecological factors. Before we decide to have a gang seminar we need to be sure that it is going to be productive and figure out what the end result and goal is going to be.

Mr. Worden: The “no snitching” issue was a recurring theme. His office is proposing to do research on each of the cities they work with to come up with a solution to the problem. Some of the causes are a lack of confidence and a fear of retaliation, as was pointed out at the forum by various community members.

Dr. Morgenbesser: The “no snitching” issue came up a lot.

Pastor Smart: The lack of confidence probably comes from when young people see police officers getting acquitted of shooting an unarmed man 50 times but Michael Vick goes to jail for dog fighting. They probably feel that they get more rights if they were dogs.

Mr. Harris: One of the reasons kids “don't snitch” is that there is nothing “hanging over their heads.” There is some perverted sense of integrity or honesty. The “no snitching” does not go away until the federal government gets more involved and harsher sentences are threatened. This mentality can be found in police forces, military academies, families, workplace, etc. The civic or moral duty to cooperate is compromised.

Reverend Faust: The snitching problem is real. People want to belong and be trusted. We have to reach out to the people who are a part of the community and deal with myths

concerning race. A lot of blacks do not trust the DA, police, or Caucasians in general. There has to be a way to reach them and we have to figure that out. At the last meeting she said she could buy a gun and now knows how to get a free gun. She can get a free gun simply based on the relationship with the community and their trust for her.

We need to target groups like truants, gang bangers, etc. Once you identify with them they start to open up and you find out what is going on in the city. We need to come with questions if we do a gang seminar or when we reach out to the community. We need to know what they need. Maybe they will say it's the landlords or that they need real life options. Sometimes the questions you ask are not right and you need to just listen and ask questions based on what they've already said.

Community Member: (Rev. Joyce Hartwell) she was on a focus committee convened by the state and charged with figuring out why, for the same crimes, blacks were doing time and whites were getting probation. The black community lost trust in Albany and it may never come back. Public Defense Commission being recommended by Judge Judith Kaye is an effort to gain more fair processes.

Pastor Smart: If you are coming from a section of the community that landed on top it is hard to identify with the group that did not. We have to discuss that fact and face reality. We should have a gang seminar.

Ms. Banks: we need to do what we said we were going to do from the beginning and meet with the kids who aren't going to the YMCA.

Mr. Fisher: With the agreement of the Task Force to arrange another (e.g. we spoke with Cease Fire Chicago, and Rochester's) conference call about other public health ,injury prevention focused gun violence prevention programs nationwide applications to Albany, Mr. Fisher just called Oakland CA UNITY program (that offers nationwide , but mostly in California, updates and exchanges on new prevention options and successes among various size cities. The UNITY staffer advised Mr. Fisher that since UNITY is funded in part with federal CDC funds and CDC under Congressional law and funding cuts ,(from NRA), can not discuss, fund , conduct nor administer, research programs denoted as gun violence prevention. However, Mr. Fisher will keep the group updated on UNITY and encourages Albany program staff to be represented and meet with others nationwide (or via the web) on at the UNITY (www.preventioninstitute.org) and at other forums including tens of presentations on gun violence prevention during the annual meetings of American Public Health Association, (for more information see: www.apha.org or see : www.icehs.org, newsletters) in San Diego, CA, the last week of Oct 2008.

<p>The Next Meeting will be at: First Israel AME Hamilton St.</p>
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Dr. Morgenbesser will contact John Cutros about possibly attending a meeting.

Thanks to Ms. Thomas, Ms. Daniels, Jonathan Daniels, and Ms. Florence for providing food.

Minutes Submitted by,
Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 03, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

Hamilton Street

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Hon. Shawn Morris (Common Council President)

Members of the Public Present: 25

revisions to the last week minutes: "Mr Fisher: pointed out that the information may assist in coming up with economic cost factors savings in gun violence prevention programs"

The Task Force unanimously decides to change the format of the meeting and allow for the public to comment first.

CM	Comment	Response
Senator Malcolm Smith	<p>(NYS Senate Minority Leader) Explains the SNUGS program. SNUGS stands for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site intervention • National, State, and Local funding • Use of Celebrities and Centers • Gangs, guns, and gainful employment <p>Senator Breslin is also committed to this project on the State wide level. We are all in this together.</p>	
Donald Collins	<p>(former homicide prosecutor from New Orleans who now resides in Albany) When he heard about this meeting he decided to come down and offer his support. He is concerned that he does not see where the Federal Government is represented in Senator Collins plan. This issue is more than a statewide problem. Is concerned with celebrities like Fifty Cent being used in any media campaign</p>	
Ruth Pellum	<p>(founder and director of the Music Mobile) We need to bring the community back onto the streets so they can interact with each other. Violence does not follow a school schedule so we need something to happen during the off hours.</p>	
CM	<p>(From Jamaica, Queens but currently residing in Albany) There is potential corruption in the police department. He attended Albany High School and Phillip Livingston School and most of the teachers did not care about the students. Where is the Mayor?</p>	
Allah Son Allah	<p>He spent 14 years in jail for concealing drugs in the palm of his hand. He was able to come out, get a job, and work to support his family. Now he is worried because it is not safe for them to go out and play. There are gunshots going off in his neighborhood but probably not in the neighborhoods of the Task Force members. He cannot afford for another little girl to die in vain. He is here to offer is support to the Task Force and the police or congress. The Tulip Festival was nice and downtown looks good but what about his neighborhood? How can we go to Afghanistan to catch Bin Laden be unable to</p>	

	<p>catch an uneducated kid with a gun in Albany?</p> <p>His organization is called HOODCARE and these are their main concerns. The only available daycares are in the areas where most of the shootings take place.</p>	
Laurie Meyers	<p>(Colonie resident) Here son was murdered in Albany in 1994. She wants to know what the Task Force is planning on doing. What is going to happen beyond just meeting? We have to take back the streets. The National Guard used to have a program for at risk youth for 16 weeks. Many of them were not educated enough to know they had options outside of violence. We need to focus on education as well</p> <p>Asks whether the Task Force has ever met with any kids and asked them about this issue.</p>	<p>Ms. Banks points out that it is the kids on the street that need to be canvassed more so than the ones in school.</p> <p>Chief Tuffey says that they have met with kids at the YMCA.</p>
Tom Scarf	<p>He has lived all over the Albany area. There was no excuse or reason for the shooting the other day. He was surprised not to see any gang members on the Task Force. He wondered why Jose Lopez (another CM present at the meeting).¹ He remembered when he was a child in Albany and if a shooting occurred it was on the front page for weeks. Chief Tuffey is the first chief Albany's had who is qualified to do the job. Maybe instead of spending millions on a convention center we should be putting it into more officers on the street.</p> <p>He was convicted of a white collar felony. Having the stamp of "felon" on your head also makes it hard to be successful and prevent recidivism.</p> <p>He asks if Senator Smith has ever been to one of these meetings before.</p>	<p>Rev. Miller said that we need to keep in mind that we have many children who do not do bad things.</p> <p>Mr. Cutro said that the felon recidivism problem is really the government attempting to shame the person into not re-offending. It does not work and we need to try something new.</p> <p>Rev. Miller said that he has worked with many people to get a certificate of Relief of Disabilities.</p> <p>Pastor Smart said that a gang seminar</p>

¹ CM = community member

		<p>is in the works because the Task Force believes that it is necessary. He also said that the person who shot Kathina Thomas should come forward.</p> <p>Pastor Smart says that Senator Smith has never been to a meeting before.</p>
Robert Mosley	(lifelong resident of Albany) The police should have a campaign mentality and continuously roam the streets. They should have meetings where the work with members of the community and police officers to get a handle on the problem.	
Alex Jackson	He thinks that the police are trying to do the best they can but we have to come together more. As a community, we need to inform the police about what we know. Perhaps we need to re-educate members of gangs like the Crypts and Bloods about what their names really mean.	
Jose Lopez	He applied for a position on the Task Force and was not selected. He does not want this group to be like the Police Review Board.	
Shawn Morris	(President of the Common Council) The Task Force has to finish their work by November and then they will submit a final report with recommendations to the Common Council, who is responsible for the implementation.	
CM	Expresses deep concern about the way the meeting is being conducted and questions whether there should be a change in the leadership of it.	
Terry O'Neil	We should tell the media to stop calling it a stray bullet.	Chief Tuffey said that that is the classification because they do not believe the bullet was meant for the little girl.

Guest speaker John Cutro also spoke at the Task Force meeting. Pastor Smart and several other members of the Task Force recommended that, due to the number of community members that still wanted to be heard, that Mr. Cutro be invited to come back another day.

Mr. Cutro announces that there will be a meeting of the Family and Friends of Violence Victims group on the first Tuesday of the month at 40 N. Main at 6:30.

Dr. Morgenbesser says that the restorative justice program has been proven to work but has been rejected in Albany.

Mr. Cutro said that a lot of the incidents his group deals with never hit the system. There is a project in Harlem called the Harlem Restorative Justice Program, which conferences homicides that have never been charged.

Pastor Smart said that the Task Force needs about 15,000 dollars to have a March for Life to restore families and to host a day where people can turn their guns in. Will Common Council give the Task Force the money to get a well named person to come in so we can attract a lot of people to the event?

Ms. Morris said that they would talk about it because Common Council does not have access to a pool of money. The money would most likely have to come from another project or source.

Ms. Smith reminded Pastor Smart and Rev. Miller that the Common Council members were expecting to see them at their next meeting.

Ms. Banks proposed that, by the time November comes, a gang task force that doesn't sleep, made up of trained individuals that are from the community.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that he reported to the Common Council about 500 types of gun violence activity that has occurred in Albany. He believes that with very few exceptions the local district attorneys look to the federal government to prosecute gun crimes. He's asked the Common Council to petition the US attorney for information about how many people he has prosecuted for gun trafficking and bringing guns into Albany.

Mr. Harris said that the reason the federal government prosecutes gun trafficking is because once someone crosses state lines it becomes a federal crime.

Mr. Fisher said that he was happy to see such a turnout and that we need to start at the grass roots level.

Chief Tuffey said that every state has their own rules about straw purchases.

Mr. Mosley (CM) said that his nephew said he could get a gun from Walmart.

Next Meeting will be at:
FIRST ISRAEL AME on Hamilton Ave.
At 4 p.m. June 17, 2008

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by:

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

381 Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks
Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. John U. Miller
Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser
Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares
Police Chief James Tuffey
Robert E. Worden
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Common Council President Shawn Morris

Members of the Public Present: 30

Handouts:

Mr. Fisher handed out "effects of Neighborhood Resources of Aggressive and Delinquent Behaviors Among Urban Youths" and directed members to www.aphp.org and www.icehs.org

Dr. Morgenbesser distributed "Memo Re: New Business" and "Justice & Judaism Community Organizing in the Conservative Movement" by Daniel May and Peter Dreier

Rev. Smart handed out copies of "Kathina Thomas Legislation; Children First"

Meeting called to order @ 4:05

Minutes from May 20th and June 3rd were approved.

Members unanimously nominate Rev. Faust to chair the two August meetings because both Rev. Miller and Rev. Smart will be on vacation.

Rev. Miller said that he was contacted from Malcolm Smith's office and he and Dr. Morgenbesser met with them. There is interest in meeting with the Chicago Cease Fire Project in July.

Rev. Miller said that he had a handout from community member John Scarf concerning the Jenna Foundation.

Community member **Mr. Scarf**, who has spoken at previous Task Force meetings, said that this foundation was created in memory of Jenna, who was killed by a paroled felon. It is concentrated in Syracuse but the organization is open to meeting with any task force members. There is a mentoring program that partners with college students.

Rev. Faust asked if there were any statistics available on the effectiveness of the programs the group has been looking at.

Rev. Miller said that the Chicago and Pathways to Pease programs both have had positive results.

Chief Tuffey said that the Cease Fire program does not focus on children.

Rev. Faust said that we have problems specific to our area and a lot of comments have been made about the need for jobs.

Mr. Harris said that when he, Chief Tuffey, and Rev. Faust met with Amanda Peglow, who has worked in the community for years, she said that jobs is what the kids need. Aside from that, she mentioned keeping the community center open to midnight and on the weekends. After speaking with Chief Tuffey, this change seems like something that can be immediately implemented. We may also need to have busing so that the West Hill kids can get there. Police cars may be utilized so the kids who choose not to participate are not allowed to hassle the kids that do. His biggest fear is that by November we will have a stack of papers and no solution. Our problem is Albany and we have to figure out Albany's problem.

Rev. Miller pointed out that the Council of Churches is a strong supporter of Amanda Peglow's work.

Dr. Morgenbesser stressed that we can continue to look at what other cities are doing and still address Albany’s problems. He has been tracking media events on gun crime in Albany for 6 years. We know that the problem mainly involves kids. It is his position that the problem is not exclusive to kids. We cannot exclusively deal with youth gun crime because the problem involves adults too, especially the supply lines. Every victim or perpetrator is not a child.

Chief Tuffey said, in regards to keeping the community center open longer, we need to do it in a way that does not invade their current programming. The majority of gun violence does come from youth. The kids are the ones who do not understand the impact of their actions. The community is concerned about finding a way to address this issue.

Community member **Rev. Joyce Hartwell** said that, according to Regional Planning, which has statistics on the entire region, we have 4000 children at or below the poverty line. It is going to be a long hot summer and they have nowhere to go.

Mr. Fisher moved to put Mr. Harris’s proposal into action and to request a plan of action that could be incorporated into the final report.

Rev. Smart believes that it is imperative that we really look at the fact hat the community has come together and that says a lot. We’ve accomplished something.

Chief Tuffey said that there will be a proposal with financial costs and ideals that will be provided to the powers that be. The proposal will also be brought back to the Task Force.

Rev. Faust pointed out that some good things have come out of the group’s disagreements. When she was speaking to a young man, from Albany High, about why he was in a gang he said that they just kept asking him. He went to a teacher and was told to “be a man and stand up” and he eventually just joined one.

CM	Comment	Response
Robert	He was a member of the police department for many years. He does not believe that the answer to the problem involves social workers. We need more police on the streets. They should be doing 140.50 temporary restraints and searches. They should be aggressive and part of a group that patrols the areas where the shootings have been occurring. There should be a veteran DA prosecuting all gun cases and they should never lose a case.	<p>Rev. Miller said that they met with common council last night and one of their concerns was whether increased police interdiction of police would be a task force recommendation.</p> <p>Mr. Harris said that there is a gun and gang task force in the DA’s office but there is a shortage of witnesses.</p>

		<p>Chief Tuffey said that the police department was going to respect the rights of the people in the community. More guns have been taken off the streets in Albany than in Troy and Schenectady. We use NYS parole and probation. We need to share information too.</p>
Muhammad Abdullah	<p>(executive director of United Front Youth Organization) I agree with what Mr. Harris said about keeping the Community Center open. When I was a kid here I always had things to do on the weekend. Not all kids are thugs. We need to discuss standards and values as well.</p> <p>On weekends we go to the clubs and make sure everyone gets into their cars safely without altercations. Anyone is welcome to join us.</p>	
Jim Travers	<p>We need money for children's programming. Experts on childhood development should be on the panel.</p>	
Allah Son Allah	<p>(HOODCARE) I had a meeting to discuss the gun problem on Father's Day and we invited the media and none of them showed up. There are two daycares on the corners of the war zones. Parents have to take their kids there. It is taking too long to get guns off the street. I have been where some of the kids are and can talking to them. You have to give them a chance.</p>	
<i>Unidentified</i>	<p>What about parental responsibility and the truancy problem.</p>	<p>Chief Tuffey said that the City has a truancy program that has resorted to the arresting parents with excessively truant kids.</p> <p>Ms. Banks said that there should be fines because if people have to come out</p>

		of their pocket things change.
Mr. Goldberg	(State Police Superintendent) We have to take a reactive role. The problem with aggressive law enforcement in minority neighborhoods is that sometimes the officers do not make good decisions. NYC, which has used that tactic has had a lot of lawsuits. When youth and police interact it is a life and death situation for the youth. The community has to provide an alternative to guns and it has to include an opportunity to make a living. You have to have an Albany Model. We're not unique in violence. Utilizing ex-offenders is a good idea.	
Mr. Scarf	It is going to be a long hot summer and we need to have activities for the kids. Speakers may help.	
Rev. Hartwell	The neighborhoods are isolated. I went to the nanotech opening and Jennings, Bruno and Pataki were there. But no African Americans. People have dreams but they need to be shown the opportunities.	
<i>unidentified</i>	It is our responsibility within our community to show kindness and be a mentors. We need to make sure everyone is doing their part to help.	

Mr. Harris reminded everyone about the DA program to get permission from owners of vacant buildings to allow searches.

Judge Maney said that Jermaine Timmons, who is accused of killing Kathina Thomas, was a participant in drug court. John Cutro was there. There were some very disturbing comments from some of the teenagers.

John Cutro said that it was a very honest and open program.

Ms. Barnette said that we have need to move beyond Cook Barrett and utilize people like Allah Son Allah.

Rev. Smart said that we need to make plans for the gang summit and for the concert and march.

Rev. Miller said that the street committee would be in charge of the gang summit.

Mr. McDermott reported that Dr. Gestring is coming July 10 to meet with the doctors at Albany Med.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that the business community should be more involved.

Hon. Shawn Morris said that it is a matter of how, who, and when you ask and if there's something that needs to be funded then it has to be packaged, that's just the way it works. You need to show that it relates to a specific goal.

Rev. Smart said that there is a lack of ethical philanthropic commitment to the situation Albany finds itself in. There are places in the country where if they had experienced the kind of carnage that we've seen here they would be coming to us with money.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE:
JULY 1, 2008
AT
FIIRST ISRAEL AME ON HAMILTON AVE.

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 1, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U. Miller

Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Hon. Betty Barnette

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Dominick Caselero

Members of the Public Present: 37

Mr. Fisher handed out: "Some Gun Rules We Can All Agree On", "Hidden Homicide Increases in the US 1999-2005"

Dr. Morgenbesser distributed a memo: re: Attached Resource Material Concerning Issue of Federal Level Prosecution of Fun Trafficking, and Possible Multi-State Cooperation Regarding Gun Trafficking

Ms. Banks handed out a letter regarding turning 343 Sheridan Ave. into an Urban Garden of Peace.

Meeting was called to order at 4:10.

The Legal project sent a letter in regards to the link between domestic violence and guns.

Unfinished business from the last meeting:

Need date and place for the next forum:

JULY 16, 2008 is set at the goal date for the next forum. Mr. McDermott agreed to make the facility arrangements.

Ms. Smith said that it should be everyone's responsibility to let people know when and where the next forum is.

Chief Tuffey express concern about the way publicity was conducted before.

Rev. Faust said that we need to repackage the flyers and do more word of mouth.

John Cutro suggested that some of the members come out to the community events.

Rev. Faust agreed to design a flyer.

Rev. Smart said that two people were shot the other day. People need to know that something is being done. It is our fault if nothing gets done. We need to move on the plan to get the younger people together. We need to get angry about it. They need action. We need a gang summit.

CM ¹	Comment	Response
Muhammad Abdullah (Executive director of United Front)	United Front did go to the house of the parents of recent gun violence victims to let them know they have our support. All the groups that are working on this need to come together. We need fewer groups and more unity.	Mr. Fisher said that he agrees with these sentiments but that the recommendation needs to come from the Task Force. We need to sit down with the leadership of these groups. A gang summit may work but we need to re-define it. Dr. Morgenbesser said that sometimes, when you are faced with a crisis, it is important to do something symbolic. Labels do not matter but we have to make

¹ CM stands for Community Member

		<p>contact with the gang members.</p> <p>Rev. Faust said that we have to talk to the kids because it is getting serious. The kids do not care about what we are doing in this room. They only recognize action.</p>
Tom Scarf	<p>The Task Force is missing the boat if it does not include the perpetrators. We need a stronger mentoring program. It will take more than just police. The Jenna Foundation recently received a grant from Bank of America to set up a branch in Albany. Something needs to be done over the summer.</p>	<p>Rev. Miller pointed out that we have spoke with people in Chicago about the importance of utilizing people with incarceration histories.</p>
Joyce Hartwell	<p>I think that we should start with a Youth Summit. The one at the Egg with a panel of youth was phenomenal.</p> <p>Some of the serious dealers are unhappy with what these kids are doing because it is interrupting their dealing. The kids are acting out.</p>	<p>Chief Tuffey agreed that last year's summit was a success. There is a youth summit in October and some of the things that Rev. Joyce discussed are going to occur.</p> <p>We talked about Cease Fire in Chicago and then in the national news on Friday we saw that they are having another murder explosion. They are trying to figure out why it's happening when they were having such success before.</p>
Terry O'Neill (Attorney from the Constantine Institute in Albany)	<p>(former Albany High substitute teacher) The kids I taught for were not saying too much about what has been going on. They are too preoccupied with their own "youth culture."</p>	
Eleanor Prior (Albany Med. Pastoral Center)	<p>Dealing with the issue of violence is a public health issue, the youth are very susceptible to what their peers think and they</p>	

	are the ones who have the grates say in how they act.	
Tom Scarf	The whole idea of “no snitching” has to do with the fear of lack of protection for witnesses. Where are the other common council members?	Rev. Faust said that the street committee has a plan to try and reach the clergy. The clergy plays a huge role as do the parents.
Muhammad Abdullah	We have to go door to door. Even the parents of the kids committing the crimes need to know that we are behind them.	
Adrienne Kissy	Everything that was said was valid. My concern is about our community and what are we doing to prevent gang admission and violence. The parents need parenting skills and each school needs to be reached out to. We need more teacher-parent contact.	
William Clay (Albany County legislator)	Has worked all his life in Albany and has a vested interest in what going on here. He will carry the message back to the county legislature. African American Family Day is coming up and the Task Force should have a table with information. If you’re interested then we would be happy to entertain any ideas.	Mr. Fisher said that certain things can be done on the state level to address the lead paint problem. Ms. Banks reiterated the need to turn 343 Sheridan Ave. into an Urban Garden of Peace.
Marsha Larsha-Warner	(East Greenbush) She agrees with Chief Tuffey and Mr. Harris. She raised two kids by myself and the parents need to be the ones who control the children. Her daughter was murdered by her husband. I worked with my kids teachers when they needed discipline. If my son created a problem then we took care of it. The teachers have their hands tied and parents can only go but so far. We need find out where the parents are.	

Chief Tuffey said that, at last years youth summit, they had a congressman come and it was sponsored by McLaughlin Mid Atlantic Law Enforcement. There was a panel discussion and the goal was to focus on the youth and their input and include more than just law enforcement. It was one of the best we've seen around the country.

Rev. Smart said that the key to our summit will be asking hardcore gang members to come even if they are wanted for questioning. They cannot have the fear of being arrested. We need to at least cover this base in order to open something else up in the future.

Ms. Banks pointed out that it is summertime and we are having a meeting indoors. All the people are outside.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that if we take all the groups and view them as one entity and then have a youth and gang summit it may work. We can use John Cutro.

John Cutro said that he attended the youth summit and the panel was good. He has a chart that links the kids to some of the shootings. Some of the kids from the Central Avenue incident said they had guns but were holding them for other people. We need to reach them on an emotional level. I am someone who recognizes that we need to ask questions. We need to bring the resources together. The epicenter needs to be addressed. Look at what is happening on a national scale. The healing occurs when you get people in a room and people start to cry or get mad.

BREAK

Dr. Morgenbesser said that the group should invite the US attorney in order to determine how many people have been prosecuted by the federal government for gun trafficking. We need to look at the level of prosecution and increase the bedguet of the ABC.

Rev. Miller said that a number of the common council members asked if we were going to come up with a plan in regards to trafficking.

Mr. Fisher discusses his handout, which shows the relation between lead poison and high crime rates.

Mr. Harris said that he has spoken to the ADA and no one can remember any 1st or 2nd criminal sale of a firearm prosecutions in Albany because it has never been caught here. Gun trafficking is not the issue, we know where the guns come from. We need to look at the fact that you have kids not alerting the police when they see guns in the community.

Chief Tuffey says that maybe it is time to have a national tracking system of guns. It is a tough issue and the states need to work together. Upstate resources are scarce as compared to downstate.

Rev. Smart said that we live in a society where a great deal of people who are supposed to protect the community don't live in Albany. We need to stop blaming the kids for not turning each other in.

Mr. Harris clarified that he was not asking 7 or 8 year olds to do this but instead for parents to take responsibility.

Chief Tuffey said that it was important to note that the officers in Albany have not fired one shot this year. We need to prioritize what we can get accomplished on that issue.

Rev. Faust thinks that we should work on the supply and demand aspect of the gun trafficking issue. We need to get into the children's minds and if we don't get to them on as basic level we will fail. There is a racial element to it as well. If there is a demand for a product then there will be someone to buy it.

Next Thursday there will be a meeting with Dr. Gestring
In room 224 at Sage College at noon
(this meeting is not open to the public)

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT:
FIRST ISRAEL AME AT 4PM TO 6PM

Thanks to the members of First Israel AME for the food!

Minutes submitted by,

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern
tcoles@albanylaw.edu

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee and Liaison to the Task Force)

1st Ward Hon. Dominick Casolaro

Hon. Shawn Morris (Common Council President)

6th Ward Hon. Richard Conti

Members of the Public Present: 12

Meeting called to order at 4:06 PM

Rev. Miller said the task force has approved a plan where they will meet for the first two hours and then stay for a half hour for public comment.

DATA COMMITTEE

Dr. Worden distributed a report about what the committee has been doing. They plan to work as a sub group on the nature, strengths, and limitations of gun trace data. As well as elements of successful mentoring programs and illicit firearms markets

PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE and the **STREET COMMITTEE** did not meet.

A discussion of how to best approach the next Community Forum is held. The biggest concern is how to get the publicity out. How can they make the next forum different?

Ms. Smith pointed out that at least a few weeks is needed in order to advertise. All of the Task Force members should be emailing their contact lists as well.

Dr. Morgenbesser wants to make sure we move the location throughout the community.

Ms. Barnette questioned whether more would be accomplished with another forum and said that she would support having another one if it was approached differently.

Mr. Fisher said that he does not think we need another forum

<p>Task Force Members voted and decided 10 to 1 to hold another community forum. Community members and Tehra Coles would meet to discuss further plans.</p>

Dr. Morgenbesser reported on the meeting at Sage College with Dr. Gestring who runs Project Cease Fire in Rochester. It was a tele-conference that was attended by 4 Albany Med representative including a trauma surgeon, a social worker, and a key administrator. The program has a strong role for Child Protective Services. Their program was initiated by the doctors.

Mr. Fisher said that Albany might not necessarily fit the Rochester model. Rochester relies on the police as well as the Pathways to Peace program.

Chief Tuffey said that they also conduct an intense follow-up, which seems to be the key part of the program.

Dr. Worden said that hospital based intervention is key and we need to see what else Albany can do and not just focus on Albany Med.

The task force decides to go around the table and give one or two ideas for recommendations for the final report.

MEMBER	RECOMMENDATIONS
Rev. Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize rehabbed people with incarceration histories and pay them to help with intervention in our neighborhoods • Utilize schools as community centers after-hours
Chief Tuffey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a pre-intervention program similar to the post intervention from Rochester • Create a community trained response program • Create some sort of repository of groups that are already working on this issue
Dr. Morgenbesser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the mayor, Common Council Public Safety committee come together and take about the Cease Fire program • Address the gun trafficking issue • Create a re-entry task force •
Ms. Banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose a city-wide juvenile curfew • Have the Common Council take abandoned school buildings and reconstruct them for vocational training
Rev. Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately implement a Crisis Team • Common Council should pass two resolutions: Bill of Rights for Children and Resolutions on Parental Responsibilities • Create a subcommittee about planning the gang summit
Mr. Fisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City should work with the Education Department to see what violence prevention teach techniques are out there. • Make sure that Public Health Nurses are teaching violence health prevention in their visits. • Try to get the community based groups together and hire a coordinator • The City and the Public Health Department should establish a working relationship • Set up violence prevention centers and fund them • Establish regional collaborations on gun violence prevention • Congratulate the mayor and the police department for their efforts and use some of their recommendations in the report • establish some type of private foundation to supplement any monies we receive from the city
Ms. Barnette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a temporary curfew • Utilize a different group of role models similar to the Cease Fire approach
Rev. Faust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come up with a plan to keep children out of gangs so they have a safe place to go when they are being pressured to join. • Make an effort to pull area businesses into the solution • Create a hotline where children can call and are told about a safe location confidentially. • Have a registry with programs that are currently available

Mr. Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 6 and 12 community members, who are representative of the community, should have a monthly meeting with the Chief, DA, and a representative of the Common Council, to create a closer relationship
Dr. Worden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore alternative schools for children who are expelled for violence • Expand gang intervention and prevention
Mr. Serenka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form an implementation group after the Task Force is over • Work with neighborhood associations
Judge Maney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the City of Albany School system and some sort of parenting program.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that CBS 6 wrote up an interview that the Executive Assistant to Jerry Jennings said that they were finalizing a Comprehensive program.

Ms. Banks asked everyone how they felt about having a curfew.

Mr. Fisher if the police and criminal justice system thinks it's a good idea.

Chief Tuffey said that the department has looked at it and does not think that everyone should be punished for the wrongs of a select few. We have to consider the kids with jobs who have to help their families. We also don't have the resources.

Hon. Shawn Morris said that the national league of cities has a whole platform on this issue and some of the common council members have looked at it.

Rev. Miller asked if it has been accomplished in other cities.

Hon. Barbara Smith said that it is called the Institute of Youth Education and Families and is a very layered program. It's a statement of what needs to be done.

Hon. Shawn Morris said that, regarding the community forum, it is less about the flyer and more about directly inviting people in an engaging way. There are various programs within the community that deals with these sorts of things.

A community member said that we need to reach out to the kids.

Rev. Smart said that he has felt it was always a weakness of the task force that there were no young people on it. We should ask young people to come and sit with us.

A community member said that barriers need to be broken between the police and kids and drug dealers and thugs. We can have as many meetings as possible but if the cops don't stop thinking they are above the law then nothing will change. There are guns coming in from New York, Connecticut, and DC.

Community member, **Lester Freeman** of Southend, said that people are really struggling to survive and it's been going on for years. From the beginning of the year we knew that there was no money for our children. There are a lot of role models out there for kids. We need to get back to the Neighborhood Community Center. It has to start with the city council doing something and being more vocal.

Hon. Dominick Casolsaro likes the regional approach recommended by Mr. Fisher and hopes that that is one of the recommendations. He was in Troy last week and they talked about young gangs forming there called Looney Toons, and why meet everyday with 2nd and 3rd graders. Also the Spiders, an offshoot of Spanish gangs, have to slice someone so they need 150 stitches in order to get in. The mayor has not released the funds to keep the community center open all weekend long. We would only need to hire 2 part-time counselors. The council is trying but doesn't have a lot of say in the matter.

Community member, **Sheila**, was born and raised in Albany and remembers when it wasn't like this. When she moved back I in 1999 she could not believe the condition of the city. We need to go into the community and the church people need to come out of their houses at night.

Minutes Submitted by,

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 05, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME Albany, NY

Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Banks

Leslie Fisher

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Ms. Denia Van Houter FOR Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. John U. Miller

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Dominick Casolaro

Members of the Public Present: 17

Dr. Morgenbesser distributed "Memo Re: Various Items".

Meeting called to order by **Rev. Valerie Faust** at 4:02.

<p>Rev. Valerie Faust will be acting as chair for the month of August while Rev. John Miller is on vacation and Ms. Denia Van Houter will be representing Rev. Dr. Smart for the month of August while he is on vacation.</p>

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Fisher requests that “establishing regional collaborations on gun violence prevention and establishing some type of private foundation to supplement any monies we need to have from the city” be added to the minutes as well as “congratulating the mayor and the police department” for the work they have done.

Minutes approved with corrections.

The Task Force discusses the best way to go about addressing the 30 recommendations gathered at the last meeting. **Rev. Faust** suggested picking out the top ten most important ones. **Councilwoman Smith** said that the recommendations should be categorized instead of prioritized. **Mr. Serenka, Dr. Worden, Ms. Van Houter, and Dr. Morgenbesser** volunteered to work on categorizing the list.

Chief Tuffey said that Senator Malcolm Smith was in attendance four meetings ago. Senator Smith will be hosting a public forum on Friday in room 211 at the Legislative Office Building regarding his SNUG program.

The Task Force discusses whether there will be an anti-gang summit. **Dr. Morgenbesser** suggested that we wait until **Rev. Smart** returns since it was his idea. He went on to say that more information was needed on whether there would be amnesty for attendees, location, etc. **Mr. Serenka** agreed that more details were needed and suggested that **Rev. Smart** be asked to come back to the Task Force with a proposal on how the summit would work and that the summit could always be a recommendation. **Ms. Van Houter** said that **Rev. Smart** had wanted the summit to take place during this 11 month period.

Judge Maney said that the question remains as to whether the DA, **Chief Tuffey**, and judges with warrants would agree to amnesty. **Dr. Morgenbesser** said that amnesty would be a critical component of the summit. **Chief Tuffey** said that the purpose of the summit before he would make a decision on amnesty. A meeting between gangs would have to be outside of the media and in a small setting.

The Task Force agrees by consensus to ask **Rev. Smart** to provide more information about the purpose of the gang summit and other details before a subcommittee is formed. **Ms. Van Houter** said that she could get that information.

The Task Force discusses final details of the community forum for August 19, 2008.

Tehra Coles, intern, spoke about the plans for the next forum.

Councilwoman Smith said that the next flier should make it clear that the Task Force meeting and the forum will be at the same location.

Rev. Faust said that we should take some fliers to Senator Smith's event.

Task Force agrees by concnesus that **Mr. Fisher** will serve as moderator
[in a later email Mr. Fisher resigned as moderator and **Rev. Faust** agreed to serve in this
capacity]

Ms. Barnette said that we should distribute some of the group's recommendations at the forum. **Mr. Harris** agreed.

Mr. Fisher asked if copies of the interim report would be distributed.

Dr. Worden said that the Task Force should mainly be there to listen to the public and it would be a good idea to distribute some of the propositions from the last meeting. They should be characterized as ideas we are exploring and then ask for feedback.

Judge Maney volunteered to be on the committee with **Dr. Worden** and **Mr. Serenka** to work on this part of the forum.

BREAK

None of the subcommittee have any updates.

The Task Force discussed the meeting with Rochester. **Councilwoman Smith** said that the subcommittee needs to reconvene to decide if there are more steps that need to be taken. **Dr. Morgenbesser** said that the bottem line is that Albany Med can either implement the program with their own funding or the community in conjunction with Albany Med can implement it through grants and other funding.

Mr. Harris said that the quasi-public private foundation is a good idea. However, the issue is keeping somebody in the hospital overnight even if they may not need to be with the understanding that the hospital won't be paid for it. **Councilwoman Smith** said that the Rochester program had found that the prevention benefits made it cheaper to keep someone overnight since the patient was more likely to get shot again otherwise.

Mr. Fisher pointed out that we don't have a community base like Rochester that provides counseling or mentoring.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name	Comment	Response
Carol Michelson	Is hoping that the community forum will be gone into with hope and focus. Wants the Task Force to make sure everyone is welcome to comment.	Rev. Faust said that the Task Force was on the same page.
John Cutro	In regards to the Albany Med project, if we wait for federal funding it may never happen. Perhaps we should start smaller. In regards to the summit, we would have to make sure there was no arresting, tagging, media, etc. The summit is not an event it is a process and can't be open to the public.	Rev. Faust said that it would be good for him to meet with Dr. Morgenbesser and Rev. Smart .
Marlon Anderson, West Hill	Doesn't think we should legitimize gangs by holding a summit. There is a culture in Albany that gun violence is ok. We don't need anymore politics or posturing. The recommendations are more of the same.	Rev. Faust it takes more than the people who are in the trenches to get this accomplished.
Terry O'Neil	We have almost 3 generations of young people with no positive make influence in their lives. A year ago we had an emotional meeting at the YMCA after a North Albany teenager was gunned down. I am completely against a gang summit.	
Ron Bailey 3 rd Ward leader	My area is the area that sees a lot of the gun violence and I am hoping that the recommendations don't just sit there. We have to be able to count on the police force to protect us because if we can't then what can we do?	Councilwoman Smith said that aslong as it is the council's decision then there is lots of commitement but when it goes beyond us we have no control. Rev. Faust that is why we have to engage the public. Mr. Fisher said that we need people to stand behind

		the recommendations to make sure they are implemented.
Allah Son Allah	I'm upset. The earlier half of the meeting I heard jokes and laughing and it's not a laughing matter. We have immediate needs. You're not really giving us nothing but if I bring my stick or bat out then I'm going to be the defendant. We need money put back in the community.	
Rev. Hartwell	There is a recommendation called Track Tackling Racism in Albany County. Our problem in West Hill is that we have no police on the street and there is no communication.	
Denise Rhodes, United Front	I commend Mr. Allah on what he has said and I understand his frustration. . We have a lot of abandoned buildings and we need to put the police in there or have them as centers and runaway homes. Put the money back in the community. These babies are not getting a chance.	Councilwoman Smith said we have 900 abandoned buildings.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that until the state of New York needs to commit to paying ex offenders to help address this issue it will not be solved. We have 5 people dead and 31 civilians hit by gunfire.

Thank you to the **Members of First Israel AME** that provided the food.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

4:00 PM

Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy, Albany, NY
676 Clinton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Leslie Fisher
Hon. Gerard E. Maney
Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser
Ms. Denia Van Houter FOR Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares
Robert E. Worden
Hon. Betty Barnette
Rev. Valerie Faust

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. John U. Miller
Ms. Allison Banks
Police Chief James Tuffey
Mr. Robert Serenka, Esq.

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

Common Council President Hon. Shawn Morris

3rd Ward Council Member Corey Ellis

Members of the Public Present: 16

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with changes from **Dr. Morgenbesser** and **Mr. Fisher**.

Neither the Prevention committee nor the Street committee met since the last update.

Ms. Smith said that the Task Force needs to get work done on the recommendations outside of the meeting and make an effort to prioritize. We need volunteers to head up this effort.

Dr. Worden said that he and the others that worked on the interim report would be willing to go back and put the final together as well.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that he had the opportunity to look at some gang literature. He also contacted Professor Malcolm Kline from California. Mr. Kline has studied gangs and has said that there is only antidotal literature about the effectiveness of gang summits.

Mr. Fisher said that he agrees with what **Dr. Morgenbesser** said. There is not a lot known about gang summits and without more details, it's just an idea.

Ms. Van Houter said that **Rev. Smart** would be willing to discuss it in further details later.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Morgenbesser distributed a Memo regarding a new concept. The memo included an article about a Schenectady County judge named Karen Drago who announced a policy to DAs and defense attorneys. She stated that she would no longer accept plea agreements that do not require the accused to serve at least 10 years in prison if they have actually discharged a weapon. Dr. Morgenbesser requested that members review the information.

Mr. Harris said that the judge has discretion as to whether to accept a plea bargain. However, the judge is supposed to be neutral and not have preconceived or determined stances on sentencing. The problem with unilateral policies is that they do not take into account exceptions.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that, if the Task Force decides to include this policy as a recommendations, that they could recommend it to the Albany County criminal court judges.

Mr. McDermott said that this seems a little out of character for a judge.

Rev. Joyce Hartwell said that her task force met with Judge Breslin about deterrence and discussed the idea that a lot of the kids that were charged with Rockefeller had never even heard about it.

Mr. Ellis said that the Rockefeller drug laws were a good example and he is opposed to the policy of Judge Drago. Before recommending this policy the Task Force should investigate whether Judge Drago is running for reelection and really consider whether mandatory sentencing really works. Policies like these will result in the level of young black men and women in jail skyrocketing.

Virginia Ryan, Sage College, said that sometimes doing things simultaneously is important. There are ramifications for certain interventions that may negate some other ones. We should sequence them.

Mr. Fisher emphasized the need for grass roots movements to come forward again.

Ms. Smith if we are going to provide a list of organizations and groups that are available then we need to be more specific and provide a mechanism to let people know what is available.

Adrienne Kisse asked how effective these programs are and whether there is data to back them up.

Dr. Morgenbesser responded that the Task Force has made a conscientious effort to push Albany med to start some sort of gun prevention program, because there is evidence that it works. We have also working with Project Cease Fire.

Mr. Fisher said that the effectiveness of community programs is a very good issue to address. Curriculum and violence prevention programs work as well.

Ms. Van Houter said that when people keep coming back it is evidence that the program is working.

Ms. Kisse said that there should be some sort of monitoring and evaluation done by the school of public health to determine whether it is effective.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that the Task Force and individual community members needed to keep pushing Albany Med to start the program.

Chantal Mills, former CPS worker, asked who is talking to the parents. No one is dealing with that. She has seen a lot of kids whose parents were also in gangs.

Mr. Ellis, also Director of Project Trinity, said that the way Trinity know that they are doing a good job servicing the community is by watching the number of new people that come back. How many more kids do we need to talk to before we can make a recommendations? We need to provide them with direction.

Ms. Smith said that the issue of evaluating voluntary programs, as opposed to paid programs, is difficult. It is about a value system at home as well. If checking for weapons and not permitting them under your roof, and being in bed before midnight are encouraged by parents it will make a difference. There is a piece of legislation introduced yesterday, sponsored by **Councilman Casey**, that, if passed, would change the city code around gangs. It might criminalize non criminal behavior.

John Cutro said that peer culture can be stronger than parental culture. There is a group meeting at Trinity about breaking the silence with regard to the resistance in the community to reporting crime. It will be August 20, 2008 at 5:30.

The Task Force passes around a sheet of paper and everyone writes down the names and contact information for various community groups.

Brother Yusef, part of the ROOTS program, said that he has tried to touch base with the school system but has not been successful. They need to be more involved.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by:

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

4:00 PM

First Israel AME, Albany, NY

381 Hamilton Ave.

Task Force Members Present:

Leslie Fisher

Michael P. McDermott, Esq.

Rev. John U. Miller

Dr. Leonard I Morgenbesser

Ms. Denia Van Houter FOR Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart

Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares

Police Chief James Tuffey

Robert E. Worden

Hon. Betty Barnette

Task Force Members Absent:

Rev. Valerie Faust

Hon. Gerard E. Maney

Robert L. Serenka, Esq.

Allison Banks

Council Members Present:

4th Ward Council Member Barbara Smith (Vice Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee)

1st Ward Council Member Dominick Calsalero

Members of the Public Present: 16

Meeting called to order at 4:14 P.M.

Agenda prepared by Dr. Morgenbesser

Review of minutes from 8-19-08

→ Mr. Fisher said to add what the changes were for the minutes to the previous meeting

→ Change what Dr. Worden said to just he and Mr. Serenka working on them

→ Ms. Smith → change the spelling of Brother Yusuf → school system

→ put in the Rev. Faust said that we made a good faith effort to contact the school board and it was to no avail

→ Ms. Smith changing the value system at home is how does one do that when it's such a global thing to do.

Ms. Smith said that it's hard to change people's values although you can if you don't have the community agreement to do so.

Minutes approved by consensus

The Task Force Discusses the last public forum, which took place on August 19, 2008 at Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy.

Ms. Van Houter said that over 80 people from the community were in attendance as well as the media. We were able to hear the community's voice. We even created a listing of people who are directing and leading programs in the community.

Dr. Morgenbesser recommended discussing the position of the community member that said thugs were not going to give up their weapons, which goes to the effectiveness of the gun buy-back programs. Secondly, do we want to do a gang summit? Cook Barrett said that we don't have a situation where one person or a group of people is directing the actions of others. It's every kid for his or herself. We also need to look at the issue of gun trafficking.

Rev. Miller asked **Chief Tuffey** to respond to **Dr. Morgenbesser's** comments on the gang structure in Albany.

Chief Tuffey agreed that the gangs in Albany are not as organized as gangs in Chicago. There are more organized gangs in larger cities but that has not impacted Albany yet. We believe that a small number are committing a large portion of the problem. Some kids in Albany dress in gang paraphernalia because they want to fit in.

Mr. Harris addressed the effectiveness of gun buy back programs. Rev. Mueller collected 71 guns, which included a fully functional Tech 9. We should not essentially blow off the gun buy-back program just because we are getting the thug's guns. It doesn't matter what kind of gun it is because if it is put to your head it won't matter.

Chief Tuffey said that every gun taken off the street has been an illegal weapon. Education is the next step. The DA's office has distributed a 1000 backpacks with tags from the Enough program, which has a tip line program in collaboration with the gun buy-back program.

Mr. Fisher said that that program is the best thing going for Albany but all of the data suggests that getting a few guns off the street will not make a difference. Hopefully the Task Force will bring in a more comprehensive plan.

Mr. Harris said that getting 71 guns off of the street is significant and one kid not having a gun or access to one or picking up the Enough tip line is significant.

Mr. Fisher said that we could have 2 or 5 or 10 kids involved in a comprehensive program but if we are still doing this in 10 years then there will be a serious problem.

Dr. Worden said that the most credible review concluded the gun buy-back programs are not associated with a decrease in violence and that the guns may be readily replaced with other guns.

Mr. Fisher said that Ceasefire is a good example that forgets about the gun by minimizing the time and space before a gun is used again.

Mr. McDermott asked how many of the guns are operation and who is bringing them in.

Mr. Harris replied that there is a combination of grandpa's gun sitting in the attic and guns that kids have found on the street.

Chief Tuffey said that none of the guns that have been tested so far have come back as having been used in a crime.

Mr. Fisher said that it is important to congratulate the DA's office and the Police for the work that has been done, but there is a concern as to whether or not it is really effective.

Mr. Harris pointed out that there would be a constant debate between the academic side and the non-academic side but 71 guns in addition to the ones APD takes off the streets and the Enough program's education component is significant. Community guns means that the whole community is using the same gun.

Ms. Barnette I think that the gentleman from the forum was speaking the truth, without taking anything away from the gun buy-back program.

Chief Tuffey said that hopefully community guns get turned in. We don't have so many guns in Albany that they are being sold on the street corner. We arrest people with guns ever week but the media doesn't report it. We found a kid selling 10 dollar bags of marijuana in a van with a 40 caliber gun in the street recently.

Ms. Barnette asked if we were taking the gangs that Albany does have, regardless of their level of organization, seriously enough.

Chief Tuffey said that the back of the Jungle Junkies was broken, which is why we don't see some of the other gangs here. We are penetrating the inner circle.

Rev. Miller said that we have two people planning something regarding a gang summit: **Rev. Smart** and **Dr. Morgenbesser** and they are putting a report together concerning any

developments. Requested that Tehra provide an brief summary of the forum in the future and asked if the Task Force wanted to plan another one.

Mr. Harris said that he had the impression that the forum was much better attended and that there was a better discussion. People were wondering why we don't have more.

Mr. Fisher said that he is in favor of having another one but would like to give it a theme, with people reporting what they have been doing with the Task Force.

Mr. Harris suggested asking the organizations that were present at the forum if they wanted to give a presentation at the meeting.

Ms. Smith said that we need to make sure that the groups actually deal with violence. The reason the forum was so successful was because of the committee of people that worked on it.

Mr. Fisher said that we should try for one more and invite the press again.

Mr. McDermott and **Chief Tuffey** said that the Task Force should continue to host forums.

Dr. Morgenbesser emphasized the need to have the next forum in a location accessible to people in uptown.

The Task Force decided to try to organize a forum for the first week in October. They decide to try and book the Vincentian Institute for October 7th. **Chief Tuffey** said he would work on the booking details.

Rev. Hartwell said that the Task Force needs to engage youth more. She requested that a letter and article be included in the minutes.

Ms. Smith the meeting on August 8 was very well attended. Candace Kane was there and people from the community were there as well. There was a follow-up meeting at St. John's St. Anns and many of the people who came hadn't all come to the first meeting. People from Ceasefire said the most important thing to do now was build support in the community. The next meeting will be September 11, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. at St John's St. Ann's Center.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that the group is interested in seeing what type of ad-hoc community based efforts we want to do. Cease Fire employs ex-offenders.

Mr. Fisher said that the framing of the meeting was informational with the goal that everyone would be working together..

Dr. Morgenbesser said that it's up to the Task Force to decide whether to recommend whatever the ad hoc group comes up with.

Chief Tuffey recommended that the ad hoc group and Task Force keep working with Str. Smith because he is the one who will be able to get the money.

Ms. Smith said that everyone from Str. Smith's office was invited as well as everyone else that attended the initial meeting. The representatives from Ceasefire encouraged the group to get as much additional support from the community as possible.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

CITY OF ALBANY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
165 HENRY JOHNSON AVE.
4:00PM TO 6:00PM

October 23, 2008

Task Force Members Present

Rev. John U. Miller (*chair*)
Dr. Rev. Edward B. Smart (*vice-chair*)
Hon. Betty J. Barnette
Leslie Fisher
Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. David Soares
Rob Serenka, Esq.
Mike McDermott, Esq
Dr. Robert Worden
Dr. Leonard Morgenbesser
Chief James Tuffey
Allison Banks
Hon. Gerald Maney
Rev. Valerie Faust

Common Council Members Present

Hon. Councilwoman Barbara Smith
Hon. Councilman Dominick Caslaro
Hon. Common Council President Shawn Morris

Members of the Public Present: 9

Dr. Worden distributed a draft of the final report's recommendation section.

The Taskforce discusses the necessity to request a time extension to complete their work.

Hon. Dominick Casolaro said that in his opinion the Task Force has completed his work and was never meant to be an implementation team.

The possibility of members of the Task Force being available to answer questions in reference to the implementation of their recommendations was then discussed.

Rev. Miller asked if members would then be serving as an advisory committee as opposed to an implementation team.

Chief Tuffey said that he was not opposed to serving on an advisory committee.

Mr. Fisher said that some of the Task Force members could serve as a technical advisor and expertise consultants to an implementation committee.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that he cannot support the conclusion of the Task Force with a report that does not include the latest information regarding gun death statistics.

Dr. Rev. Smart asked how long the task force was supposed to meet.

Hon. Shawn Morris responded that it supposed to end a year after the first meeting.

Mr. Serenka pointed out that they do not have a complete final report at this point.

Hon. Barbara Smith said that Ron Cook Barrett was invited to make a presentation at one of the final meetings.

Chief Tuffey reminded everyone that the reason they wanted to get the report done was in order to get it to the Common Council by budget hearings.

Hon. Shawn Morris said that the Task Force should try to get drafts of the recommendations to the Common Council as they are completed. The earlier the better but definitely by **November 12, 2008**.

The Task Force discusses the Draft of the Final Report

Led by **Mr. Serenka** and **Dr. Worden**

Recommendation 1

Mr. Fisher requested that a community advisory board of technical experts that do not have any policy or program responsibility but would advise the implementation committee as needed, be added.

Ms. Banks asked if members of the community should be on it.

Dr. Worden said that we are heading towards recommending that the implementation committee be comprised of people similar to the members on the Task Force.

Mr. Fisher said the issue is that there needs to be some sort of technical advisors. We could simply add "internal and external advisors."

Chief Tuffey said that it should be up to the Common Council what the committee does.

The Task Force agreed to strike the last sentence in paragraph 1.

Recommendation 2

Chief Tuffey asked for specifics about what the anti-violence coordinator would be doing.

Mr. Fisher said that the City should determine what the job description is, but probably would involve searching for funding, and coordination in terms of community groups.

Rev. Miller said that the person should have a lot of people on the street.

Chief Tuffey said that, soon, there is going to be a crime analyst center where the Albany Police Department, using funding from DCJS, will hire a total of 5 analysts and they'll all be in one location.

Dr. Worden said that the job described in (a) would be done by the person hired under (b).

Recommendation 3

The Task Force agrees to limit all recommendations to issues concerning gun violence as opposed to all violence.

Recommendation 5

Dr. Morgenbesser recommended adding that Rochester does it alone and the Baltimore program has more federal funding.

Mr. Fisher pointed out that no hospital has been interested in doing this without some sort of reimbursement.

Chief Tuffey said that the Task Force has made end roads with Albany Med and should leave the recommendation as it is.

Recommendation 6

Dr. Worden said that he saw this recommendation as attempting to transplant what is happening in some neighborhoods and transfer expertise.

Mr. Serenka suggested putting in some informal social controls to differentiate this recommendation from number 2.

Dr. Rev. Smart pointed out that this recommendation was supposed to have something to do with higher education's role in Albany as well.

Recommendation 7

Dr. Worden said that this recommendation is meant to be illustrative.

Dr. Morgenbesser suggested specifically recommending that the City make use of the State Education Department.

Recommendation 8

Chief Tuffey explained the importance of information sharing between the Police Department and other social agencies that help families in the area with societal needs. The program Operation Impact is designed to bring agencies together to collaborate in order to prevent crime. The problem is that families do not usually tell the police that they are using other services.

Recommendation 9

Dr. Morgenbesser said that this person would serve to facilitate grants for projects and other initiatives regarding gun violence.

Recommendation 12

Dr. Morgenbesser referred members to the Memo Re: Media Sourced Data for Calendar year 2008 through October 22, 2008. He said that the Task Force needs to know whether people are being put away on federal gun charges. He is concerned that at the caucus the Common Council wanted something regarding trafficking. He will email a paragraph to insert to **Mr. Serenka** and **Dr. Worden**.

Chief Tuffey said that the District Attorney collaborates with the federal government to see which office is going to prosecute it. They put a high priority on the seizure of anyone in possession of illegal guns.

Rev. Faust suggested that this part could be included in the section that covers additional issues relating to gun violence.

Mr. Harris recommended using the term proliferation.

Recommendation 13

Hon. Judge Maney suggested making this section a part of Recommendation 1.

Mr. Fisher said that the bottom line is that there is a divide between the community and the justice system but there should be a committee where the members and police chief DA.

Mr. Harris said that we have a Sexual Assault Response Team, Domestic Violence Committee and there are a number of others. We do not have one specific to gun violence.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE:
NOVEMBER 5, 2008
4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
165 HENRY JOHNSON AVE.**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tehra Coles

City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

CITY OF ALBANY GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
165 HENRY JOHNSON AVE.

November 18, 2008
4:00PM TO 6:00PM

Task Force Member Present:

Rev. John U. Miller (chair)
Dr. Rev. Edward B. Smart (vice-chair)
Mark Harris FOR Hon. David Soares
Allison Banks
Leslie Fisher
Dr. Leonard Morgenbesser
Rev. Valerie Faust
Dr. Robert Worden
Robert Serenka, Esq.
Mike McDermott, Esq.
Judge Gerard Maney
Hon. Betty J. Barnette

Members absent:

Chief James Tuffey

Common Council Members Present:

Hon. Councilwoman Barbara Smith
Hon. Common Council President Shawn Morris

Members of the Community Present: 9

Rev. Miller appreciates all of the hard work by the members throughout the course of the year.

Dr. Worden distributes the draft of the final report.

Dr. Morgenbesser distributes a memo re: Materials for Review, Meeting of 18 November 2008

Mr. Fisher distributes two emails regarding the roles of the task force members after the term is over. One email on the Task Force's potential ongoing advocacy roles to assure actions on the Final Report ; the other showing examples of cost containment and cost savings, to be added to our Final Report, from several of our Recommendations for prevention/ interventions.

Dr. Morgenbesser leads the task force members through the five points of his memo regarding the final report and recommendations. He wants the fact that 41.6% of children are living in poverty to be included in the final report. He also points to data from the Times Union regarding some 325 guns seized by the police department and, even though it was decided not to address gun trafficking in the final report, in accordance with the mandate of the common council this fact should be addressed. Dr. Worden cited

a 2004 National Research Council study but more data should be cited in order to provide a broader perspective. Information was requested by a council member on gang intervention and suppression. He refers members back to his previous mention of Judge Drago's policy of not granting plea bargains in cases involving guns. There should also be a mention of the link between firearms and domestic violence.

Rev. Smart recommends that Dr. Morgenbesser's information be added into the report.

Rev. Miller points out that much of this information was the reason the task force was created and the common council may already be aware of it.

Hon. Barbara Smith raised the point that there were no references in the final report about the causes of poverty. This is a major opportunity to address this issue.

Rev. Faust agreed with Ms. Smith. She liked the chart at the beginning of the final report draft and thinks that a narrative or an appendix about the causes of poverty would be beneficial.

Rev. Smart recommended that a vote be taken to include both Dr. Morgenbesser's and Mr. Fisher's suggestions.

Mr. Serenka said that the narrative Rev. Faust mentioned could go after the chart on page 5 but more specifics would be needed.

Mr. Fisher suggested adding the letter from the diocese.

Dr. Worden said that the letter could be added to the section entitled Gun Violence in Albany.

Rev. Faust stressed the importance of the report being specific to Albany and not too generic.

Hon. Barbara Smith said that it's important to include a statement that unless poverty is addressed we will most likely see a rise in gun violence.

Mr. Fisher said that Ms. Smith's recommendation and Dr. Morgenbesser's should be included on page 13. The importance of children services and a summary of what the map means and where the resources are should be included as well. Those included: Final Report Maps should show overlays of (1) the demographics of poverty areas, (2) to the major crime areas, and (3) to the current (youth) resources . The maps were shown at an earlier TF Meeting as prepared by a summer intern.

Mr. Harris pointed out that if a map is used, it should not be the crime map. Gun violence is not necessarily happening where all the other crime is occurring. A gun violence map should be used instead.

Mr. Serenka said that the Common Council's children services map would be useful too.

Ms. Smith said that it might be beneficial to compare the two maps and include an explanation as to their connection. There's a study that showed that the more resources and infrastructure within the impoverished community, the better.

Ms. Banks asked **Ms. Morris** if the cease fire work the common council is doing is different from what the Task Force is doing.

Ms. Morris responded that the concern of some council members is that if we accept the recommendations in total, will we then be responsible for all of the implementation.

Ms. Banks said that one council member expressed that there was no money for any of the programs.

Rev. Smart said that references to “African American males”, absent an explanation as to why they are being singled out is inappropriate. The reason they might break the law has nothing to do with the color of their skin and referencing it gives the impression that they are the only ones doing it.

Dr. Worden agreed to remove the references.

Mr. Fisher agreed. He also stressed the importance of mentioning the Cost savings aspect and Cost Containment aspects of preventing gun violence. We should also cite resources that are available. When the Task Force dissolves, we have a role in making sure the implementation takes place.

Dr. Worden suggested using Dr. Morgenbesser’s media report as an appendix.

Mr. Fisher believes the text of the report is sufficient in regard to the Mayor’s Council meeting. We should footnote select papers and provide a brief explanation of what they are about.

Dr. Morgenbesser expressed concern about the lack of information about where the guns are coming from, regardless of gun trafficking concerns. We need to deal with the issue.

Rev. Faust agreed that it should be discussed because it is specific to Albany and is something the Task Force has discussed.

Mr. Harris agreed that it should included in some form but, using the data table based on Times Union data, is not a good idea. The numbs do not relate to anything that any valid conclusions may be drawn from.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that there are some standard definitions for the terms used in the table.

Mr. Fisher said that the better parts of the paper should not be diluted with secondary data. Dr. Morgenbesser will surely provide the common council with updates.

Dr. Morgenbesser said that the 2006 and 2007 chart is from official Albany data. It is valuable information and we are not implying that anyone was lazy or committed malfeasance.

Dr. Worden suggested putting the information in context as was done with data on firearms and shootings.

Ms. Banks said that the root causes are not being addressed.

Rev. Smart said that the report does not talk about how we’re going to find jobs, eradicate poverty, etc. He agrees that whoever has any data should be allowed to include it in the report. However, the report

should send the message to common council that we need jobs and education. No recommendations have been made about how we are going to save the lives of these children. There is no passion in there at all.

Rev. Faust reminded everyone that community members have expressed that the Task Force was just another committee and the report is starting to sound like that. She agreed that more passion is needed.

Mr. McDermott suggested that all the members write a personal statement, expressing their own passion.

Dr. Worden agreed and said that the statements would be included in unedited raw form.

Mr. Serenka said that all of the statements should be emailed to both himself and Dr. Worden **by Friday at 5:00 pm.**

Dr. Morgenbesser also agreed to pull together some narratives regarding individual incidents of domestic violence as well as for the other parts of the report.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by,

Tehra Coles

Gun Violence Task Force Intern

MINUTES FROM FIRST COMMUNITY FORUM

Phillip Livingston School

March 25, 2008 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Task force Members:

Rev. John U. Miller (chair)	Rev. Valerie Faust	Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart (vice chair)	Leslie Fisher	Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser
Allison Banks	Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares	Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Hon. Betty Barnette	Judge Gerald Maney	Chief James Tuffey
	Robert E. Worden	

Common Council Members Present:

Hon. Barbara Smith¹ Hon. Shawn Morris Hon. Dominick Caselero

Hon. Carolyn McLaughlin

CM	Question/Concern/Recommendation	Response²
1.	(volunteer for courts) The US department of justice did conduct a survey that had alarming results. It said that a large number of kids entering the juvenile justice system cannot read. The ASTOR program in the family court was so successful that the other kids in the school wanted to be a part of it. Bedford Hills has a 90% illiteracy problem. One city required that every household had a gun and it reduced gun violence.	
2.	(Lestor Freeman) I have been inspired by Ms. Banks. I graduated from Albany High School and I know that the public school system can work. The moment is now for all of us. The Task Force is a great first step. The fact that we have more charter schools than community centers is a problem. It's hard to dream and the task we have as administrators is to make sure they have hope. There are some public officials who have said that they would not even send their kids to public schools.	
3.	(Frank E. Oliver, Westend Neighborhood Association), The only thing I hear is that there is no hope from the senior citizens down to the young kids. So many kids have nowhere to go because both parents are working. We need more programs.	
4.	(Jose Lopez) I was hoping to become part of the board but wasn't accepted. The Task Force needs more people from the community on it. I think it is too early to see how the board is going to work. I hope it doesn't become like the police review board.	

¹ Common Council liaison to the City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force and Vice Chair of the Common Council Public Safety Committee

² At an earlier meeting the Task Force unanimously decided that this should be an opportunity to hear from the community rather than for them to do a lot of talking.

5.	(Barbara Judkins, Arbor Hill) The Kids To The Court program was good. Too many kids are depressed. My kids and I all graduated without a fight. The community raised us. I still live in Arbor Hill and it doesn't have to be bad.	
6.	(Chris Higgins, Albany County Legislator for the 6 th District) The County Wide buy-back program was good and one of the most successful programs form Orange County when they tried it. We need to try and get people to turn in guns from off the street.	
7.	(Martha) Losing a child is the worst thing in the world that any mother can go through. My goal in life is to speak to students and educate about the dangers of gun violence.	
8.	(Annette) Suggests getting a collective of state, city, and county funds to make a documentary based on the streets of Albany about the danger of guns. We need to de-mystify the need to have a gun. We should have PSA's on major and local stations. Kids just don't get it.	
9.	(Ralph Pesno Jr.) Where are they getting the guns? Across the borders from China. Crimes aren't being committed by legal firearm. I want to make sure this group distinguishes between law-abiding gun owners and illegal gun owners. The state police can't protect everyone individually. It's not their job. We shouldn't go in the direction of making citizens the target. We need to urge stiff penalties and enforce them because the recidivism rate is ridiculous. When citizens are targets the whole nation falls to tyranny.	
10.	(Beverly Pagent) I have 11 grandkids in Albany. Six of them were put in danger by the shooting on Lark right outside their bedroom window. Where have you ever seen a city with less than 100,000 people with three ghettos? These children are dying. How can you be expected to know how to read if you get kicked out of school for 3 to 4 months for every little thing? It's not the charter schools that are the problem. Minority run programs are not getting funding.	
11.	(Phoebe Wilson) [announcing Personal empowerment workshop with Corey Ellis this Friday at Arbor Hill Community Center Firehouse 7 to 9 and also on Saturday morning from 9:30 to 2pm]	
12.	(Hon. Dominick Caselero, common council member) I appreciate the Task Force and know that a lot of good things are going to come from it. We need a program to help shuttle kids back and forth to the boys and girls programs.	
13.	(John Cousteau) There are drugs moving into the rural communities in Vermont and gun laws are relaxed. This may be a regional thing so we should take a multi-state view about some of what is happening. It is going to impact other locations as well.	
14.	(Viola Brown) I have been in Albany since I was 17. Crime was never this bad. Chief Tuffey is doing a wonderful job. A lot of kids don't want to speak up unless it is in privacy. They are afraid of gang retribution.	
15.	(Deretha Brace, Jalieq Rainwater Task Force) I could walk right out and buy a gun because it is not that difficult. Hope starts in the home with your mother and father. If the parent cannot instill that then what hope do they have? Unemployment, welfare, poverty are also issues. Most kids sell drugs to help their families.	
16.	(Epstenin Mackie, fireman) The problem goes beyond just guns. We see parents coming into the schools and sticking up for disorderly kids. We have to pierce our kids hears with love, compassion, and kindness. We need to teach our children to love	

	one another. We can basically pick out a kid at age 10 and say that they are going to jail.	
17.	(Tameka Freeman, homeowner in City of Albany) A lot of fault lies in the household. Roundtable discussions need to be held about how to help our kids. There should be more parents here tonight. More presence of the police would be good too.	
18.	(Ed Haddock, attorney) I have gotten to know a lot of judges since I graduated law school. The state of Florida made a law that you can presume deadly force, and when its self defense there is not prosecution. I am glad the task force is not polarizing itself against legitimate firearm owners. We should double the time served for someone committing a crime with a gun. I thought it was going to be firearm owners vs. the government. I'm glad it's not.	
19.	(Wanda Willingham) I am disappointed at the turnout because it's always the same people. I lost my child on the street right across from the fire department one summer. He was raised in the church and I was the choir director. Supposedly all the ingredients of a good child. When drugs hit Albany it hit hard and created a different culture. I went to Albany High and asked the kids who had been involved with any gun violence in their family and 75% raised their hands. Ninety percent of the kids knew someone with a gun. When kids go off to jail who do you think winds up with the gun? We need to educate about guns and need more programs for the kids. There is nothing for them to do.	
20.	(teenager) I've had a couple of friends shot and everybody knows what it's like. Parents need to get their kids off the street and the school system is a problem too.	
21.	I agree 100 percent with the call for more after-school programs. There is a building in Southend that is crying for a community center. It would be nice to get a handout. We can't even get zoning for a building. If we can reach the kids when there are 9, 10, and 11 then they won't have a gun at 12, 13, 14, and 15.	
22.	What about the 6 other nights when there is not a YMCA night? What about the kids on the corner. The County has cut a lot of programs and built juvenile detention centers. Three young black men have lost their lives and no one bought to justice because of it. A lot of seniors go to work and come home and lock their doors. What are we doing as a community?	
23.	(Hon. Carol McLaughlin, Majority Leader Ward 2) We have heard a lot tonight about resources, strategy and helping existing programs. A lot of people here are already involved in the community. We do need community centers in the city because right now it's the corner. We need to tap into the business and union communities because that is where the jobs are. Young people like to produce something and if we can provide them with the skill to produce something positive.	
24.	(Theo Levy) Thanks everyone for coming out and is thinking about how there are so few meetings in 2007 focused on the issue of youth violence in Albany. I think it's prompted by skepticism that the task force will ever really get off the ground. We need to have enthusiasm for the task force and figure out how to support the community.	

Minutes Submitted by,

Tehra Coles

City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern

tcoles@albanylaw.edu

MINUTES FROM SECOND COMMUNITY FORUM

Giffen Elementary School

May 15, 2008 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Task force Members:

Rev. John U. Miller (chair)	Rev. Valerie Faust	Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Edward B. Smart (vice chair) ¹	Leslie Fisher	Dr. Leonard I. Morgenbesser
Allison Banks	Mark Harris, Esq. FOR Hon. P. David Soares	Robert L. Serenka, Esq.
Hon. Betty Barnette	Judge Gerald Maney	Chief James Tuffey
	Robert E. Worden	

Common Council Members Present:

Hon. Barbara Smith²

Hon. Shawn Morris

CM	Question/Concern/Recommendation	Response
1.	What has been accomplished so far?	Rev. Miller responds
2.	Supports the Task Force but wonders how they can be sure it does not end up like the citizens' police board.	Mr. Fisher responds that it is cheaper to prevent than treat gun violence Rev. Miller points out that this is not an implementing body. Rev. Faust says that it is going to take the support of the community in order to be successful.
3.	(Charles Smoof, Children's Hospice employee) It is important to recognize that there are programs that can help kids to deal with gun violence. The Wave Riders program is an example. These kinds of programs should be included in any crisis intervention measures.	N/A

¹ Absent due to an annual conference in Boston

² Common Council liaison to the City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force

4.	<p>(Mr. Anderson) This Task Force is the first action city council has taken to address violence in this community. The time for debate is over. I have observed the problem of violence in Albany for over a decade. I live in West Hill right off Quail St. Albany is in desperate need of action and the turnout for this meeting is a testament to this. Major change is needed. We need a plan of action. I like Chief Tuffey because he comes out and listens. I have a 5 point plan to address gun violence. (hands out 5 point plan to members)</p> <p>I am recommending a rollback and not a curfew for city services. Kids are visual and do what they see. They need to see action being taken.</p>	<p>Chief Tuffey said that they had made some internal changes to bring the police and the community closer together. Talking to kids is very important. We need to address societal issues as well.</p> <p>Ms. Barnette said that she agrees that we need to “hit the problem where it lives.” We know there is a problem and when people don’t complain it makes it worse. Elected officials respond when you call. You need to call. You have to stand up and demand the things that we need. No one is going to pay any more attention to you than you demand.</p> <p>Dr. Morgenbesser said that it is going to take one or more generations to turn around a lot of this because of illegal guns. If we don’t get serious about the funding of agencies that track illegal guns none of what we do will do any good.</p> <p>Mr. Harris said that it was good he came with a plan not just complaint. We also have a “No Snitching” problem that needs to be addressed.</p>
5.	<p>One of the recommendations should include educating people about the responsible use of guns.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

6.	I'm here because I am tired of all the killing and placing blame. We need to educate our kids instead of sending them to prison. They need to know that you have to work for what you want in life. We also need affordable childcare and after school programs.	Rev. Miller said that he went to the YMCA with Chief Tuffey and other members. The visit was very productive and it is important to note that we have a lot of young people who are doing the right thing.
7.	(Lestor Freeman, born and raised in Southend) There used to be a lot of community centers. Our children are being displaced because they have nowhere to go. There are just children hanging out in the street. We need funding. Has the city council committed to a budget for this? Hopelessness is the abandoned buildings in the streets.	N/A
8.	I would like to thank all the members for coming. My oldest son just graduated with his master's degree and we're doing exactly what you're all saying. Some of our kids are doing well. Community centers are so valuable. Sometimes the bad kids get too much press.	N/A
9.	We are dealing with people who are hurt. A lot of young kids are dreaming but living nightmares. We need to make more opportunities for them.	N/A
10.	(Cathy Soulker) There are dvds and books for families that could be purchased to help them with the training of their children. Dr. Charles Whitefield (cbwhit.com) wrote a book called <u>Boundaries and Relationships</u> which could help children learn about emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual boundaries.	N/A
11.	(Stanley Oliver) Albany is a beautiful place and I am striving to be a hip hop community leader. Parents and children need to work together and dance can help facilitate that.	N/A
12.	(Kevin Jones, 1 st Ward) In regards to children and I guess that's who is committing a lot of this violence, a curfew makes a lot of sense. I see that Albany High School and it's pretty easy to see why. Concealed and Carry laws would help because the people who have illegal guns are not the most brave in society. They know that society does everything it can to keep guns out of the hands of law abiding citizens.	N/A

13.	I love kids and mothers' burying their kids is sad. Grandmothers are younger than before. The whole family structure has changed.	Ms. Barnette said that it needs to be able equal distribution of resources. Ms. Banks said that today was her son's birthday and he would have been 26 and then read from a pamphlet about discussing with teenagers and children about gun violence.
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Minutes Submitted by,

Tehra Coles
City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force Intern
tcoles@albanylaw.edu



June 27, 2008

Reverend John Miller
Chair of the Albany City Task Force on Gun Violence
Capital Area Council of Churches
646 State Street
Albany, NY 12203

Dear Reverend Miller and Members of the Albany City Task Force on Gun Violence:

I have great appreciation for the work of the Task Force, both collectively in attempting to address gun violence in the City of Albany, and the work that each of the members do in their work and personal lives to help respond to this escalating problem that affects our entire community.

I understand that you have an upcoming meeting on July 1st during which you are inviting some public comment. Although I unfortunately cannot attend that day, I wanted to send this letter to communicate our concerns at The Legal Project, regarding the connections between guns and domestic violence that sometimes is not the focus of discussions regarding the impact of firearms. At The Legal Project, we represent victims of domestic violence in civil actions relating to the abuse that they suffer. We know from our work with thousands of victims, that the fear of firearm violence is a very real one.

Gun ownership or access is linked with higher rates of domestic violence and domestic homicide. This link becomes stronger and more visible with every study, survey, and report released. Below is just a snapshot of the grim statistics which show the significant relationship between domestic violence and gun ownership.

- The most commonly used weapons in domestic violence homicides are firearms.
 - According to the Department of Justice, 2/3 of intimate partner homicide victims are killed with guns.
 - A firearm in the home escalates the risk of death by twelve (12) times that of abuse in a home without a gun.
- Owning a gun or having access to one greatly increases the possibility of its use against an intimate partner.
 - A batterer who owns a gun, is 7.8 times more likely than a non-gun owning batter to kill or threaten his intimate partner.

- Even if a batterer only has access to a gun, the risk of intimate partner homicide is still five (5) times greater than that of a batterer with no access to a gun.
- Women are two (2) times more likely to be shot by their male intimate partners than killed by a stranger in **any** other way.
- Women threatened or assaulted with a gun are twenty (20) times more likely to be murdered.
- Victims suffer longer and more severe abuse when a batterer owns or has access to a gun.
 - A 2002 article in the American Journal of Women's Medicine explains that victims are more likely to stay with their batterer when guns are present. Victims will suffer through long term abuse in order to protect themselves or their families from what may happen if they do leave.
- Congress also recognizes the clear link between guns, domestic violence, and domestic homicide.
 - Congress has passed a great deal of legislation to prohibit batterers from having access to firearms.
- A gun in the hands of a batterer does not hurt the intended victim alone.
 - In 2002, the Department of Justice announced that batterers who use guns to kill their intimate partners may also injure or kill innocent third parties, including children, interveners, and innocent bystanders.
 - Children who observe domestic violence involving firearms exhibit higher levels of behavior problems than children who witness domestic violence not involving firearms. These children often develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms such as severe interpersonal, academic and occupational problems.
 - Children witnesses also may attempt to "help" the victim by stepping in front of loaded guns or trying to shield the victim somehow.

Thank you for letting me provide the Task Force with some comments on the critical overlap of domestic violence and firearms. It is extremely important that this issue be part of any discussion regarding responding to gun violence in our community.

Very truly yours,

Lisa A. Frisch

Lisa A. Frisch
Executive Director

Cc: Kathy Magee, Equinox Domestic Violence Services



BRIAN FISCHER
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS - BUILDING 2
1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

August 6, 2008

Reverend John Miller
Chairman, Albany Gun Violence Task Force
Office of the Common Council
Room 206 - Albany City Hall
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Reverend Miller:

I am writing in response to the facsimile that you sent to me as part of your work on the Albany Gun Violence Task Force.

Since 1998, my Department has received:

- Nine (9) new commitments from the courts for Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree. All of them are from the Downstate area.
- Twenty-one (21) for Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Second Degree; 18 from the Downstate area, one each from Schenectady, Franklin, and Onondaga counties.
- One hundred seventy-eight (178) Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Third Degree; 141 from the Downstate area. Only Monroe (6), Schenectady (3), Richmond (3), and Orange (3) counties sent as many individuals to prison on this charge from Upstate as did Albany County (3).
- Criminal Sale of a Firearm with the Aid of a Minor has only generated one (1) commitment in the last ten years. That commitment was from Schenectady County.
- Four (4) individuals have entered prison in the last ten years as a result of being convicted of the felony charge of Manufacturing, Transporting, Disposing or Defacing of Weapons. The four came from Delaware, Queens, Schoharie, and Seneca counties.

I assume that you asked for all the weapons trafficking commitments from all the counties of the state for the last ten years because you are going to follow-up the request to my Department with a request to the Division of Criminal Justice Services to determine who was arrested for these crimes in the last ten years; whether or not those individuals were ultimately indicted and for what crimes; whether or not the indictments led to a conviction;

Reverend John Miller

August 6, 2008

and if so, whether or not the conviction led to a prison sentence, a jail sentence and/or a probation sentence. I suggest this because it seems that the specific questions that you asked in your letter will only help you describe a small part of what has happened across the state in the last ten years with regards to gun trafficking, as you can see from the above numbers.

Before I ask my Department's Research staff to spend a few hours putting together the listing of all the variables that you were seeking on these offenders, I would request that you reflect again whether or not this listing will answer the questions that you have or if your search for answers might be better served by seeking answers about the universe of people involved in gun trafficking and not starting with the small proportion that actually wind up in the prison system.

Please let me know, at your earliest convenience, if you would still want the data that you asked for in your letter to me. I would like to help you on your very important mission, but I want to make sure that we are using our resources to answer the important questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Fischer
Commissioner

APPENDIX B

VIOLENT CRIME IN ALBANY: A Preliminary Assessment

A REPORT TO THE ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL

Robert E. Worden

School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY,
and the John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety

&

Sarah J. McLean

The John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety

August 1, 2007

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Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge Assistant Chief Anthony Bruno, of the Albany Police Department, and APD's Statistical Unit Supervisor Matthew Zacharewicz, for their assistance in accessing data in APD's record management system and computer-aided dispatch system, and our own Heidi Bonner and MoonSun Kim for their assistance in analyzing the data. Thanks also must go to Chief James Tuffey for suggesting that our analysis be shared with the Albany Common Council.

Introduction

Violent crime has devastating effects on individuals, households, and communities. Shootings, stabbings, gang assaults, and other acts of violence leave in their wake injured and traumatized victims, grief-stricken families, and fearful neighbors. Violent crime, and the fairly minor incivilities – such as public drinking, “corner gangs” and street harassment, graffiti, and litter and trash – that many people take as harbingers of violent crime, are key factors in the “spiral of decay” in many urban neighborhoods, contributing to a climate of fear, social isolation, and economic disinvestment.¹

Members of the Albany Common Council have expressed concern about the level of violence – particularly gun violence – in the City of Albany, and this report was prepared in response to that concern. It is based on analysis that was already underway, conducted as part of our role as the research partner for the Albany County Operation IMPACT Consortium.² We examine violent crime in Albany in the period 2000 through 2006, focusing on serious violence, that is, on the violent offenses that are classified as “Part I” offenses in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting program, to the exclusion of less serious (or “simple”) assaults and other violence. We also offer a brief summary of interventions on whose effectiveness in reducing violent crime some research findings have accumulated. Our objective is to provide reliable information about the incidence and nature of violent crime in Albany, and about promising violence-reduction initiatives, which may serve as the partial basis for an assessment of the problem and a springboard for further analysis and problem-solving efforts. Hence we characterize this as a preliminary assessment, calling for additional analysis and a deeper understanding of the contours of the problem in this city.

We can summarize our principal findings briefly here. First, violent crime in Albany has for the most part tracked national trends, and especially trends in upstate New York, for more than a decade. Second, gun violence in particular is only a part of the larger picture of violent crime, most of which is not perpetrated with a firearm. But most criminal violence – even serious violent offenses – is not *life-threatening* violence, which is arguably a more pressing problem, and may be a problem that stems from different causes and is subject to different solutions.³ Third, violence perpetrated with a firearm has remained fairly stable in Albany across the years that we examine here, even while it has increased substantially in New York State (outside of New York City). Fourth, violence is concentrated geographically and socially: higher levels of violent crime are found in disadvantaged neighborhoods; men, African-Americans, and younger people are all disproportionately represented among victims of violent crime, and particularly

¹ Wesley G. Skogan, *Disorder and Decline: Crime and the Spiral of Decay in American Neighborhoods* (Berkeley, Cal.: University of California Press, 1990).

² See <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/impact/index.htm> on New York State’s Operation IMPACT program.

³ Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins, *Crime Is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

among victims of gun crime. Finally, research on the outcomes of criminal justice initiatives in other cities has demonstrated that several interventions were effective in reducing violent crime. But we believe that more substantial reductions in violence will be achieved when such initiatives are coordinated with other approaches that provide for a comprehensive continuum of intervention, including primary prevention and rehabilitation in addition to enforcement.

Information Sources

For our analysis of violent crime in Albany, we draw on several sources of information, including especially the Albany Police Department's record management system (RMS), which contains information on crimes reported to the police and recorded by officers on incident report forms. We also draw on records of calls to the police concerning possible 'shots fired,' which are stored in the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. To place violent crime in Albany in context, we also draw on data on New York State crime that are collected by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), data on crime in the U.S. that are collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, and reports of patterns of violent victimization by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. We note that none of these sources of information is without its shortcomings, and they are not entirely congruent with one another.

Most of these sources rely principally on information that is gathered when a crime is reported to police. Crimes that are not reported to the police are, for the most part, not included in counts compiled by the FBI or by DCJS, and the fraction of crime – even violent crime – that is omitted can be substantial; research based on victimization surveys suggests that, for example, half of all robberies are not reported to the police. Even though the true incidence of crime is understated by counts of reported crime, year-to-year trends may be reliably portrayed, and patterns of weapon use, injuries, etc., among reported crimes may reflect the patterns of crime more generally.

For their purposes, police characterize crimes in terms of the penal law code that has been violated, but the enumeration of crimes normally follows a classification scheme established by the FBI for the UCR program, which includes four categories of serious (or "Part I") violent crime: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.⁴ The translation of New York State penal law codes into UCR categories is governed by a protocol promulgated by DCJS, which we followed in conducting our analysis. However, counts of crime based on data drawn from the APD's RMS do not always match those reported to DCJS by APD, which until last year were performed by hand based on incident and investigative reports. The hand counts took account of occasions on which subsequent investigation by police indicated that a crime did not in fact occur, or that the crime that was committed was different in nature from that which was initially reported and recorded; but at that time the RMS information was not consistently updated. Last year, APD discontinued the hand counts and commenced Incident-Based Reporting (IBR) to DCJS, which entailed some improvements in the reliability of the

⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook* (Washington: Author, 2004).

information stored in the RMS. Except as noted below, we utilize information extracted from the RMS, which enable us to disaggregate the crime counts to examine patterns of violence.

The FBI cautions against drawing comparisons among jurisdictions, partly because the volume of crime is shaped by a host of factors, including the age structure of a city's population and other demographic characteristics, economic factors, and other influences. Comparisons are further complicated insofar as counts of crime are affected by reporting and recording practices: "... one city may report more crime than a comparable one, not because there is more crime, but rather because its law enforcement agency through proactive efforts identifies more offenses. Attitudes of the citizens toward crime and their crime reporting practices, especially concerning minor offenses, also have an impact of the volume of crimes known to police".⁵ We would add that, despite efforts to make crime reporting practices "uniform," practices actually vary some, especially with respect to offenses whose definitions are subject to ambiguity. Hence we caution readers that comparisons of Albany to other cities must be drawn tentatively, with the recognition that the available measures of crime are imperfect and also that crime is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by a host of forces.

Albany in Context

Violent crime in the U.S. decreased every year from 1993 to 1999. The City of Albany was a part of this trend, with decreases in the number of violent crimes from 1994 through 1999 (see Figure 1). At that time, twenty-eight cities of comparable size (i.e., with populations of 75,000 to 150,000) had violent crime rates of more than 100 per 10,000 residents; with 897 violent crimes in 1999, Albany's violent crime rate was 95 per 10,000 residents.⁶

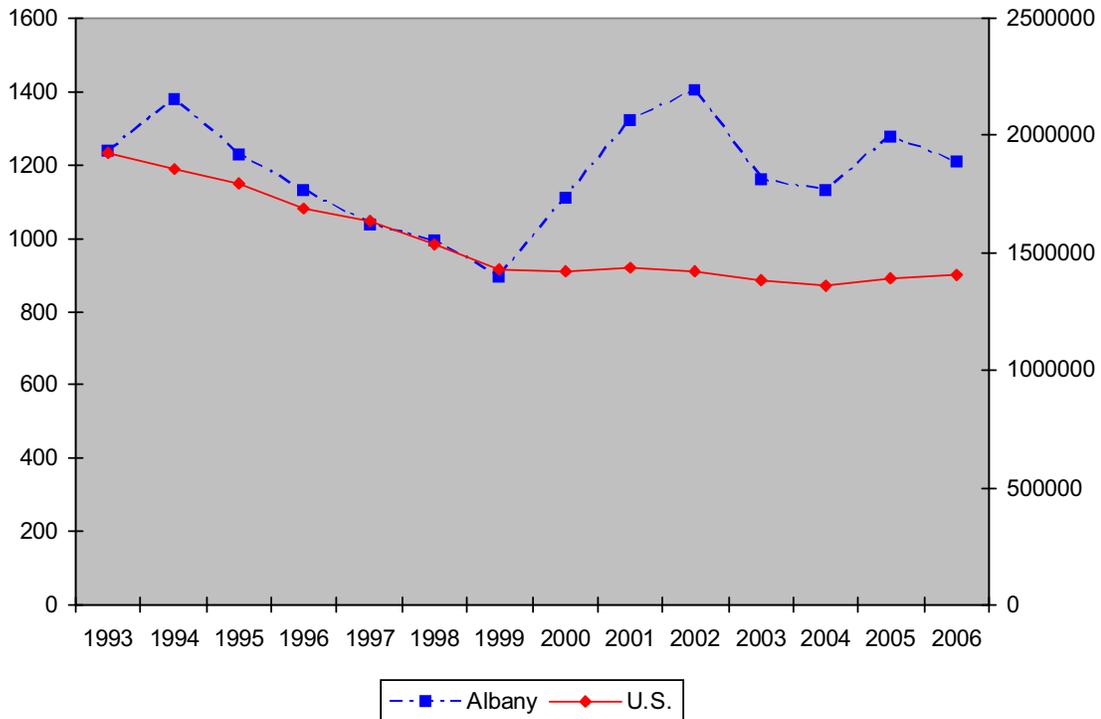
Violent crime nationally ticked slightly upward, in 2000 and 2001, followed by decreases in 2002 through 2004. In Albany, however, the incidence of violent crime rose precipitously in 2000 and 2001, and it increased again (albeit less steeply) in 2002, when 1,403 violent crimes were recorded, a rate of 148 per 10,000 residents. By 2005, the most recent year for which complete national data are available, violent crime in Albany had declined, but Albany was then one of twenty-five cities in the 75,000 to 150,000 population range with a rate of 100 or more violent crimes per 10,000 residents. In this upward trend Albany has resembled the rest of New York State outside of New York City, where violent crime increased 10.7 percent between 1999 and 2005.⁷ Contravening the national and (non-NYC) New York State trends in 2006, when violent crime increased 1.3 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively, violent crime in Albany declined 5 percent, to 1,211, 35 percent higher than in 1999, but 12 percent lower than in 1994.

⁵ See http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/about/variables_affecting_crime.html.

⁶ For this comparison, and others in this section of our report, we use the counts reported by APD for UCR purposes. We also note that in 1999, 205 cities had populations in the 75,000 to 150,000 range.

⁷ Division of Criminal Justice Services, *Crime in New York State: 2006 Preliminary Data* (Albany, NY: Author, 2007), appendix 2.

Figure 1
Violent Crime in Albany and the U.S., 1993-2006



Violent crime, and especially gun crime, has been a salient issue in America's cities for much of the past 40 years. Media reports of violent crime underscore and may amplify public concerns about safety, and insofar as coverage – particularly television coverage – is guided by the principle 'If it bleeds, it leads,' the public's views of local crime conditions can be distorted by media portrayals, and public concern may bear only a weak relationship to the actual incidence or risk of violence.⁸ Even as violent crime decreased through the 1990s, crime remained at or near the top of the Gallup Poll's list of most important problems.⁹

Be all that as it may, it is clear that violent crime has increased on a national scale in the past two years, and concern about a "gathering storm" of violent crime is shared by the police chiefs of many cities across the U.S. At a National Violent Crime Summit convened by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) last August, and in later reports published by PERF, these perceptions, hard data on crime, and some informed judgments about the nature and origins of

⁸ See, e.g., Ronald Weizer and Charis E. Kubrin, "Breaking News: How Local TV News and Real-World Conditions Affect Fear of Crime," *Justice Quarterly* 21 (2004): 497-520.

⁹ See <http://www.galluppoll.com/content/?ci=1603&pg=1>.

this upsurge were presented.¹⁰ Summit participants reported:

- abrupt increases in robberies;
- an “alarming element of viciousness,” with gratuitous violence becoming more common;
- an increasingly disproportionate involvement of juveniles;
- a high level of geographic concentration, with increases in violence mainly in disadvantaged neighborhoods;
- the involvement of gangs, particularly some gangs and gang members who are especially prone to violence.

The Nature of Violent Crime in Albany

As in any city, the incidence of violent crime in Albany is dominated by two types of offenses: robbery and aggravated assault (see Table 1). Criminal homicide is, fortunately, seldom committed here, with counts of 10 or fewer in most years. The number of forcible rapes has fluctuated around a mean of 53 across the seven years examined for this report. Robberies comprise slightly more than one third of the Part I violent crimes committed in Albany, with about 400 or more each year. Aggravated assaults, of which Albany has had more than 700 each year, represent more than half of the violent crimes.

A robbery, according to UCR guidelines, involves “[t]he taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.” Thus robberies consist of a fairly diverse set of events, which may include the actual use of physical force, with or without a weapon, or only stated or implied threats. As we show below, robbery victims seldom sustain physical injuries.

An aggravated assault, according to UCR guidelines, is “[a]n unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.” Aggravated assaults, like robberies, consist of a rather heterogeneous mix of events, from assaults that result in serious physical injury to menacing with a weapon, from gang conflicts that take the form of shootings to domestic conflicts that escalate to serious physical altercations. Menacing with a weapon involves actions that include the display of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, and that put the victim in fear of physical injury or death, but without physical contact being made or an injury being sustained; in consideration of these distinctive characteristics, we isolate menacing as a subcategory in Table 1, which shows that menacing constitutes a large fraction of aggravated assaults.

¹⁰ Police Executive Research Forum, *A Gathering Storm – Violent Crime in America* (Washington: Author, 2006); Police Executive Research Forum, *Violent Crime in America: 24 Months of Alarming Trends* (Washington: Author, no date).

Table 1
Gun and Non-gun Violent Crime in Albany, 2000-2006

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	Percent												
Homicide	12	100%	7	100%	11	100%	10	100%	8	100%	8	100%	5	100%
Gun	7	58.3%	5	71.4%	6	54.5%	4	40.0%	2	25.0%	4	50.0%	3	60.0%
Non-gun	5	41.7%	2	28.6%	5	45.5%	6	60.0%	6	75.0%	4	50.0%	2	40.0%
Rape	62	100%	61	100%	53	100%	44	100%	53	100%	57	100%	42	100%
Gun	1	1.6%	3	4.9%	0	---	0	---	2	3.8%	3	5.3%	0	---
Non-gun	61	98.4%	58	95.1%	53	100%	44	100%	51	96.2%	54	94.7%	42	100%
Robbery	396	100%	457	100%	493	100%	386	100%	401	100%	433	100%	391	100%
Gun	80	20.2%	106	23.2%	77	15.6%	94	24.4%	84	20.9%	127	29.3%	106	27.1%
Non-gun	316	79.8%	351	76.8%	416	84.4%	292	75.6%	317	79.1%	306	70.7%	285	72.9%
Agg Assault*	786	100%	775	100%	824	100%	710	100%	705	100%	712	100%	712	100%
Gun	97	12.3%	83	10.7%	60	7.3%	83	11.7%	86	12.2%	92	12.9%	79	11.1%
Non-gun	689	87.7%	692	89.3%	764	92.7%	627	87.9%	619	87.8%	620	87.1%	633	88.9%
<i>Menacing</i>	79	100%	254	100%	279	100%	244	100%	223	100%	266	100%	266	100%
<i>Gun</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>16.5%</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>17.7%</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>11.8%</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>14.8%</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>21.1%</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7.1%</i>
<i>Non-gun</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>83.5%</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>82.3%</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>88.2%</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>80.7%</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>85.2%</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>78.9%</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>92.9%</i>
Total violent	1256	100%	1300	100%	1381	100%	1150	100%	1167	100%	1210	100%	1150	100%
Gun	185	14.7%	197	15.1%	143	10.4%	181	15.7%	174	14.9%	226	18.7%	188	16.3%
Non-gun	1071	85.3%	1103	84.9%	1238	89.6%	969	84.3%	993	85.1%	984	81.3%	962	83.7%

* Notwithstanding UCR guidelines, counts of aggravated assaults are based on incidents and not victims, as extant electronic data do not enable us to reliably distinguish victims of aggravated assault from victims involved in aggravated assault incidents.

Guns

Most serious violent crimes in Albany are not committed with a firearm. Table 1 breaks each category of crime down into two subcategories: gun offenses and non-gun offenses. Using the information recorded on police incident reports, we characterize as a gun offense any crime committed with a firearm, but we caution readers that a crime committed with a gun is often not an incident in which a firearm is discharged.¹¹ A gun may be displayed (or even implied) during a robbery, without being fired. So too with aggravated assaults. (We examine the incidence and severity of injuries to victims below.) Defined in this way, gun crime has comprised about one sixth of the serious violent crime in Albany between 2000 and 2006, with no discernable trend over time. Aside from a sharp drop in 2002, and a spike in 2005 driven mainly by an abrupt increase in gun robberies, gun crime has fluctuated around 185 each year over this period, with an increase of 1.6 percent across those years. During that same time, gun crimes increased 36.4 percent in New York State, outside of New York City.¹²

More than half of the gun crimes in Albany were robberies, and all but a few of the remainder were aggravated assaults. Guns are most prevalent in the commission of robberies, as about one fifth involved the use of a firearm. But even so, half or more of all robberies were only “strong arm” robberies, involving the use of no weapon other than the offender’s hands (or verbal threats). Only one tenth of the aggravated assaults were committed with a gun, with knives and other weapons far more common even in these serious assaults (not shown in tabular form), and about half of the aggravated assaults with a gun involved only menacing with a gun. Other than menacing, the number of gun assaults is fairly small, ranging from 84 (in 2000) to 27 (in 2002) around a mean of 48 each year, with no trend up or down across this period.

Injuries

The incidence and severity of injuries sustained by victims varies by the type of crime and, not surprisingly, by the use of firearms. Table 2 displays these variations for 2006 crime. The table contains two columns for each category of crime: one column for offenses committed with a firearm, and another column for non-gun offenses. (Again, though, we caution readers that a gun crime, as it must be defined with these data, need not involve the discharge of a firearm.) Information on the nature of victims’ injuries is drawn from the incident reports, which provide

¹¹ We would also note that in focusing on serious, criminal violence, and not on gun violence as such, we omit from our examination accidental injury and suicide by firearms, not because accidental injury or suicide is unimportant, but because we take them to be distinct phenomena, and because we perform this analysis with a view toward the development of local, rather than state or federal, interventions. For a different perspective, and an agenda of policy changes at state and federal levels, see David Hemenway, *Private Guns, Public Health* (University of Michigan Press, 2004).

¹² Division of Criminal Justice Services, *Crime in New York State: 2006 Preliminary Data* (Albany, NY: Author, 2007), appendix 5.

for a three-fold classification of injuries: major, minor, and none; the percentages of victims of each type of offense who sustained major, minor, and no injury are shown as the rows in each column. For the purpose of this analysis, given the small numbers of homicides, we analyze homicides and aggravated assaults together, as offenses that differ primarily in the lethality of the outcome; the homicides are so small in number that the results can be construed mainly as patterns of aggravated assault.

Nearly one quarter of the victims of serious gun assaults suffered major injuries, that is, e.g., apparent broken bones, severe lacerations, or possible internal injuries. Small fractions of rape and robbery victims sustained major physical injuries, but more than half of the rape victims suffered less severe injuries, and one quarter to nearly one half of the robbery victims were injured. Strikingly, the victims of gun robberies were less likely to be injured than the victims of non-gun (mainly “strong-arm”) robberies, perhaps because the former are less likely to offer resistance.

Table 2
Victim Injury by Crime Type, 2006

	Homicide/ Aggravated Assault		Rape		Robbery	
	Gun (N=140)	Non-gun (N=880)	Gun (N=0)	Non-gun (N=48)	Gun (N=172)	Non-gun (N=336)
major injury	23.6%	3.0%	---	0.0%	4.7%	1.5%
minor injury	35.7%	65.2%	---	56.3%	25.6%	42.6%
no injury or missing information	40.7%	31.8%	---	43.7%	69.7%	55.9%
Total	100%	100%	---	100%	100%	100%

Shots fired

Calls for shots fired provide some additional information about the incidence of gun violence, not all of which is captured in incident reports as assaults on identifiable victims. Citizens may call police when they hear what sounds like gunfire, and if responding officers recover shell casings or detect bullet holes, or find other evidence that a firearm has been discharged, the calls eventuate in police reports and can be considered confirmed (or “founded”) shots-fired incidents. In the absence of such evidence, calls are unconfirmed (or “unfounded”).

Unfortunately, ‘shots fired’ is not a category of events, like robbery or aggravated assault, on which the FBI collects information, and for which a uniform definition has been developed.

DCJS began collecting data on shootings only last year, but only on shootings with injuries or deaths, and only for Operation IMPACT jurisdictions. So no standard criteria can be applied in counting shots-fired incidents.

Moreover, CAD and RMS data in Albany (and in many cities) yield counts of shots-fired incidents that are subject to misestimations of several kinds. First, ‘shots fired’ and ‘shooting’ are labels that police dispatchers may attach to calls for service, based on their interpretations of the information provided by callers. Depending on the nature of the information available to dispatchers, however, dispatchers may assign other labels to shots-fired incidents; some calls that were later confirmed as shots-fired incidents were initially labeled in the CAD system as ‘person with a weapon’ or ‘get a report.’ Hence a count of *calls* for ‘shots fired’ or a ‘shooting’ will exclude some shots-fired *incidents*. Second, multiple calls to the police may be prompted by a single shooting incident, and callers may identify either different (nearby) addresses or a more general location as the scene of the incident; in the absence of a careful review of the times and places about which shots-fired calls are received, conducted in order to eliminate redundant calls from the count, the number of shots-fired calls will overstate the number of incidents about which one or multiple persons call. Third, neither calls-for-service records in the CAD system nor police incident reports stored in the RMS contain a field that reliably indicates whether a shots-fired call has been confirmed or unconfirmed, and reports may be (and often are) filed when no discharge of a firearm has occurred. The only reliable method by which confirmed and unconfirmed shots-fired calls can be distinguished involves reading the narratives of the incident reports, a method that – with more than 1,000 reports filed over the previous seven years – exceeds our current capacity to execute.

Consequently, we can generate for each year only estimates of shots-fired calls, and of confirmed and unconfirmed shots-fired incidents, estimates that are based on electronic extracts of Albany’s CAD records and incident reports, and that are subject to all of the sources of error described above: the total numbers of shots-fired incidents are almost surely overstated, and the numbers of founded shots-fired incidents are almost surely understated.¹³ APD began systematically tabulating shots-fired incidents in 2006, however, and we can use that information to assess the nature and magnitude of error in the counts that we are able to produce. In 2006, APD enumerated 256 confirmed and unconfirmed shots-fired incidents; 123 were confirmed. Of the 256, 222 – 119 unconfirmed, and 103 confirmed – were classified by dispatchers as either ‘shots fired’ or a ‘shooting.’ Our algorithm for counting shots-fired incidents, which relied exclusively on electronic processing and no manual inspection of calls-for-service or incident

¹³ We eliminated as duplicative all but one shots-fired call to a single address on a single day, but this is a fairly conservative approach to eliminating redundancy, and so the counts of shots-fired calls are very likely to be overestimated. We counted as a confirmed shots-fired call any incident (1) that was classified as ‘shots fired’ or a ‘shooting’ by the police dispatcher, (2) for which an incident report for filed, and (3) the report on which specified as recovered items either firearms or shell casings, indicated that a firearm was the weapon used, or listed as the offense murder, assault with intent to cause serious injury with a weapon, or reckless endangerment.

reports, produced an estimated 425 shots-fired calls, and an estimated 75 confirmed shots-fired incidents. The former is clearly an overestimate, and the latter – which includes only calls that were classified as shots fired or shooting, is an underestimate, by about 25 percent.

These margins of error are substantial, and they form the backdrop for any interpretation of year-to-year changes. The estimated number of shots-fired incidents, and the number of confirmed shots-fired incidents, declined from 2000 through 2003, and they have risen each year since then, but it is difficult to know what – if anything – to make of those trends. The trend in shots-fired incidents is obviously different from that in gun crime generally, but similar to that in gun assaults, excepting the decline in gun assaults last year. We might expect the number of confirmed shots-fired incidents to most closely track the number of gun assaults other than menacing (in which the weapon is only displayed), but as we discussed above, those assaults have not exhibited a clear trend up or down over these years. Considering the margin of error in these estimates, we would caution against drawing conclusions from them about the incidence of shots-fired incidents in any year (other than 2006) or changes over time.

Table 3
Shots-Fired Calls, 2000-2006

Year	Confirmed		Unconfirmed		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
2000	66	18.9%	283	81.1%	349
2001	41	12.3%	292	87.7%	333
2002	38	12.0%	278	88.0%	316
2003	35	12.9%	236	87.1%	271
2004	55	18.6%	240	81.4%	295
2005	61	18.1%	276	81.9%	337
2006	75	17.6%	350	82.4%	425

The Spatial Concentration of Violent Crime

This analysis will certainly confirm most people's supposition that violent crime is concentrated in Albany's least advantaged neighborhoods. Figure 2 shows a map of 2006 violent crime, with darker shading that demarcates areas with the higher densities of violent crime. Figure 3 shows a map of 2006 gun crime, with similarly shaded areas. Violent crime, and the subset of gun crime, is highest in Arbor Hill, West Hill, Park South, and the South End; violent crime is also relatively high in the areas adjoining all but the latter of those neighborhoods. Shots-fired incidents are also concentrated in the same parts of the City; Figure 4 shows founded shots-fired incidents as 'pins,' overlaid on the violent crime shading of Figure 2, illustrating the spatial congruence of those patterns. Moreover, these spatial patterns have been stable, in the main, over the 2000- 2006 period (interested readers may find maps of violent crime for all of those years in the appendix).

Figure 2

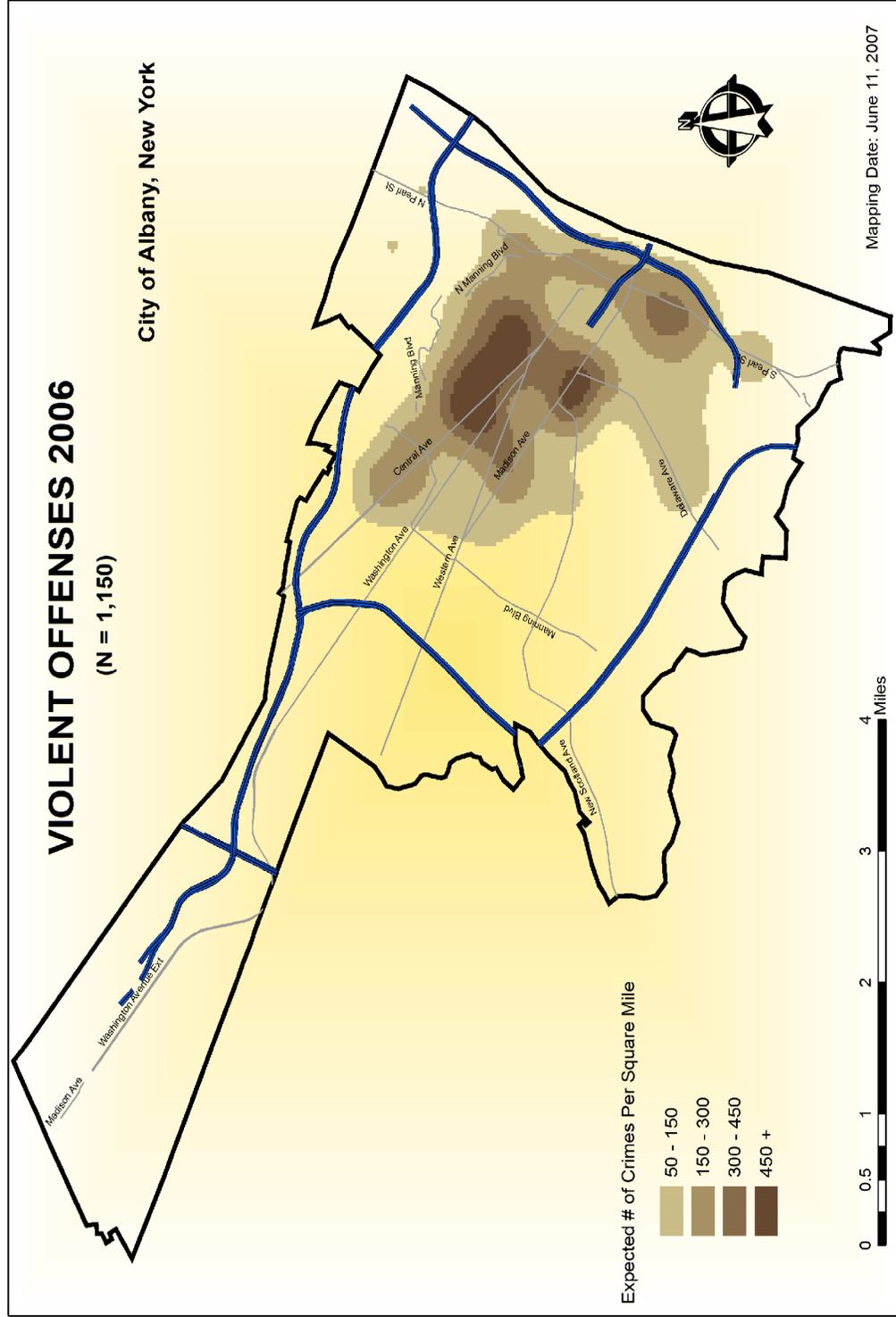


Figure 3

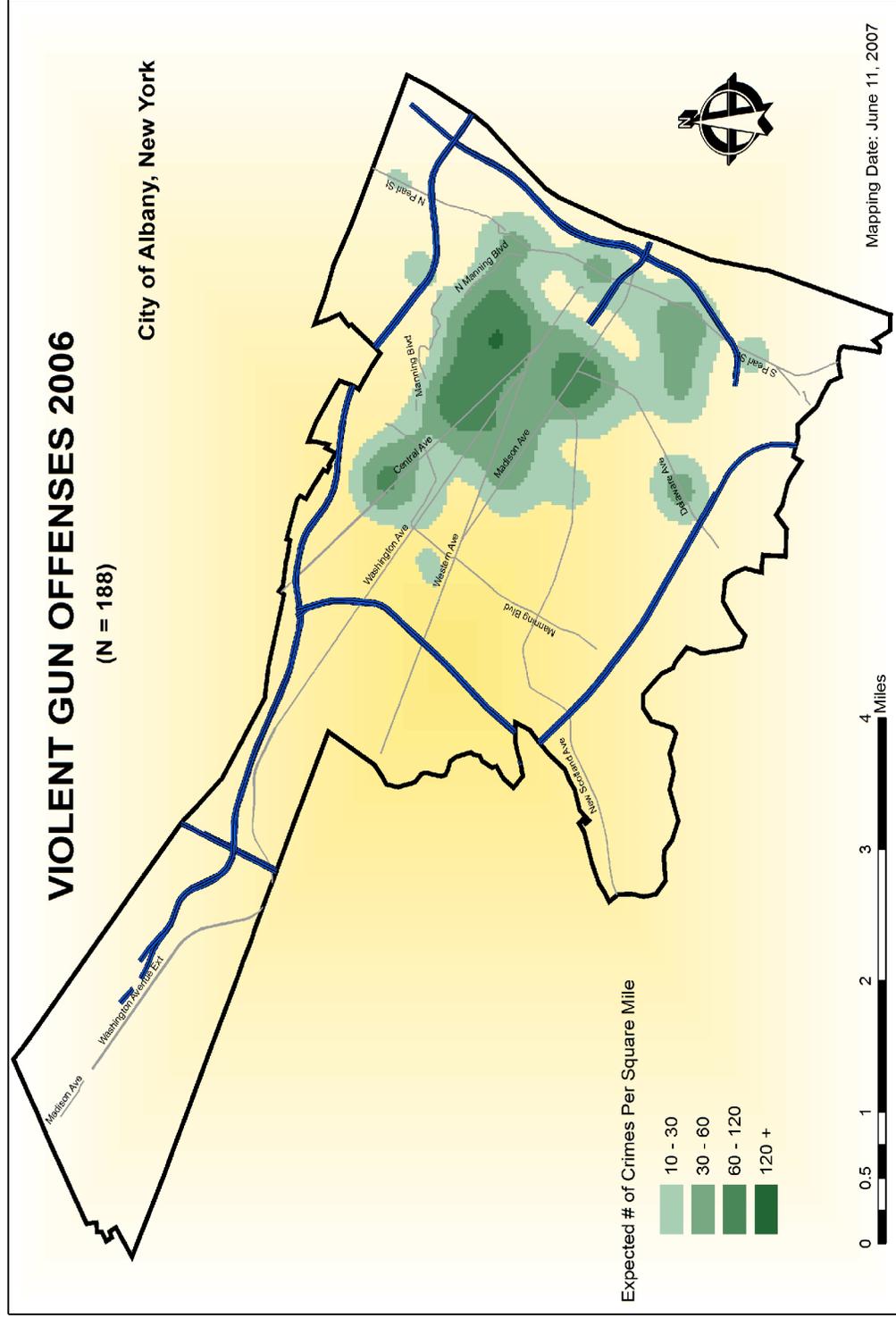
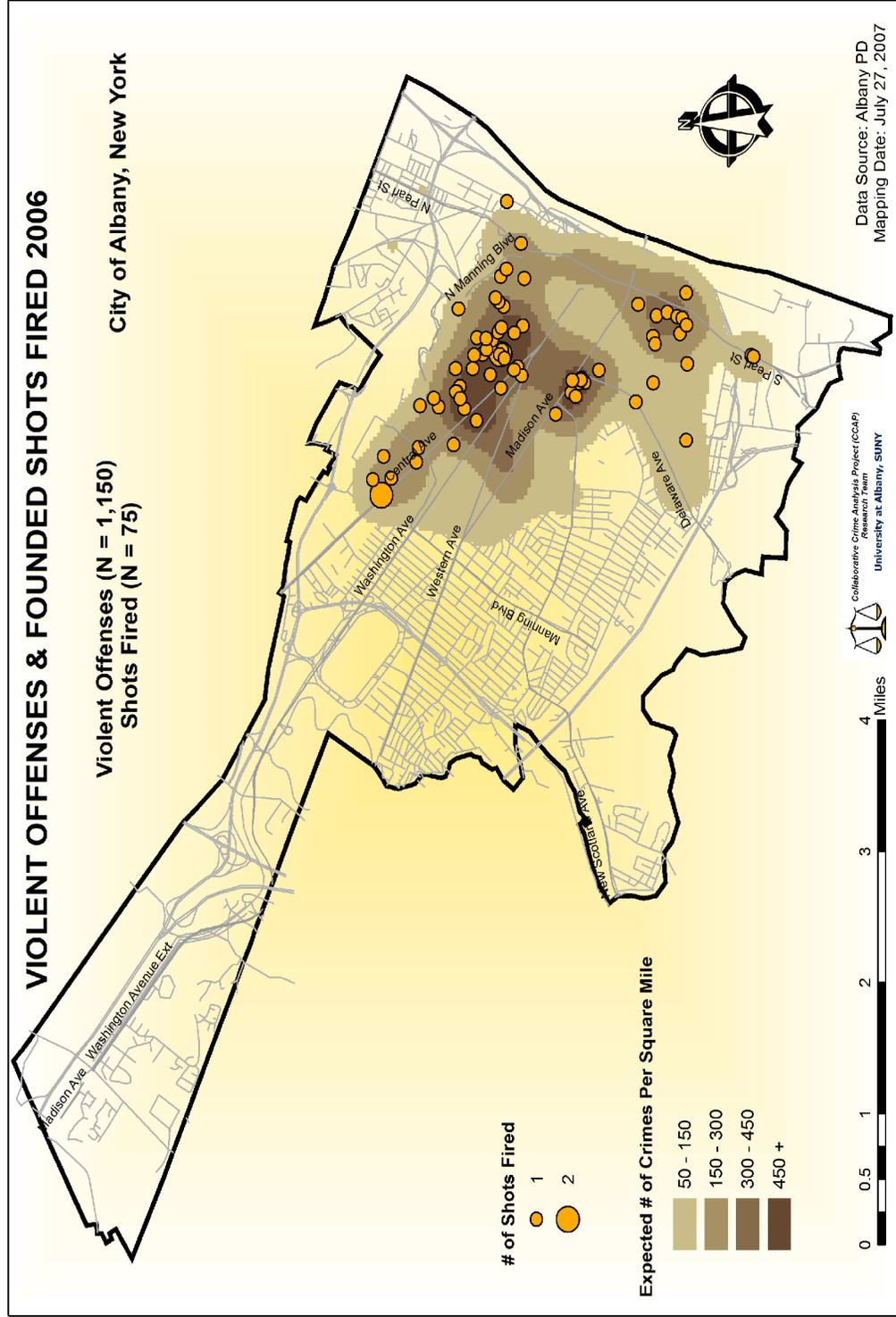


Figure 4



The concentration of violent crime in disadvantaged, less socially organized neighborhoods is the criminological rule rather than the exception. Research shows clearly that the incidence of violence in urban neighborhoods is associated with levels of poverty, unemployment, female-headed households, and residential instability. Research has not, however, determined the relative contributions of individual and community factors to the variation across neighborhoods. Empirical evidence suggests that both sets of factors play a role; the risk of violent victimization appears to be shaped to some degree by differences in residents' "lifestyles, friendship choices, or routine activities," and to some degree by "processes of community control or exposure."¹⁴

The Social Concentration of Violent Crime

Violent crime is not only spatially concentrated but also socially concentrated. Men, African-Americans, and younger people are all overrepresented among the victims of violent crime in Albany, as in the U.S. National figures, based on victimization surveys, indicate that the rate of violent victimization is more than 50 percent higher among men than women, more than twice as high among African-Americans than among whites, and more than twice as high among those 24 and younger than among older people.¹⁵ Similar patterns appear in records of reported incidents in Albany. Tables 4 through 7, which like Table 2 are organized by the type of crime (forming the columns) and victims' characteristics (forming the rows), display these patterns.

As Table 4 shows, men are overrepresented among the victims of assaults, and especially of gun assaults. Men constituted an estimated 47.5 percent of Albany's population in 2005, and in 2006, men comprised 73 percent of the gun assault victims whose sex was recorded, and 58 percent of the non-gun assault victims. Two thirds or more of the robbery victims were men.

African-Americans are also overrepresented among the victims of assault, and probably also among robbery victims, though information on race and ethnicity is unavailable for one sixth to one quarter of the robbery victims (see Table 5). African-Americans constituted slightly less than one third of Albany's population in 2005, according to Census estimates. Of the victims whose race/ethnicity was recorded: 79 percent of the gun assault victims, 59 percent of the non-gun assault victims, 52 percent of the gun robbery victims, and 38 percent of the non-gun robbery victims, were African-American.

¹⁴ See Janet L. Lauritsen and Norman A. White, "Putting Violence in its Place: The Influence of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Place on the Risk for Violence," *Criminology & Public Policy* 1 (2003), p. 38.

¹⁵ See <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/vsxtab.htm>, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/racetab.htm>, and <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/vagetab.htm>, respectively.

Table 4
Victim Sex by Crime Type, 2006

	Homicide/ Aggravated Assault		Rape		Robbery	
	Gun (N=140)	Non-gun (N=880)	Gun (N=0)	Non-gun (N=48)	Gun (N=172)	Non-gun (N=336)
Male	60.7%	47.7%	---	0.0%	68.0%	62.8%
Female	22.2%	35.1%	---	100%	15.1%	29.8%
Sex information missing	17.1%	17.2%	---	0.0%	16.9%	7.4%
Total	100%	100%	—	100%	100%	100%

Table 5
Victim Race/Ethnicity by Crime Type, 2006

	Homicide/ Aggravated Assault		Rape		Robbery	
	Gun (N=140)	Non-gun (N=880)	Gun (N=0)	Non-gun (N=48)	Gun (N=172)	Non-gun (N=336)
African-American	64.3%	45.6%	---	35.4%	39.5%	31.5%
White	14.3%	26.1%	---	41.7%	26.7%	43.5%
Other	2.8%	5.0%	---	14.6%	9.4%	8.6%
Race/ethnicity information missing	18.6%	23.3%	---	8.3%	24.4%	16.4%
Total	100%	100%	---	100%	100%	100%

As Table 6 shows, younger people – i.e., those 24 years of age and younger – are disproportionately the victims of violent crime in Albany: 39.3 percent of Albany’s population was aged 24 and under at the time of the 2000 Census, while almost two thirds (64.3 percent) of the gun assault victims, and nearly half of the robbery victims, for whom age information was available, were aged 24 and under.

Some additional insight into these patterns can be gained through an examination of the relationships of victims to offenders (see Table 7). As noted above, most serious assaults are committed without a firearm, and the majority of those victims were acquainted with their assailants: in 2006, about one in six victims bore a domestic relationship to the offenders, and an additional 43.5 percent knew their attackers in some other way. Only one quarter of the victims of non-gun assaults reported being assaulted by a stranger (and in about 14 percent no relationship information was available). The pattern appears to be quite different for gun assault

Table 6
Victim Age by Crime Type, 2006

	Homicide/ Aggravated Assault		Rape		Robbery	
	Gun (N=140)	Non-gun (N=880)	Gun (N=0)	Non-gun (N=48)	Gun (N=172)	Non-gun (N=336)
16 & under	16.4%	10.8%	---	31.3%	9.3%	14.0%
17 to 24	36.4%	24.1%	---	33.3%	29.7%	32.1%
25 to 34	17.9%	17.3%	---	12.5%	22.7%	18.2%
35 to 55	9.3%	26.9%	---	22.9%	20.9%	26.2%
over 55	2.1%	2.4%	---	0.0%	0.6%	3.9%
Age information missing	17.9%	18.5%	---	0.0%	16.9%	5.7%
Total	100%	100%	—	100%	100%	100%

victims, more than three fifths of whom were reportedly assaulted by a stranger. (Some of this disparity, however, might stem from a difference in victims' willingness to cooperate with investigators, and not only from a difference in the circumstances of their victimization.) Robbery victims are still less likely to know the people who victimize them, as two thirds to three quarters report having been robbed by a stranger, and the patterns for gun and non-gun robberies are similar. Nearly half of the rape victims reportedly knew their attackers.

Table 7
Victim/Offender Relationship by Crime Type, 2006

	Homicide/ Aggravated Assault		Rape		Robbery	
	Gun (N=140)	Non-gun (N=880)	Gun (N=0)	Non-gun (N=48)	Gun (N=172)	Non-gun (N=336)
Spouse/ex- spouse	0.0%	2.2%	---	4.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Other family	0.7%	5.2%	---	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Boyfriend/ girlfriend	1.4%	10.2%	---	10.4%	0.0%	2.1%
Otherwise known	17.1%	43.5%	---	33.3%	13.4%	19.6%
Stranger	62.1%	25.1%	---	37.5%	73.8%	69.0%
Relation information missing	18.6%	13.8%	---	14.6%	12.8%	8.0%
Total	100%	100%	—	100%	100%	100%

Lessons from other Cities

Research on violence-reduction initiatives in other cities, some of which focused on gun violence, shows that a number of predominantly enforcement-driven interventions have promise as instruments for reducing violent crime. We focus here on local initiatives, from which any city might carefully draw lessons. In this effort we benefit from the work of two committees formed by the National Research Council (NRC), and while these committees were formed and operated independently of one another, their reports were published at about the same time (one in 2004, the other in 2005), and their reviews of research intersect on the topic at hand here. These committees – the Committee to Review Research on Police Policy and Practices, and the Committee to Improve Research Information and Data on Firearms – were comprised of recognized experts in their fields, and the committees’ reports thus represent not the judgments of individual scholars but the collective and hence more authoritative judgments of expert panels.¹⁶ We have assessed the research ourselves, including more recent research whose findings were not available when the committees concluded their work, but we do not disagree with their assessments. We include here only a brief synopsis of the research; interested readers may wish to read the reports of the committees, and more recent research that we cite in footnotes.

Evidence from independent, scientific evaluations suggests that strategically focusing enforcement resources on the places, people, and conditions associated with violent crime is effective, and we characterize these interventions as either offender-centered or location-centered. We caution readers that these strategies cannot be treated as off-the-shelf products, to be adopted and implemented here in Albany because they proved to be effective in another city; the formulation of strategies in any city should, we believe, be based on a careful assessment of the dynamics of violent crime in that city – an analysis much deeper than that which we presented above for Albany – and of the strengths and limitations of criminal justice and other systems there. We also note that current practice by the Albany Police Department includes a number of interventions that are directed toward violence-prone places and people. Moreover, all of the interventions outlined below should be contemplated as part of a more comprehensive violent crime reduction strategy encompassing the continuum from prevention to re-entry, and drawing on resources beyond those available to law enforcement agencies alone. The seeds of violence are sown long before the police are called to the scene of a shooting or other assault. Enforcement interventions may be effective in reducing violent crime at the margin, but by themselves they are not a solution to the problem of violence.

¹⁶ Each committee produced a report. See National Research Council, *Fairness and Effectiveness in Policing: The Evidence*, Committee to Review Research on Police Policy and Practices, Wesley Skogan and Kathleen Frydl (eds.) (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2004); National Research Council, *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*, Committee to Improve Research Information and Data on Firearms, Charles F. Wellford, John V. Pepper, and Carol Petrie (eds.) (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2005).

The offender-centered approach, guided by research (and practical experience) that shows that a small proportion of offenders account for a large volume of crime, calls for identifying prolific, chronic, or high-risk offenders for special attention by law enforcement. A number of localities have applied one or more of a range of offender-centered interventions, some reactive and some proactive, including warrant enforcement, priority or enhanced prosecution, directed surveillance and intelligence gathering, probationer and parolee home visits, or the delivery of a focused deterrence message coupled with credible law enforcement sanctions. This approach has succeeded demonstrably in Boston and Indianapolis, it enjoyed limited success in Los Angeles, and it has been used in a number of other cities under the auspices of Project Safe Neighborhoods (albeit without published evaluations of which we are aware).¹⁷

One notable component of the offender-centered approach is federal prosecution of selected cases. Federal prosecution may have greater deterrent and incapacitative effects than state prosecution, since federal courts are more likely to provide for pre-trial detention, federal sentences for some gun offenses are more severe, and of course incarceration in federal prisons may take an offender far from home. One of the most widely known examples of this approach is that of Richmond, Virginia, which developed and implemented Project Exile, a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, local and federal prosecutors, and other local, state and federal agencies. In addition to prosecution, Project Exile incorporated an extensive, targeted public awareness campaign as part of its deterrence strategy. When Richmond began handling cases federally, it achieved a reduction of violent crime and decreases in gun carrying, and was able to disrupt established gangs.¹⁸ Several other cities have, with the cooperation of U.S. Attorneys, increased their reliance on federal prosecution (for example, Rochester and Syracuse, New York, Norfolk and Newport News, Virginia), but without published empirical evaluation of their

¹⁷ On Boston see Anthony A. Braga, David M. Kennedy, Elin J. Waring, and Anne Morrison Piehl, "Problem-Oriented Policing, Deterrence, and Youth Violence: An Evaluation of Boston's Operation Ceasefire," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 38 (2001): 195-225. On Indianapolis see Edmund F. McGarrell and Steven Chermak, *Strategic Approaches to Reducing Firearms Violence: Final Report on the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership*, Final Report Submitted to the National Institute of Justice (Indianapolis: Hudson Institute, 2003), and also Edmund F. McGarrell, Steven Chermak, Jeremy M. Wilson, and Nicholas Corsaro, "Reducing Homicide through a 'Lever-Pulling' Strategy," *Justice Quarterly* 23 (2006): 214-231. On Los Angeles, see George Tita, K. Jack Riley, Greg Ridgeway, Clifford Grammich, Allan F. Abrahamse, and Peter W. Greenwood, *Reducing Gun Violence: Results from an Intervention in Los Angeles* (Santa Monica, Cal.: RAND, 2003). On the application of this approach in conjunction with Project Safe Neighborhoods, see Jack McDevitt, Scott H. Decker, Natalie Kroovand Hipple, and Edmund F. McGarrell, *Offender Notification Meetings: Case Study 2*, Project Safe Neighborhoods: Strategic Interventions (East Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State University, 2006); and Tim Bynum and Scott H. Decker, *Chronic Violent Offender Lists: Case Study 4*, Project Safe Neighborhoods: Strategic Interventions (East Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State University, 2006).

¹⁸ For evidence supportive of a positive effect, see Richard Rosenfeld, Robert Fornango, and Eric Baumer, "Did Ceasefire, Compstat, and Exile Reduce Homicide?" *Criminology & Public Policy* 4 (2005): 419-450. For contrary evidence, see Steven Raphael and Jens Ludwig, "Prison Sentence Enhancements: The Case of Project Exile," in Jens Ludwig and Philip J. Cook (eds.), *Evaluating Gun Policy: Effects on Crime and Violence* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 2003).

effectiveness in reducing violent crime.

A number of location-centered interventions, which focus on ‘hot spots’ of crime, have been established as scientifically sound. The NRC’s Committee to Review Research on Police Policy and Practices concluded, after a thorough review of the extant literature, that a strong body of evidence supports a focused geographical approach to crime problems.¹⁹ These hot places – which could be individual addresses, or clusters of addresses – are locations with a high concentration of specific crimes and/or disorder. The approach of applying resources to targeted locations has enjoyed demonstrable effectiveness across a variety of problems including drug activity, disorder, violent crime, or poor physical conditions in an area. The success of place-based strategies may be enhanced when applied in conjunction with an offender-based focus.

The most promising location-centered strategy is directed patrol. The directed patrol experience in Minneapolis, Minnesota, suggests that “substantial increases merely in police patrol presence can indeed cause modest reductions in crime and more impressive reductions in disorder within high-crime locations.”²⁰ Directed patrol in gun-crime hot spots, providing for not only a high level of police visibility but also a high level of proactive contacts with would-be offenders, can reduce crime and disorder in those hot spots, and some evidence suggests that the impact of such spatially concentrated patrols can be maximized when they are interwoven with an offender-centered approach.²¹ Indianapolis police applied two forms of directed patrols: increased contact with all citizens through traffic enforcement, making large numbers of stops with limited intrusiveness; and directed patrol that included stopping only those individuals suspected of involvement in crime. The latter form of patrol yielded fewer contacts with citizens and fewer citations, but the officers made nearly three times as many arrests for every 100 stops. An independent evaluation found that the latter form of targeted directed patrol can significantly reduce violent crime. The experience in Kansas City, Missouri was similar: focusing directed patrols to known gun-crime hot spots coupled with field interviews, door-to-door solicitation of tips, and other heightened police activity in the target areas led to a reduction in gun crime in the target area during the intervention period. Furthermore, this intensified enforcement need not

¹⁹ National Research Council, *Fairness and Effectiveness in Policing*, ch. 6. At that time, the Committee – on which one of us served – concluded that the evidence was inconsistent regarding the targeting of specific types of offenders, and while the evidence remains mixed, additional findings have accumulated since then.

²⁰ Lawrence W. Sherman and David Weisburd, “General Deterrent Effects of Police Patrol in Crime ‘Hot Spots’: A Randomized, Controlled Trial,” *Justice Quarterly* 12 (1995), p. 625.

²¹ Lawrence W. Sherman and Dennis P. Rogan, “The Effects of Gun Seizures on Gun Violence: ‘Hot Spots’ Patrol in Kansas City,” *Justice Quarterly* 12 (1995): 673-693; Edmund F. McGarrell, Steven Chermak, Alexander Weiss, and Jeremy Wilson, “Reducing Firearms Violence Through Directed Police Patrol,” *Criminology and Public Policy* 1 (2001): 119-148.

antagonize the community.²²

More generally, spatially-focused crackdowns by police, including intensified traffic enforcement and field interrogation, are among the tactics found to contribute to reductions in robbery rates, and a location-centered initiative in Jersey City, which emphasized the control of social and physical disorder in hot spots of violent crime, was successful in that city.²³ Similarly, a spatial focus on street-level drug markets in Richmond, Virginia, with tactics that included regular patrol supplemented by greatly enhanced levels of specialized patrol units in the area and a mix of proactive police activity (e.g. field interviews, arrest of street drug dealers, citations, and code enforcement, for example) led to a decline in violent Part I crime during the intervention period.²⁴ Moreover, research further indicates that these reductions in crime and disorder can be achieved without displacing crime to other areas and can, in fact, result in the diffusion of crime control benefits to areas surrounding the target areas.²⁵

As effective as some enforcement initiatives may have been, enforcement alone falls short of realizing substantial, long-term crime reduction. Criminal justice agencies in Albany currently apply variants of the above-described approaches. But responsibility for addressing the problem of violence must rest more broadly with the governmental and other social institutions that influence the conditions from which violence springs. The most successful initiatives, we believe, are likely to be those that rest on a multi-faceted analysis of the factors that contribute to violence, and a correspondingly multi-faceted effort that strategically concentrates and coordinates the resources of public and private organizations, including not only law enforcement, but also social services, youth service providers, civic and political leaders, faith-based institutions, schools, media, and youth. An effort of this kind would broaden the base of information on which strategic problem-solving can build, and expand the repertoire of responses that a strategy can apply. A multi-layered strategy that incorporates the application of prevention and early intervention programs as well as increased emphasis on community and interagency partnerships would substantially enhance current efforts to reduce violent crime.

²² James W. Shaw, "Community Policing Against Guns: Public Opinion of the Kansas City Gun Experiment," *Justice Quarterly* 12 (1995): 695-710; Steven Chermak, Edmund F. McGarrell, and Alexander Weiss, "Citizens' Perceptions of Aggressive Traffic Enforcement Strategies," *Justice Quarterly* 18 (2001): 365-391.

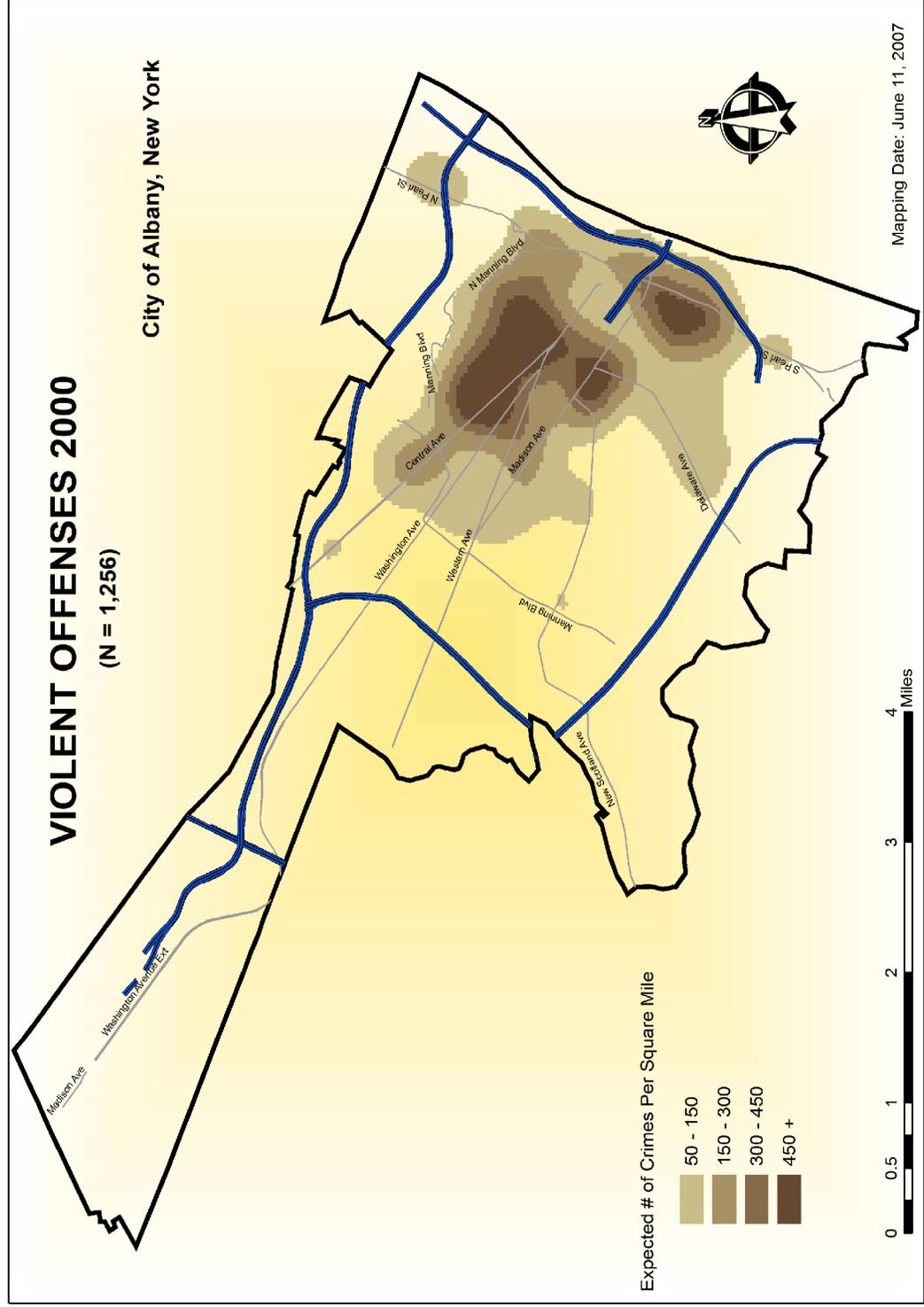
²³ Michael S. Scott, *The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns* (Washington: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2003); Anthony Braga, David L. Weisburd, Elin J. Waring, Lorraine Green Mazerolle, William Spelman, and Francis Gajewski, "Problem-Oriented Policing in Violent Crime Places: A Randomized Controlled Experiment," *Criminology* 37 (1999): 541-580.

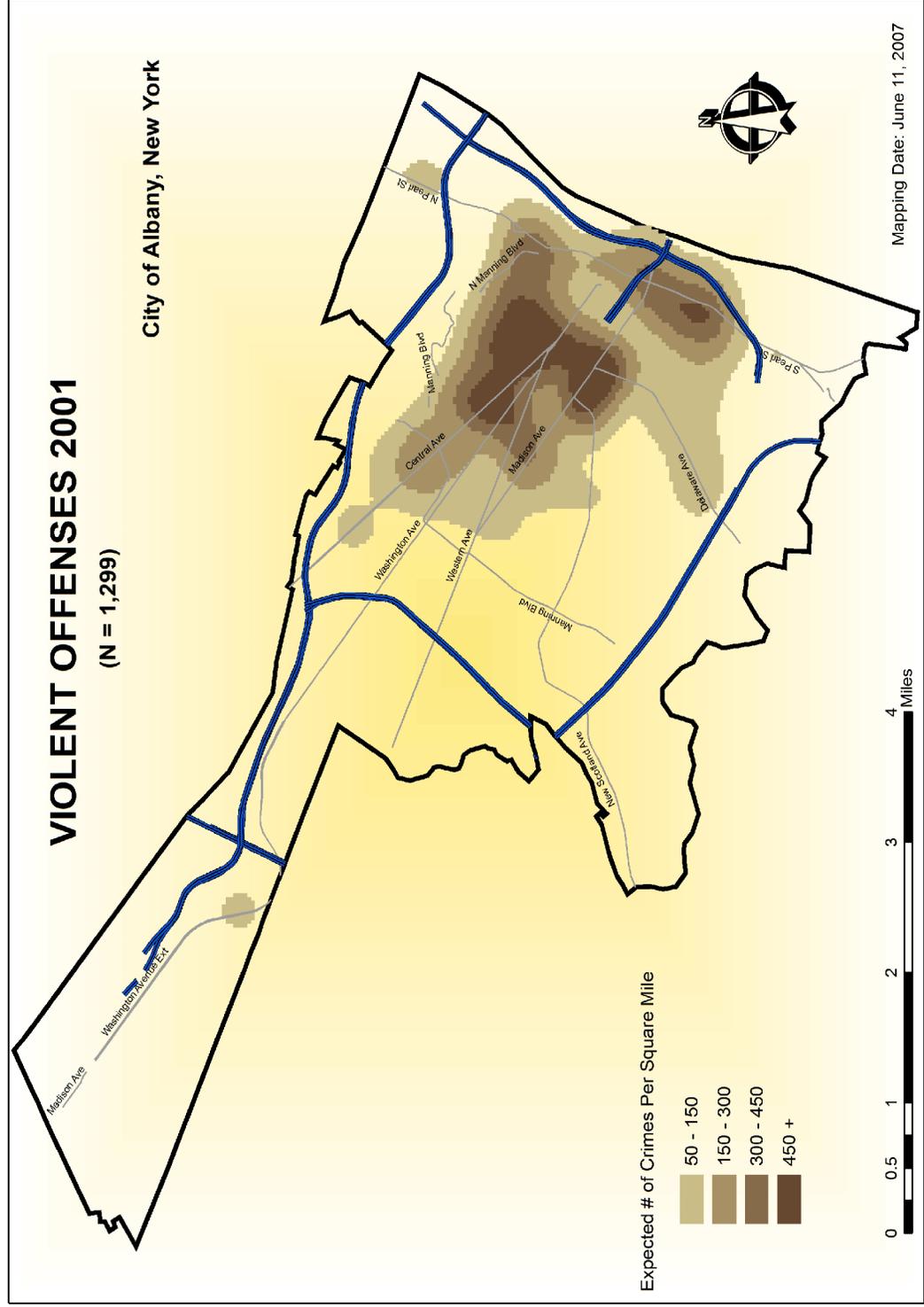
²⁴ Michael R. Smith, "Police-led Crackdowns and Cleanups: An Evaluation of a Crime Control Initiative in Richmond, Virginia," *Crime & Delinquency* 47 (2001): 60-83.

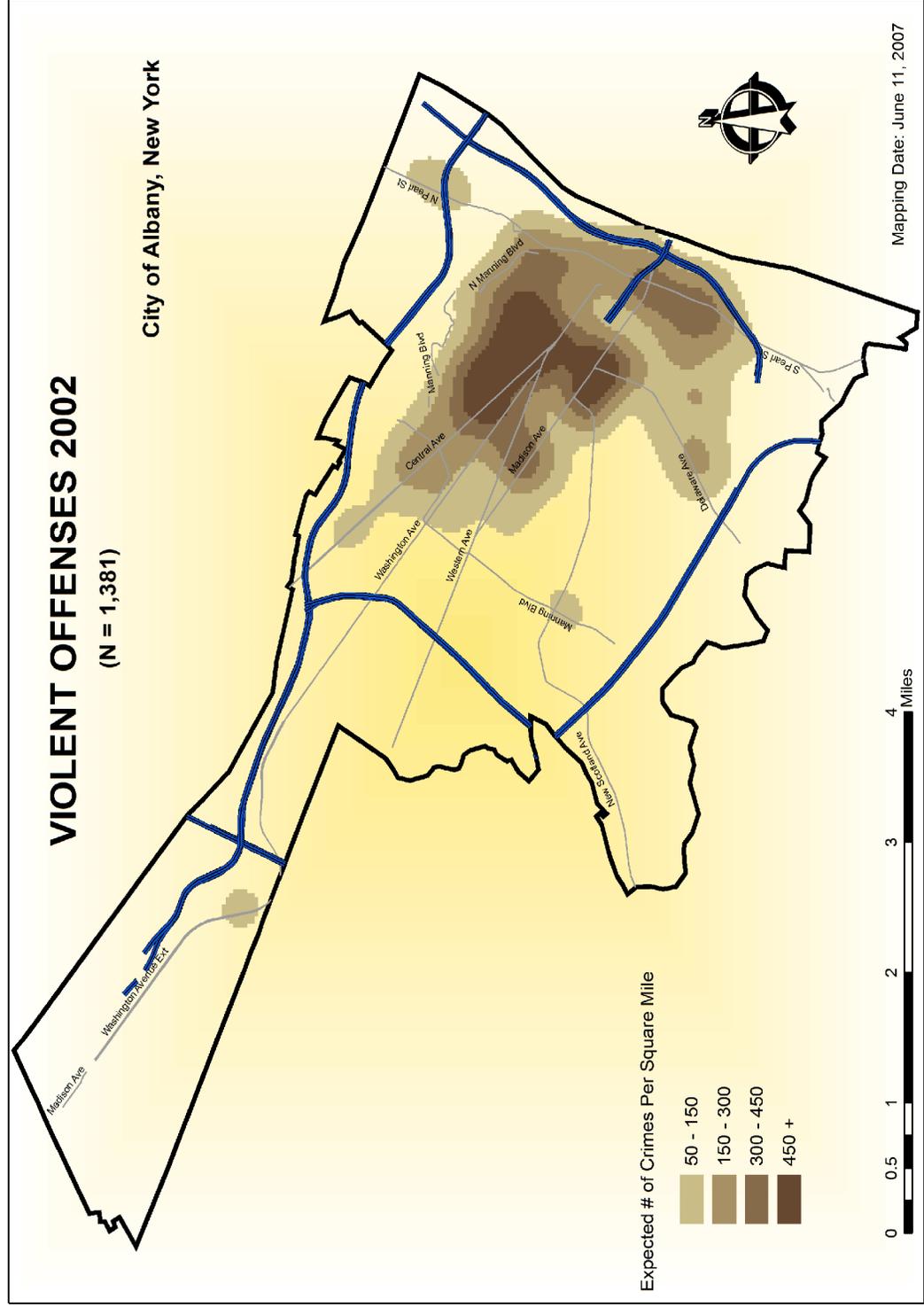
²⁵ National Research Council, *Fairness and Effectiveness in Policing*.

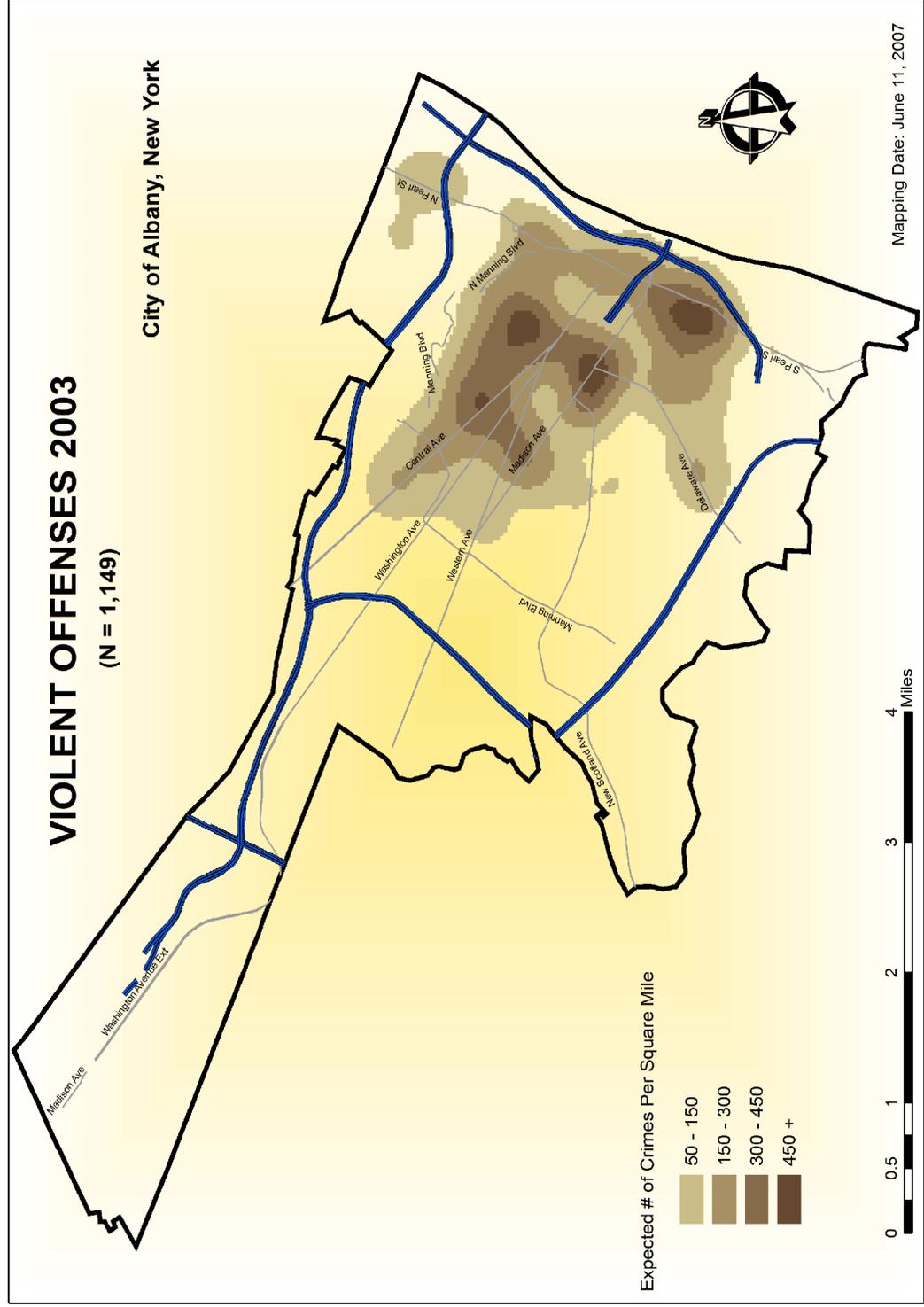
APPENDIX

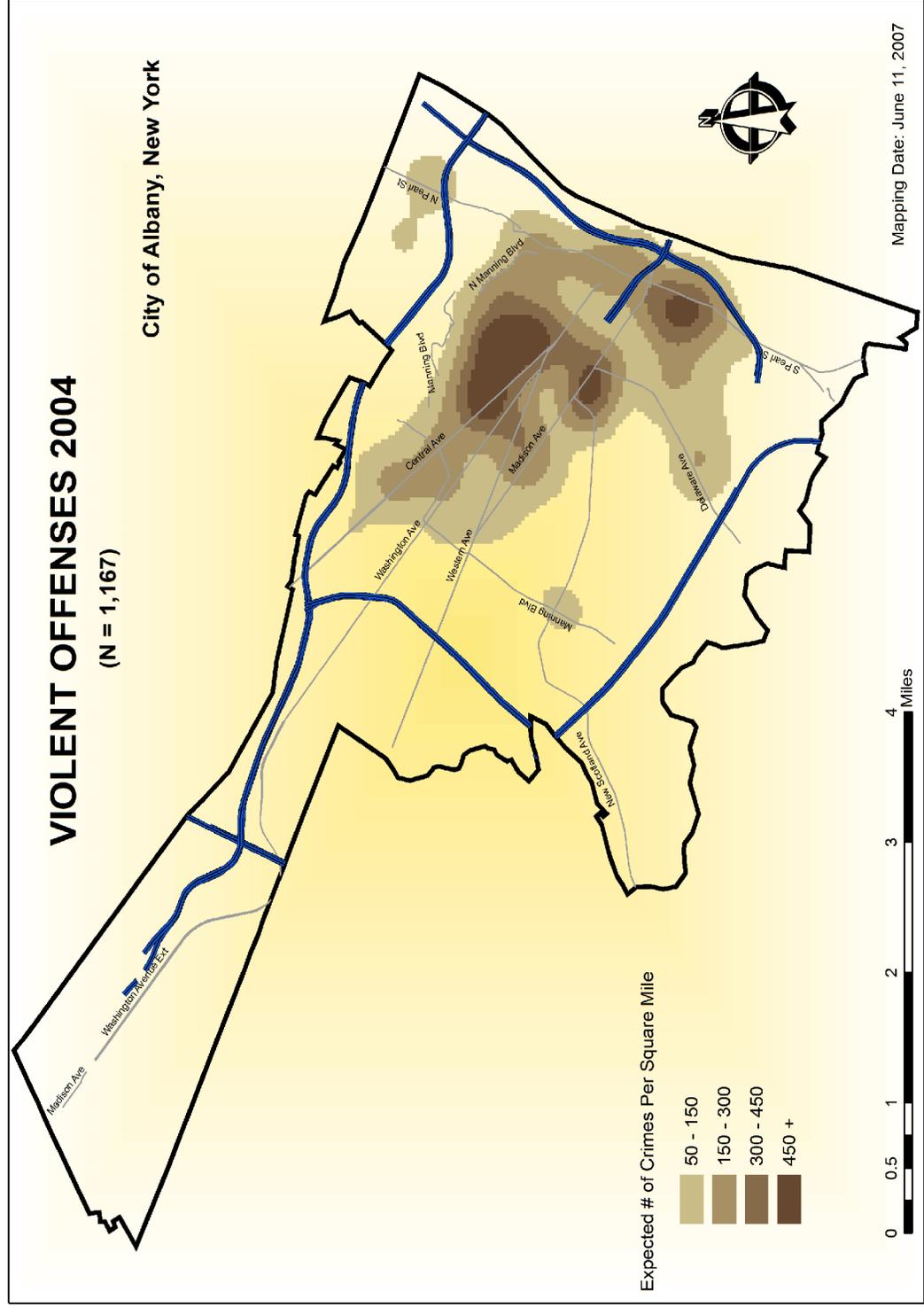
MAPS OF VIOLENT CRIME, 2000-2005

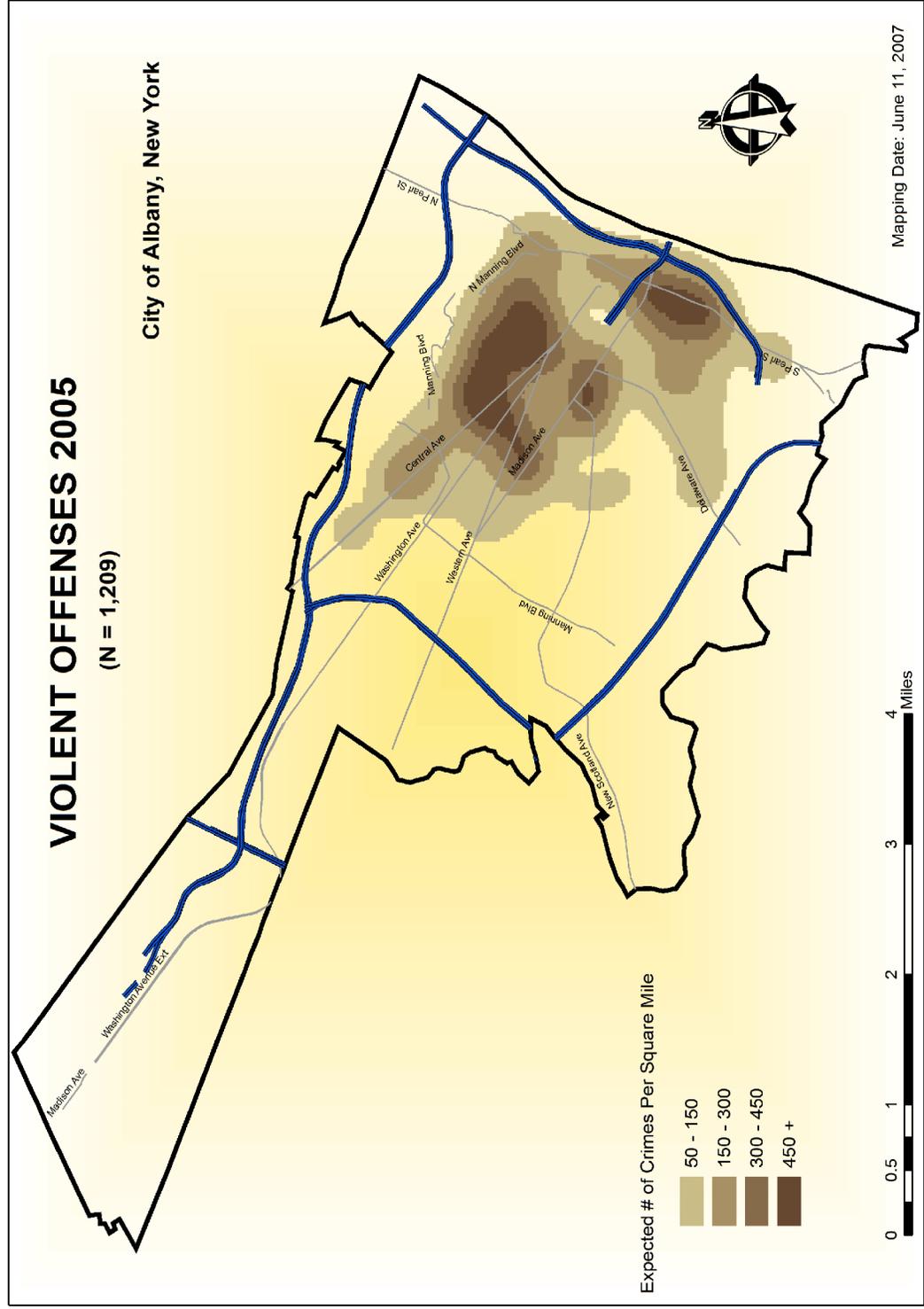












APPENDIX C

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MEDIA SOURCED REPORT (2006 THROUGH OCTOBER 2008) OF 95 CIVILIAN ON CIVILIAN SHOOTINGS WITH GUNFIRE INJURIES TO 122 CIVILIANS, 9.8% (10) OF WHICH WERE GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMS

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY LEONARD I MORGENBESSER PHD

In addition to the report by UAlbany Professor and Task Force Member Robert Worden PhD, whose analysis covered various gun crimes from 2000 through 2006 (almost one year before the Task Force's first meeting), we have attached an analysis by another of our Task Force Members, Leonard Morgenbesser PhD, based on the abovementioned Media-Sourcing or Media-Surveillance of print and television (broadcast and website) sources. This is to meet the legislation mandate for study of gun crimes 2000 "to present"

There were a total of 95 civilian on civilian shootings with gunfire injuries/homicides. During 2006, there were 32, during 2007 there were 37, and from Jan through October 2008, there were 26 such shootings.

Based upon the almost three year total of 95 such shootings, a total of 122 civilians were hit by gunfire. A total of 90.2% or 110 of these civilians were hit by gunfire and survived, while a total of 9.8% or 12 of these civilians were fatally hit by gunfire and thus became gun homicide victims. Hence, if you are hit by civilian on civilian gunfire in the City of Albany based upon this database, you have a close to ten (10) percent chance of being hit fatally.

8 (Eight) of the 122 victims of gunfire were female, while the overwhelming number (114) were male victims

The typical shooting with injuries/death crime situation is one shooting victim (74 of the 95 shooting incidents, or 77.9% of total). The data on number of victims per shooting with injuries/death is as follows:

Number of Gunfire Victims Per Shooting	Frequency	Percent of Total Shootings (N=95)
One	74	77.9%
Two	16	16.8%
Three	4	4.2%
Four	1	1.1%
Total	95	100.0%

Prepared by Leonard Morgenbesser PhD 12 November 2008

543 Media Reports of Any and All Types of Gun Crimes, City of Albany, New York
Years Two/Three/Four/Five/Six ---Albany Gun Crime/Gun Violence Media Reports

454 Firearm Weapon-Related Incidents in The City of Albany, New York

Since Between September 27 2003 And 12 November 2008

(Note Chief Tuffey has been asked if Robbery July 31 2006 Mobil Station 615 Clinton Avenue Involving Firearm(s) (Note Incident from June 13th 2005 Under Review and Not (Yet) Classified as Gun Incident) (Note-It is unclear if incidents of 18 shots fired July 7 2005 4 PM, Third and Quail and incident of shots fired July 6 mid AM Lexington Ave are separate incidents, at this time they are being counted as different incidents. Note 9-18 incident-uncertain if gun involved)

NOTE. WITH EARLIER DATA (88 GUN CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE MEDIA REPORTS BETWEEN SEPT 19 2002 AND SEPT 26 2003, THERE ARE NOW 543 DOCUMENTED MEDIA REPORTS OF GUN CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF ALBANY SINCE SEPT 19 2002 AND THROUGH 12 NOVEMBER 2008

NOTE: BETWEEN JULY 13/14 AND SEPTEMBER 25 2006 A TOTAL OF FIFTEEN (15) INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN HIT BY GUNFIRE IN THE CITY OF ALBANY NY. THERE HAS BEEN A TOTAL OF 25 GUN CRIME INCIDENTS

DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. 23 OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE INVOLVED GUNFIRE (DISCHARGE OF FIREARM). ONLY THREE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ROBBERIES

November 2008 (1)

Nov 11 evening, Washington Avenue resident before 7 PM, three men
Displaying gun, fled with cash after stick-up. Albany PD says victim may have
Know the robbers

October 2008 (5)

Oct 19 Shots fired 626 Manning Boulevard, APD retrieves three (3) .40 caliber
Shell casings, vehicle w/2 bullet holes in front windshield, shattered rear tailgate
window

Oct 9 130 PM, 300 Block of Judson, 16 yr old shot in stomach, collapses
on First Street, citizens hear five shots fired

Oct 5, 8 AM Hoffman Car Wash 590 Central, three African American
Males demanding cash, one with gun forces employee to open a safe
APD K-9 tracking dog tacks scent to Bleeker Terrace but trail stopped

Oct 3, evening 3 males-gunpoint robbery of Dunkin Donuts, Central Avenue

Oct 2 220 PM, police storm 400 Central, man pointing gun at neighbor
Suspect apprehended at Madison and Grand Streets

September 2008 (4)

Sept 26 1130 AM, male in his 30s shot inside his home, 189 Colonie

Street, rushed to Albany Medical Center Hospital, shot in chest,
Robbery a possible motive, victim and home known to APD for prior
Drug activity.

Sept 22 913 PM, South End-Grand Street, 2 perps at Diane's Liquor
One suspect with gun, police dogs lose tracking scent at 87 Philip St
\$1200 taken from register

Sept 16, police shoot and wound a male who pointed a loaded 9mm at them
Ontario and First Street, 11 PM

Sept 9, 8 PM 58 Swinton Street, 16 gauge shotgun fired in direction
of four people ages 12-19 yrs of age by 31 year old

August 2008 (4)

Last Two Weeks of August

At public session-2 Sept 2008 meeting, Albany City Gun Violence Task Force
APD Chief James Tuffey reports on illegal gun seizures apparently not reported
By the local media. Some reference to seizure of a sawed off shotgun and a
.25 (.25 caliber handgun-see below noted August 10 Tarver case). Another
reference to an anti-drug operation along
Colonie Street, arrest of individual selling illegal drugs and search warrant
Seizure in a van he was using of a .40 (.40 caliber handgun). Reference to
Seizures of three illegal firearms in two days or so

August 10, Tarver, 16 years old, shooting victim from June 12, found riding bike
At Elk and Lark, takes off and drops loaded .24 caliber handgun. Pleads
guilty September 5 and will be sentenced to State Prison (DOCS). This is
one of three cases noted in above "Last Two Weeks of August"

August 10, 445 PM, Pellet gun projectile shot at CDTA bus with passengers, at
Arbor Drive and Lark Street, no one injured, pellet did not go through glass,
glass window smashed, entry door cracked. No suspects

August 3, 530 AM call, 11 Judson Street, party prior to shooting, one male
down, transported to Albany Med, pronounced dead by Albany Med
Victim was age 38 yrs and helping his brother DJ a party. 24 year old charged
during October with this gun homicide.

July 2008 (9)

July 21 1030 PM, Second and Quail Streets, male shot in the leg, taken to AMCH
Victim is 19 years old

July 18 230 AM, man on bike found in possession of gun stolen from Sullivan
County Sheriff Department in Sept 2006, resident of 479 First Street, with prior

Conviction for CPW (Crim Possession of Weapon)---9 mm Smith and Wesson,
One live round in chamber and seven in the magazine. Location-Clinton and Quail

July 16, 1030 PM Shooting, young man on bike hit by gunfire in back at North Lake near Second Street, same area according to Times Union where Kathina Thomas was shot to death on May 29. Wounded male kept riding bike and sought police and medical help. Condition at Albany Med unknown, also Police do not know if male victim was intended target of gunfire or shot by "accident"

July 16, 120 AM, Lark Street "Community Watch" reports that young single woman walking in front of 127 Lancaster, robbed by male at gunpoint, touched inappropriately (not raped), relieved of her money and cream-colored wallet APD has broadcast that it is seeking a perpetrator, mid-20s African American male, 5'9" or slightly taller, last seen with White T-Shirt, White Baseball Cap on Backwards, White Bandana covering face. No similar incidents according to APD

July 7, AM holdup at two gunpoints of 114 Quail Clothing Store, struggle, clerk Grabs gun, thrown into glass plate, one perp fires and somehow hits other perp Perps include 24 yr old from Schenectady, 19 yr old from Albany, 2 shots were Fired, store is at 114 Quail (Uptown Clothing Shop

July 6 6 AM, 17 yr old grazed by gunfire/bullet while walking on Clinton Avenue Between Lark and Henry Johnson, treated for minor wound at AMCH

July 4, Times Union reports that "last week", 15 year old arrested, Clinton and Lark, CPW, .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun loaded with 8 bullets., youth had stashed gun behind display case, convenience store, Clinton/Lark, he and this gun are linked to recent shootings

July 3 Sheriff/Albany County announces drug undercover (sale, possession) Charges including recovery of .380 caliber, automatic, fully loaded, Albany

July 1 3 PM 16 yr old arrested near Central and Elk, saws off rifle, one round with chamber

June 2008 (10)

June 30 9 AM Ontario Street, rifle-point armed home invasion/robbery
Man beaten on head with unknown object

June 29 4 AM, First and Lark, two males down, gunshot wounds
One to leg and one to chest, LIM contact with News Thirteen after Hearing brief reference by Reporter Jessica Layton, AM TV News
Ages of victims are 22 years, 25 years.

June 26, citizens report in South End, Hurlburt Street, 11 PM, youth

On bikes firing at each other, shell casing found in vicinity

June 25 Female walking along Clinton Avenue treated at Albany Med
For gunshot wound to calf. She is 15 years old. Was

walking East on Clinton from Henry Johnson. Took taxi to Hospital.
No shell casings found at that location but casings found on sidewalk of
280 Block, Clinton Avenue. Is charged with criminal impersonation for
claiming to be a 20 year old Elk Street woman.

June 21 man points gun at people around 90 Block of Dana/Park South
Flees, vehicle located, arrested at 98 Henry Johnson, .22 caliber handgun seized

June 14 man found with two bullet wounds, 1230 AM, Morris Street (Park South)
Victim flees police and throws six pieces crack cocaine at officers who apprehend
him. Taken to Albany Med and charged

June 12 830 PM, 16 yr old male shot in bike-by shooting (three perps on bikes),
Male shot in leg at intersection, taken to Albany Med with severed artery
He is Tashawn Tarver, 60 N Lake Ave, shot a block from site of Kathina
Thomas murder, on Central Avenue near North Lake Ave

June 4, 8 PM, food establishment robbed of cash, Delaware near corner of Lark
African American robber using handgun, on large mountain bike (APD
and Lark Street Area Community Watch), perp heads west in direction
of New Scotland Ave/Park South

June 3, male outside Catherine St residence, 10 PM, two perps, take
bag of clothes, shoot him in stomach with .380, take \$200 in cash

June 3, 12:30 AM, Delaware and Jefferson, African-American robber using
handgun, on large mountain bike (APD and Lark Street Area Community
Watch), perp heads west in direction of New Scotland Ave/Park South

May 2008 (8)

May 30 Citizen writes to Times Union Blog that gunfire at Lark and Second, front
of New Charter School, bullet penetrated her front window, stuck in her wall.
Notes as she is talking to police, reports come over police radio of shots fired
At Second Street, two blocks away

May 30 11 AM Bank at 405 Delaware, man displays handgun, robs bank

May 29, 820 PM, 9 year old girl shot dead by stray bullet playing in front of
445 First Street, APD investigating murder of Kathina Thomas

May 26 2 AM, 18 yr old shot twice, South End, not far from Evangelical
Protestant Church

May 25, social club, 192 N Allen, four perps with guns rob 40 at club
City of Albany shuts down this Azzuri Club after robbery

May 23, 92 Willett St midnight, African-American robber using handgun, on
Large mountain bike (APD and Lark St Area Community Watch), perp
Heads west in direction of New Scotland Ave/Park South

May 21, 83 South Lake, 945 AM, loaded .40 caliber handgun found in area of APD chase. 20 yr old suspect points gun at chasing officers, three perps Attempting a break in/robbery.

May 8 Lark Drive, 8 PM, male shot once with shotgun, taken to AMCH Hospital, no perps in custody

April 2008 (9)

April 22 (TU reports on April 11, police search house uptown at Pinehurst, Confiscate drugs and two loaded handguns as part of a drug trafficking Investigation.

April 17, male teen in custody after standoff on First Street-West Hill, 424 First Street, APD Tactical Team surrounds residence after report of shots fired In vicinity of First and North Lake Ave at 1 PM, witnesses reported man with Gun entering the 424 First Street building

April 17, 1 AM, Garfield Place, three males, armed home invasion, sawed off Shotgun with two handguns, one victim bashed in head with handgun, steal equipment and a car

April 16, AM, three adults, two juveniles, armed home invasion of 302 1st St One victim pistol-whipped, recovery of 9 mm and starter pistol

April 15 1150 Broadway, one victim shot, one perp/suspect shot., 5 PM Victim shot in stomach, two suspects. Police send carrying shotguns from apt.

April 13 430 Third Street off of Quail. Drive by at 1030 PM, three in car That was hit. One wounded in thigh and lower abdomen, another Wounded in the hand, the third was uninjured. No arrests, no perps.

April 9 120 AM, Quail and Hamilton (Pine Hills), Mugger flashes black Handgun at two 19 yr old women, one from UAlbany, items stolen, no Injuries, no suspects arrested

April 8, mid-day on 1300 Radio News, APD investigating North Lake and Second Street. Shots fired, two houses hit by gunfire, not apparently targeted.

April 1, Noontime, WRGB reporting daytime shots fired report being handled By APD, South End, Schuyler and Broad

March 2008 (8)

March 31, 230 PM, 17 yr old along Lark St, argument, one in a group fires at him, is wounded in arm

March 30, 230 PM, two males hit in chest and hip by gunfire, Lark and 300 Block of Clinton Avenue, also bullet holes found a block away (indicating Possible foot chase)-in pickup truck parked near Orange and Lark

March 26, no hour given, 14 yr old with gunshot wound to neck, Albany Med APD does not know if he was victim of other two shootings on 26 March

March 26 6 PM shots fired First and Quail, no one injured, no suspects

March 26 230 PM, shots fired Elk and Quail, two men in car fire at Two others walking. Shooter vehicle abandoned in pkg lot of Tivoli Lake Apts. None were hit by the gunfire

March 24, armed home invasion with machete and shotgun 324 First Street, may be tied to drugs. Man hit with butt of shotgun, cash and cellphones stolen

March 9, male age 30 points gun at female (girlfriend) head and Threatens to shoot as she holds their 17 month old daughter. Police find loaded .25 Colt semiautomatic pistol, with six rounds, In crib where baby was asleep, 225 Second Street

March 7 9 PM Second Ave/South End near Lucky Times grocery store 15 yr old/14 yr old victims. One shot in upper thigh, other shot in left hip

Feb 2008 (3)

Feb 26, overnight according to News Ten (Phil Bayley), man Reports to South Station/Albany PD and reports being held up earlier at gunpoint

Feb 17/18 Around Midnight Feb 17, fights spilling out of Skyline At Sheridan and Chapel, one 17 yr old stabbed in the back and another 17 yr old shot in the leg

Feb 17 4 AM 890 Third Street (at Grant), Midtown nearby Central Allen, behind OTB TeleTheater. Three males wounded, ages 23, 26 and 30. 30 Yr Old had 9 mm handgun, weapons charges pending Shooter's whereabouts are unknown, Labor Temple (shots fired outside) likely rented out for some unspecified function.

January 2008 (4)

Jan 30 overnight armed gunpoint robbery of Mobil at Whitehall and Delaware

Jan 30, three bodies found, three gunfire victims, some reports of victims shot execution style. Age of male victims, 26, 25 and 16. 16 year old was visiting apartment to play videogames and was inadvertent victim

Jan 27, 16 year old tosses defaced, stolen .22 Jennings handgun During chase and is arrested, First and Quail

17 yr old pulls .38 caliber and robs individual of cash and car he Had arranged to purchase, meeting had occurred at Second and Ten Broeck

Dec 2007 (5) Dec 24, Christmas Eve, gun homicide, 56 yr old male, gunshot injuries, Second Street and North Swan

Dec 11 PM, Manning Boulevard and Buchanan Street man asking questions forces woman

On her steps at gunpoint into car to take money from ATM, woman Eventually jumps out of car, suspect on the loose.

Dec 10, PM, man with gun holds up Advanced Auto Parts, 485 Delaware Avenue

Dec 7, gunpoint hold-up of an Albany car-wash (Hoffman's), 630 PM \$500 and 30 car wash ticket books taken, register and safe looted

20 Trinity Place, gunpoint home invasion, 17 yr old, 19 yr old in custody At Myrtle and Grant

Nov 2007 (10) November 29, search warrant, 452 Livingston, 2 Tech9 semiautomatic Rifles, AK-47, SKS Assault Rifle with Bayonet, 9 mm pistol

Nov 28, 239 Delaware Avenue, 330 PM armed home invasion (TV 13)

Nov 27, deliveryman is robbed, 16 yr old is later caught by police with Loaded .25 caliber

Nov 26, 195 Clinton Avenue crackhouse, Big Man Jerry Carter bites Of fear of victim and pistol whips him with loaded handgun

Nov 14, 11 PM, shots fired, one male dead on the street on sidewalk Outside Ezra Prentiss Housing Complex near Morton Avenue

During week of Nov 5, Chief Tuffey responding to CBS Six, confirms Four shooting incidents (BB Gun shootings) in the past two weeks CBS Six interviewed mother of of one shooting victim on Halloween Night, Joanne off of Whitehall, shot five times.

Nov 1 6 PM, Roman jewelry store gunpoint holdup, located along Western Avenue near University at Albany campus

Oct 2007 (4) Oct 28 5 AM 16 yr old male and 17 yr old male rob and beat 19 yr old Male at gunpoint in Central Ave apartment, both perps arrested. Victim Had been invited to older perp's apartment and arrived with girlfriend.

Oct 26, 325 AM, Colonial Tavern (325 Central), shots fired, two patrons Fire at each other with guns, both shooters fled the bar

Oct 19 430 AM Sheriff arrest of couple at 27 Clare, includes CPW 4 an A-Misdemeanor, for loaded pistol grip 12 gauge shotgun

Oct 15, Lark Drive, APD stops vehicle, stolen, 2 AM. Loaded .380 Semiautomatic handgun, 27 year old reputed Bloods gang member from NYC in bulletproof vest, he and two passengers arrested.

Sept 2007 (4) Sept 22 1:30 AM, 148 Broad St (South End), 5 shots fired into house, 18 yr old male sitting on porch hit by gunfire, is resident of home, taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital

Sept 21, early AM Club Ninety (90 Central), two down, one male, one Female, each shot, taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital

Sept 17 230 AM, male at 60 Watervliet Ave (midtown) fires shotgun at Victim, who was apparently not struck by gunfire. Two hour standoff APD Swat, tear gas used, male in custody charged with CPW, crim Possession weapon.

Sept 6, 1230 AM, First Street vicinity of Lark, male hit by gunfire in leg

Aug 2007 (10) Aug 30, First Street, 330 AM, shooting/male down, rushed to AlbanyMed

Aug 25, broad daylight, 2 PM, Pearl Street near Fourth Avenue, dispute Male fires five shots into vehicle and individual in vehicle returns fire According to witnesses

Aug 24 145 AM, Bassett Street, South End, 18 yr old male and 15 yr old Male taken to Albany Med, gunfire wounds, drive by from moving van Shots fired 3-4 times at victims. No arrests, no motive for shooting

Aug 21, 4 PM, Livingston and Lark, one shot fired, 2 blocks from 8-18
Homicide of Shahied Oliver

Aug 18, 230 AM, 15 yr old Shahied Oliver shot dead in chest at Party,
Skyline Apartment As of Sat evening, no suspect, no motive as per Albany
PD

Aug 17, Friday night, 32 yr old female, Slingerlands Street, shot in
Shoulder, taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital (FOX23 News 8-18
PM Broadcast. Police believe someone walking by fired shots at the home

Aug 14, No Swan and Livingston, 12 gauge sawed off shotgun

Aug 7, 5 AM shotgun-point robbery of 122 Quail Street store, license plate
check leads police to 71 Westerlo, after six hour standoff, police tear gas
building, arrest and charge one male suspect with crime. Store clerk
grabbed shotgun, suspect ran out and came back, struggle with shotgun,
One shot fired before suspect fled to 71 Westerlo.

Aug 5, AM/morning, near church, Arbor Hill, First and Swan
Someone shot in back, 20 bullet casings on the ground

Aug 3/Friday 330 AM Lark and Clinton, one down, injured by gunfire.

July 2007 (9) July 30, bike-by shooting, 16 yr old victim, shot in hip, afternoon, park
Near N Lake and Third Ave. 345 PM, three men on bikes rode by, one
fired shots. 16 yr old shooter arrested Aug 8 in Albany.

July 29, 419 AM, 529 Hamilton, shots fired report, APD arrests 31 yr old
John Davis, 536 Hamilton Street, for striking individual with a gun which
Went off, police recover 9mm semiautomatic after interviewing Davis.
DA Soares announced plea deal on Oct 1, Davis will be sentenced
Nov 26, to up to 7 yrs State DOCS prison, and 5 yrs post release
Supervision.

July 29, at Hospital with 15 yr old victim in below Sheriday/HJ Blvd case,
APD identifies another 40 yr old male coming in for gunshot wound
Victim reports leaving house at First and Henry Johnson to get food,
Saw group of kids, heard gunfire, was hit by gunfire in shoulder.

July 29 After midnight July 28/29 Shots fired Sheridan and Henry Johnson
Blvd, 15 yr old male shot in the leg, rushed to Albany Med

July 28/29 130 AM, South End, 25 yr old male shot in leg outside 5 Teunis

Taken to Albany Med, gunfire hits two cars before officer responds "Broadcast reports indicate another bullet hit nearby house". WTEN interviews home residents who show bullet hole in house at Teunis and Third.

July 20 9 PM report of shots fired, Clinton Ave. Several people seen running First and Quail. Police chase, Albany PD cruiser hits State Trooper at Central and Quail, hits ground and strikes head on ground.

July 20 3 AM, citizen awakened, shots fired Dove and Madison, APD patrol cars come by with strobe lights on
July 19, 5 AM, 157 Dove, perp break in searching for marijuana, resident Runs after perp with illegal gun and fires, resident charged with illegal gun possession, reckless endangerment, nobody hit by gunfire

July 13 APD SWAT activated, first time since May 30 activation re shots Fired call. 125 Clinton between Swan and Hawk, premises tear-gassed, no Perps found as of 1130 PM by SWAT. Tear gas followed earlier shooting of male in leg after street altercation at 630 PM. Bystander who assisted Tells TV a 17 yr old had been shot by a group of young people.

June 2007 (11)

June 24, 9 PM, Quail and either Clinton or First, large group gathering
15 yr old shot, taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital

June 22 TUnion, Third Street, Two males, 38 and 22, shot following
An altercation, one shot in leg, other shot in leg and arm, taken to Albany Med

June 21. TUnion, NYS Troopers arrest three Brooklyn males on I-787
During Traffic Stop. 2 loaded handguns, two baggies of marijuana,
One pound of marijuana hidden in speaker. One gun was stolen from
North Carolina shop

Midnight, June 17, front of Ida Yarbrough Apartments, 18 yr old
Female hit by gunfire

Evening, June 15, 50 yr old male with legally possessed .22 caliber
Argument with waitress outside Pearl Restaurant, Steuben Place,
When owner intervened, perpetrator "maced" the owner, returns
Less than an hour later, 11 PM, points gun in face of owner.
Ran away but apprehended at midnight on Del Ave by police

2 PM June 13, midtown, Hunter and Watervliet, grocery store
Hit, 24 yr old perp with .40 caliber semiautomatic handgun holds up
Store, he, a woman living at his address downtown (Colonie St)

And baby in tow in getaway vehicle seized along Lark and Livingston
After car tire blows out during chase.

June 10 6 PM two males standing on porch hit by rifle gunfire
outside 92 Third Ave/South End, taken to Albany Med

June 10 1 AM, NYC male wounded in buttocks in apparent robbery
Leaving friend's residence, 200 block First St/Arbor Hill, two masked
masked males chase him and fire weapon(s), victim taken to Albany Med

June 8 PM, reported June 11 (CBS Six/Screven) APD charges male with
CPW (criminal possession weapon) following gunfire at car on street
reported to Screven by W Lubinski, South End.

June 8, reported June 11 (CBS Six/Screven) APD seizes gun near fence
In South End close by residence of County Legislator McKnight, who
advises Screven of the seizure

June 2, late Saturday night. 1130 PM (TU report says late night, 1130 AM
Clinton Street, 14 yr old shot in elbow, APD PIO Det Miller says injury
is "minor" Shooting on street, group of kids outside. "What precipitated
it we don't know yet" (PIO Miller). APD no information on shooter.

May 2007 (8) May 30, 930 AM shots fired call, gun fired on sidewalk, shell casings
Retrieved, gunshot hold found in parked car, APD SWAT Team onsite
Until 3 PM, entered 434 Third Street after tear gassing premises, no
Perps found. Had searched for reportedly two men who fled into the
Residence.

May 25, 7 PM, 26 Beverly (Arbor Hill), male shot in abdomen and
Shoulder, inside front door of his home, two males flee in SUV but
Are caught on I90 by State Police, Two perps, 1 from the Bronx
1 from Patterson, New Jersey. Money taken from victim.

May 23 5 PM, North Lake and Clinton, Shots fired, 16 yr old male
Shot in the foot and 34 yr old stabbed in the stomach.

May 19, Fri, 945 PM, 19 yr old female, Elizabeth St (South End)
Hit by drive-by gunfire (3 or 4 shots), Leg Wound, perp in SUV

May 19, 11 PM, 14 yr old male, First St and Lexington Ave
Hit by drive-by gunfire, several shots, Buttocks wound

May 12, Sat 1130PM, Third Street and North Lake Avenue
16 Year Old shot in Ankle, treated at Albany Med, Three shots fired,

one hit a parked car, victim is not talking about what happened. Police do not know if drive-by shooting or shooting from on the street, do not know how victim got to Albany Med, do not know whether victim was with friends, do not know motive for the shooting

May 9, afternoon/broad daylight, two people exchange gunfire and Another 17 yr old individual is injured by the gunfire, Area of Lexington And Bradford Streets

May 1, 845 PM, 250 Sheridan Avenue, 18 yr old shot in the arm

April 2007 (10) April 30, Times Union on May 3 reports that on April 30, arrested Knox Street apartment-Albany, wanted by Philly Penn Police on shotgun Robbery warrant. Another male arrested, in girlfriend apartment at that Time, arrested with male wanted by Philly PD Police. Loaded handgun Seized, all three including girlfriend charged with illegal weapon possession

April 29/Sunday evening, one hit by gunfire, 305 First Street

April 29/Early Sunday morning, three hit by gunfire, 100 Clinton Street

April 26 19 yr old male near 67 Henry Johnson runs from Sheriff's Deputies, tosses loaded sawed-off 16 gauge shotgun onto roof, TU 5/30 Notes DA plea bargains, perp will get three years in DOCS/prison At July 17 sentencing, ref to Project Speeding Bullet re gun cases

April 10 Police spot male, 356 AM, South Swan and Sheridan, Officer pat down male in interaction, has rifle sawed down to 9 Inches long, four live rounds of ammo (later release Albany Co DA)

“Four Shootings In A Row (Nobody Hit), Various Locations in Albany including Sheridan Avenue

Almost a week after the incident, Times Union (April 7) reports arrest Of 16 yr old in apparent April 1/Sunday 5 AM shooting of 29 yr old Male in left leg and buttocks at 52 Benjamin Street (South End)

Mar 2007 (7) Date Unspecified: TU on March 29 reports 2 men break into student home on Western Ave, display handgun, strike victim in head, rob him

March 26/Sunday, 2 PM, 20 year old male in critical condition After being shot in stomach outside building on Delaware Street APD has no motive for the shooter, no suspects.

March 12, APD arrests 19 yr old Nasif Jackson, of 400 Hudson Ave

After police see him throw loaded semiautomatic into snow near Orange and Lake. TUnion of July 3 reports this incident and his Sentence to NYSDOCS for four years, crim possession of weapon

March 10, 11 AM, 3 shots fired at adult (female) in front of residence of family (mother, son Jamal Hines) of Jamal Hines (see below incident dated March 8 regarding arrest of Jamal Hines) at 38 Osborne Street. Male interviewed on TV 13 reports he called 911 with license plate and Police arrest alleged shooter on Ontario St in Cohoes, this may be retaliation for Hines' alleged shooting of male on Feb 25

March 9, Noon, Key Bank at Colvin and Central, Uptown Albany near State Campus, stocky African-American male allegedly points silver Pistol and holds up bank and flees, the male may be similar to the perp Who held up the same bank a month ago.

March 8, APD arrest Jamal Hines for Feb 25 shooting of male in car on Green Street. Police came to 38 Osborne 3-8 responding to shots fired. T Police report "A WINDOW IN THE HOME HAD BEEN SHOT OUT BUT NOT ONE WAS INJURED"

March 1 9 mm handgun tossed in process, 3 PM armed home invasion at 324 Western Avenue. Woman and 4 children are now homeless as apartment burned in process of residents fleeing building where suspects were being sought

Feb 2007 (9) Date unspecified. Times Union, March 29, reports 2 men break into Another student home, Ontario St, display handgun, rob him, lock him in closet

Feb 27, 2 AM, 27 Stanwix, 36 yr old male with shotgun holds up poker game

Feb 25, 1230 AM, Green Street, shots fired at males in car, one male Hit in stomach and rushed to Albany Medical Center Hospital, Albany PD investigating what is being termed an attempted murder

Feb 17, just after midnight, 2 males shot, Quail and Central (CapNews9 TV)

Feb 9, Albany PD reports to Lark St Community Watch, 25-35 yr old Male African American, midnight, robbery, displays pistol which May or may not be real, corner of Dove and Lancaster Street, victim Under 25 yrs of age

Feb 9, Albany PD reports to Lark St Community Watch, 25-35 yr old

Male African American, minutes before midnight, robbery, displays Pistol which may or may not be real, Elm St at Delaware Avenue, Victim under 25 yrs old

Feb 7, Albany PD reports to Lark St Community Watch, 25-35 yr old Male African American, 10 PM, robbery, displays pistol which may or May not be real, across from 441 State St (along Washington Park), Victim under 25 yrs old

Feb 7, Albany PD reports to Lark St Community Watch, 25-35 yr old Male African American, evening, robbery, displays pistol which may or May not be real, near Quail and State, victim under 25 yrs old
Early February, State AG Coordinated Operation Cash, raids on Second Ave, South End, drugs and loaded .357 Caliber Handgun seized, Reported in State AG April 19 Press Release on Indictments

Jan 2007 (3) Jan 30, Afternoon, two males exiting Interstate 90, shot and wounded, Area Livingston and Henry Johnson Boulevard, APD believes both were “targeted”

Jan 29, male shot 10 AM, found at part near corner Madison and South Pearl Street (165 South Pearl), taken to Albany Med, conscious

Jan 2, armed robbery Beverage Center, Washington Ave, handgun Male perpetrator later arrested. CapitalNews9 TV and newspapers

Dec 2006 (6) Dec 16, in front of Armory, Washington and Lark, 11:30 PM Three males shot, one as of Dec 16 in critical condition, minutes After they were refused entry by security into a private party, Victims are in their 20s

Dec 13, PM, St Rose student held-up, gunpoint, Hamilton and Quail

Dec 10 Soon after below-noted 9:15 PM incident, Livingston Ave report that female shot in arm and back

Dec 10 9:15 PM, 124 West St, between Washington and Central Male shot in back of head and his car carjacked/stolen, heavy-set African-American perpetrator being sought.

Dec 4 PM Couple pulled over on Clinton Avenue, woman found with drugs. Male found with illegally possessed handgun and ammunition

Dec 1 Police spot 20 yr old male, AM outside beverage center which had been burglarized repeatedly. As officers approach, he kicks in door of apartment at 562 Washington Ave, pulls out .38 caliber handgun, officers tackle him. Bullet in gun matches to one found at scene of

Oct 18 West Hill shooting perpetrated by Michael Kindred.

Nov 2006 (13) Nov 30, gunpoint stick up of 10 N Pearl St Citizen Bank

Nov 28, multiple media reports, 2:30 PM, in excess of 25 shell casings, on First Street East of Quail, in West Hill, unclear if anyone hit by this gunfire, unclear how many shots fired, Food Market wall may have taken a bullet, PD believes shots fired from a fight and some involved escaped by car, Mayor Jennings and APD Chief Tuffey on scene

Nov 27, PM, on 11-28 a Citizen of Albany reports to this writer that on night of Nov 27, a car was "shot up" on Grand Street by the corner of Ash Grove

Nov 24, after midnight, Robin and Elk, male shot in thigh

Nov 23, 11:45 PM, At either (1) 300 Block Myrtle OR (2) Lark and Orange, 2 males in passing car fire upon car, windshield hit

Nov 23, 10 PM, Dana and Knox, male shot in nose

Nov 20 6 PM, 10 N Pearl St, Citizens Bank, male robs bank
After displaying silver handgun

Nov 18 or Nov 19 Gunpoint robbery Dunkin Donuts
Next to Central Avenue OTB Tele-Theater

Nov 18, 21 yr old Florida male, vicinity of 73 Clinton Street, 4 PM, driveby, passenger in car shot Fla. Male
In stomach, vehicle matching description stopped,
Driver being questioned Sat PM, gunman not in custody

Nov 17 9:30 PM, Mobil, Washington and Colvin
At gunpoint, hooded Black Male suspect being sought,
Ran towards Central Ave after hold-up, nobody hurt

Nov 9, 11:57 PM, gunpoint robbery, Mobil, Delaware
And Whitehall, same station hit on Oct 24

Nov 9, 11:44 PM, gunpoint robbery, Dunbrook Mobil,
Madison Avenue

Nov 3, WROW 5:30 AM three rob person on Third St
One with gun, one with knife

Nov 2 9:30 AM, shots fired, near First and Judson, shell casings found outside house, three men who had fled into house released
No weapon found inside the house

Oct 2006 (5) Oct 29 evening, 32 yr old male enters apartment with two others, Shotgun and at least one handgun, pistol whipping and robbery, Later sentenced to State Prison (DA Press Release)

Oct 27. 5:10 PM, 16 yr old male found lying on sidewalk in front of 412 Orange St, Arbor Hill, shot in stomach, in his 20s, not life threatening, APD reports large group in area prior to shooting
Oct 24, after midnight, robber with handgun holds up Mobil Station Delaware and Whitehall, various civilians in the store at the time, No shots fired, reported AM Oct 24 by TV News 13, WNYT

Oct 18 Michael Kindred shoots two men carrying pizza, West Hill, One wounded in thigh, other is grazed. .38 caliber handgun used Turns up in hands of another perpetrator (see 12-1-2006 incident)

Oct 13 30 arrested by joint Task Force of Fed, County, City, "Jungle Junkies Street Gang, 20 illegally possessed handguns seized

Sept 2006 (8) Sept 25 Nootime, Morton and Eagle/Elizabeth, shots fired, South End

Sept 25 TV10 and others: 8:30 AM, 4 shots fired, 100 Block Livingston Avenue only blocks from Arbor Hill Elementary School

Sept 23, CapNews9, driveby shooting 12:30 PM, Northern Blvd and McCrossin Street, shots fired from two cars, at least one Shot hit a nearby home

Sept 19 Police report to elected official that around 1 PM, Livingston Or Lexington, 2 bullet holes in a car, we had "another car shot up" Later a citizen indicated that on Second Street in the morning, police were taking pictures of a young man's car which had been shot at

Quail and Second Streets, 4 PM, Friday Sept 15, shots fired
Two shooters in separate vehicles appear to know each other

100 Block Dove St near Myrtle, 11 PM Sept 4, two teens
Shot by two teens on bike, Albany PD seeking two suspects
In this Bike-By Shooting, reported Sept 5, News 13

Sept 2, midnight, shots fired at car, Clinton Ave/Quail St

Sept 1, 11 PM, shots fired into or around car, two down

Rushed to Albany Med Center Hospital, location of First St
and Henry Johnson Boulevard

August 2006 (14) AM Aug 30, Madison and Willette, 3 shots fired, perp on bike

August 29, 10 AM, vehicle stop, .38 caliber loaded with 7 live round
Also in car, three males, two sentenced to State Prison, one acquitted
Incident reported in July 20 2007 Albany Times Union, 17 yr old gets
Six years in prison

11:30 PM Aug 29, Broad and Alexander, APD Officer assaulted,
Shot at, one perp in custody, one on the loose, all networks AM

All Three Major TV Stations and Albany Time Union
Evening of August 24, Four down, rushed to Albany Med
First Street, between Lexington and Judson, lots of folks outside
when this happened One victim was a bystander. Victims-3 males
and a woman. Two male perps being sought by PD. After 9 PM
incident begins as shots fired call.

August 20 5 AM, 625 South Pearl, two males robbed at gunpoint
By 18 yr old perpetrator/male, later sentenced to prison (DA Press
Release)

CapitalNews9 Aug 14 website reports Aug 14 gunpoint
Robbery 2 AM USA Grocery Deli, 335 Clinton Avenue
Takes money, clerk not injured Perp is male.

Aug 17 Times Union story. Noon. Lark and Third St. Gunshots
fired. Mother of shooter helps police get son/shooter out of self-
barricade in his nearby home-along Henry Johnson Blvd
Argument with another person preceded shooter firing shotgun
Into Arbor Hill sidewalk.

Aug 11 TV 11 PM reports 2:30 AM shooting in the face of male
At Orange and Lexington. A passerby in car, stopped to
confront a male (the husband/shooting victim) who was confronting a
woman. Injuries cared for at hospital, not life threatening

Aug 9 Times Union reports Aug 8 8:30 PM shooting in leg at
Third Street near Livingston Ave. Victim, same 17 yr old
Who fired shot at an individual (see below)
rushed to Albany Medical Center Hospital
Shooting occurred in street. Police decline to identify victim,
No arrests WNYT 13 states this is fifth shooting in a week

Chief Tuffey notes two handguns recovered. Victim arrested
Upon hospital release for shooting at 29 Robin

Aug 7 17 yr old involved in shooting at an individual
At 29 Robin Street, according to Chief Tuffey.

Aug 6 overnight, Washington Park vicinity, Dana and Robin
Shots fired, handgun recovered by PD according to Chief Tuffey
Reported by WTEN-News Ten Aug 6 AM News, supplemented by
Report to this writer from Chief James Tuffey of APD. Times Union

On Aug 10 reports in this incident 17 yr old hit 16 yr old in the head
With handgun after a confrontation. 17 yr old is shooting victim of
Above Aug 9 incident. No perp arrested.

AUG 3 WOMAN HIT SEVERAL TIMES IN HEAD/FACE,
KNOCKED TO GROUND, ROBBED AT GUNPOINT, 8:30 PM
CHESTNUT AND WEST LAWRENCE, WALLET STOLEN
APD ARRESTS JAQUAN CARDEN, AGE 17, ARRESTED AT
AT BLEEKER STADIUM, REPORTED BY WNYT TV 13
23 YR OLD VICTIM WAS NEAR HER HOME. STARTER PISTOL
WITH TWO BLANK ROUNDS FOUND ON SUSPECT

Aug 2 2:30 AM, Lark and Orange, shots fired, one male shot in
pinkey finger while sitting on front porch 100 Block Lark reported by
P Bayly, TV 13 News at 5:30 AM August 2. Gunfire caused a cut,
Victim 23 years old, others out at that time

Aug 1, after midnight, woman hit by gunfire, rushed to Hospital
and undergoing surgery. Location of gunfire: Second and North
Manning. Car rushing woman collides en route. Aug 2, woman
In critical condition, but stable, age 33 years

July 2006 (5) July 31 CapitalNews9 reports Mobil Station, 615 Clinton robbed
No details on whether firearms displayed by perpetrators

July 31 12:30 AM, Ida Yarbrough Apts, Livingston and North Pearl
Victim shot in leg, rushed to Albany Medical Center Hospital

July 27 2:30 AM, man shot at Dana and Lark, brought to Albany Med
Reported by TV News 13/WNYT. Victim is Arnold Brown, shot in
Back and in stable condition in Albany Med. Location-13 Dana
residence

July 19 CapitalNews9 website, 5 AM Second and Ontario,
Armed Robbery, three in physical altercation, one pulled gun,
One Shot fired, unknown if any injuries, victim and one suspect

In custody, searching for second suspect

July 18, 4:30 PM, gunshot across Grand St close to where children were playing in the street, report from citizen, nothing noted in the media

July 14 AM TV News 13/WNYT, confirmed by CapitalNews9 News Editor Brunner to Dr Morgenbesser after his contacting Albany PD Lark Street overnight evening of July 13/or AM July 14, civilian Shot in arm, Colonie St vicinity of Lark Street taken to Albany Med Case later reported in Albany Times Union (Sept 4) as being at Lark and Livingston.

June 2006 (2)

June 23 2006

19 year old male, 124 Second Ave, South End, 9 PM, outside home Shot once in knee, taken to Albany Med, was arguing with other male Just before shooting, believes other shot him, perp on the loose

June 1 2006

Various Albanians charged with drug and weapons charges, along with Queens resident. Two handguns and assault rifle seized along with Drugs, cash, vehicles. Albany PD, County Sheriff, Federal DEA, County DA and NY State Police involved in 3 month investigation

May 2006 (6)

May 24 2006

AM. 209 Second Avenue. Illegally possessed handgun seized. Not (yet) in media. Source. City of Albany elected Member of City Common Council receives report from Police Chief Tuffey

May 17 2006

CapitalNews9, 6:30 AM Wed, Ezra Prentice Homes, South Pearl St Male, 2 females believed to be involved in shooting. Couple approached in parking lot, male shot at, not hit/injured, but female with him was assaulted. Neighbors heard multiple gunshots

May 16 2006

12:40 AM 24 yr old shot to death by 17 yr old with .22 caliber Outside bar at Corner of Lexington and Sheridan. Taken to Albany Pronounce dead 3:30 AM. Victim, perp knew each other, each living In Colonie (Albany suburb), grew up in Albany

May 15 2006

Incident report provided by APD to Pine Hills Area Neighborhood Assoc. 7:30 PM, Quail and Warren. Four perps hooded, mid-teens, Handgun displayed, rob wallet from 25 yr old victim

May 15 2006

TV 13 News reports 12:40 AM, Sheridan and Lexington, reports Of shots fired, APD responds, finds no victims, no perps, later Receives call from Albany Med of male gunshot victim in surgery Brought over by car, investigation continuing.

May 14 2006

345 AM around 121 Madison, two perps, robbery at gunpoint Perps later sentenced to State Prison. Perps are males age 22 yrs

April 2006 (5)

April 24 2006 TU reports late Sun afternoon/April 23, two men with knives, gun rob and attack 23 year old City male walking alone on Sherman St under Henry Johnson Blvd viaduct. Cut twice in face, taken to Hospital

April 18 2006 News 13-31 year old lured from residence 10:30 PM. Four in custody on robbery, ages 20. 20. 21. and 21, one female three males. Female called, asking victim to meet her at Livingston Ave and Broadway. Upon arrival, two males with bandanas, one armed with handgun, one with knife attack and beat victim, pull him from his car. Victim ran for help.

April 11 2006 497 State Street, 5 PM, three perps (2 men, one juvenile) threaten victim with handgun, take off in car that crashes t N Lake and West, all in custody for this Robbery. This writer recalls that 497 State May have been the residence of Honorable Gerald Jennings at the Time he became Albany City Mayor during 1993.

April 6 2006 Police routine patrol interrupts armed home invasion 547 Hamilton After 9 PM. Two perpetrators apprehended, handgun recovered.

April 1 2006 3 AM outside Sneaky Pete's, 711 Central, behind OTB Tele-Theater Four or five shots fired, 22 yr old male hit in shoulder, lower back Police uncertain if driveby, older model Nissan seen leaving lot

March 2006 (10)

March 30 2006 Afternoon driveby shooting, male hit in leg, rushed to Hospital, Shooter on the loose, shooting at Morton and Elizabeth, South End

March 29 2006 Male 24 threatens girlfriend in her apartment with gun, 500 Block N Pearl Albany PD arrests suspect with safe, inside 2 illegally possessed 9 millimeter handguns

March 23 2006 3 AM, South End, Fourth and Green, shots fired/two down, two rushed to Albany Med, one down outside Twilight Lounge, one down a block away, no suspects yet in custody

March 16 2006 Trustco Bank, Northern Boulevard-Loudon Plaza, handgun displayed Perp leaves without money

March 16 2006 Male robbed in or near car, daytime, 1 PM, Quail and Benson Four in custody, handgun not retrieved. Suspects retrieved from Inside 139 Quail. Suspects ages 16 and 17. Weapon is pellet gun Shaped like handgun

March 13 2006 PM Elizabeth between Third and Fourth, South End, male shot WROW

- March 13 2006 8 PM, 333 First Street, 15 year old reports being shot in ankle in drive-by shooting
- March 10 2006 22 yr old suspect drives up to car on Lark Street, shoots male in arm
Victim calls police, suspect apprehended in home on First Street
- March 6 2006 16 yr old Albany High student from Yarborough Apartments,
Random check at front of Albany High School yields loaded .22
Caliber Ruger Semi-Automatic Pistol on grounds of School with
serial number scratched off.
- March 3 2006 Albany County Sheriff Dept arrests 27 Homestead Ave resident
On cocaine and weapons charges, 2 illegally possessed handguns
Reported in Schenectady Gazette dated March 9 2006
- Feb 2006 (11)
- Feb 28 2006 Reported in May 25 Times Union. Indictment tossed by Judge Breslin
Suspect had been searched on street, found with 38 packets of marijuana
And loaded 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. Livingston Avenue
- Feb 21 2006 Convenience store gunpoint robbery, 8 PM, Western and Quail
Reported by AM News Ten Television. Perpetrator on the loose
- Feb 21 2006 5 AM gunpoint armed home invasion, 334 Livingston Avenue
22 Elmira native in custody. Colonie PD stake-out yields perpetrators
at Cocca Inn/Suites in Latham
- Feb 19 2006 48 yr old male clerk shot 9 PM, Marathon Deli, 82 Ontario Street
Shooter tired to take money from cash register, clerk confronted him
- Feb 17 2006 301 Washington Ave, 3 AM, male perpetrator/shooter on loose, fires on
and hits two males, one in leg, one in buttocks, reported by News Ten
APD reports perpetrator is earlier victim of Feb 14 PM shooting.
- Feb 14 2006 Perpertrator/shooter on the loose, shot 20 yr old 6 PM, victim sitting
In car at Robin and Washington Avenues, victim uncooperative with police
- Feb 9 2006 APD Incident Number 06052314 provided by Council Member Calsolaro
APD observes bullet-hole in side of 12 South Dove Street. APD reports
Finding seven spent .380 bullet casings at NW corner Second Ave and
South Dove. Citizen calls into PD report hearing gunfire between 1-4 AM
Citizen finds her vehicle at 9 AM damaged by gunshot.
- Feb 9 2006 In Times Union (Feb 10) Chief Tuffey noted illegal handgun
seized Wed night/Feb 8. Is this the same incident as follows,

also in Times Union (Feb 10)

Early Thursday (Feb 9) 16 yr old Albany resident arrested for crim possession weapon, and firing handgun at Second and N Swan Streets, Also carrying heroin

Feb 5 2006 Report of 4:30 PM two gunshots a few blocks away from 247 First Street, No one appeared to be hurt

Feb 5 2006 Sunday afternoon, man in 30s found shot to death, 247 First Street

Weekend of Feb 6 In Times Union (Feb 10) Chief Tuffey noted illegal gun Seized over this weekend

Jan 2006 (9)

*Jan 18 2006 Male shot, rushed to Med Center, 4 AM, near Third Street, 14 Thornton Male is now dead at the Hospital from this gunfire. 18 yr old victim.

*Jan 14 2006 Sixteen year old accidentally shoots himself in leg, tells Medical Center That someone shot him. Police question him and learn he shot himself. This male is then charged with another in Jan 2 pistolwhipping/stabbing Of Albany cab driver. Also he is linked to a July robbery.

Jan 14 2006 Two Syracuse males in custody, Regency Inn/9W, mentally unstable males With loaded handgun and loaded long rifles, no shots fired.

Jan 12 2006 Reports that an off-duty NY State Correctional Services Officer fired his handgun to disperse a crowd on Orange St “where one kid was going after another with a baseball bat. “3 bullet holes were found in a garage door, which means the shots were fired straight across and not in the air as police originally thought.

*Jan 7 2006 Jan 7 afternoon, APD approach 16, 14 yr olds acting suspiciously, Park South (Morris and Knox), 16 yr old drops glove, inside loaded .380 caliber Handgun, 14 yr old has magazine for handgun, 16 yr old in Albany County Jail, 14 yr old before Family Court, released to parents custody

*Jan 5 2006 CBS-6 Reporter Marci Natale advises this writer that APD has taken into Custody 17 yr old male outside of Albany High-School after foot chase which he tosses a handgun

*Undated, Jan 2006 18 yr old Knox Street resident arrested re defaced .32 caliber Handgun. Was in car doubleparked on Lark Street, gun found by Officer after male moved his hand to his pocket

January 2 2006 28 yr old male pulls gun on another male during ongoing dispute, police Find defaced .380 caliber handgun inside his Parkwood Street Apartment

*Jan 2 2006 Early AM taxicab pickup. 449 Elk Street. Driver ambushed, pistolwhipped and stabbed. Two young males in darkhooded sweatshirts flee from scene without money. APD terms this "call-ahead crime". Later arrests (2) include one sixteen year old

Dec 2005 (7)

Dec 29 2005 5:30 PM, 711 Central OTB Parking Lot gunpoint carjacking. Women driving into lot robbed of \$1100 etc. Two men take off in SUV later recovered on Manning Boulevard

Dec 25 2005 19 yr old male "hanging" with friends at Judson and Second Streets Evening, argument breaks out, male shot in the foot after shots fired, he Was hit apparently by stray bullet. Several 9 mm shell casings recovered By Detectives near scene of shooting.

*Dec 21 2005 16 yr old Marquis Rowlett, Marshall St, Albany HS student, Drug activity Knox St, 4 males in vehicle, 3 drove off, Rowlett runs off .38 caliber handgun reportedly stolen in Maryland, 1/8 oz of crack cocaine

Dec 21 2005 182 North Allen Male arrested. In possession of AK47 Assault Rifle, .45 caliber handgun equipped with laser-sighting device, handgun reportedly stolen in Ohio, .40 caliber rifle, bulletproof vest. Chief Tuffey notes "they look just like a weapon but yet it is only a BB Gun" (Which firearm is he referring to?)

*Dec 17 2005 W/double-barreled shotgun, two 18 yr old males hit 19 yr old Pine Hills Male w/shotgun twice in face, rob him of cellphone, wallet And \$40 in cash. 11 PM behind victim's residence, 200 block of Ontario Street, perps have red bandannas over faces

Dec 10 2005 Two masked males, one with handgun, one with shotgun, Stewarts 470 Delaware Ave-4:30 AM, 52 yr old female beaten, money taken from safe, deliveryman entering store, robbed at gunpoint

Nov 2005 (13)

*Nov 30 2005 16 yr old Kream Russell and father attack police officers at Central/ "The Boulevard" (Henry Johnson), Russell also charged with menacing for allegedly pointing handgun at man at 25 Elk Street. Handgun not recovered in Elk Street incidents

Nov 30 2005 Gunpoint holdup bank Madison/South Pearl, suspect later apprehended

- Nov 25 1995 Female sitting in car outside of 125 Clinton St/South End, shot
Does not know where shots came from, hospitalized, 10 AM/daylight
- Nov 22 2005 8 PM Citgo Gas Station-Broadway, robbed of \$800 at gunpoint
- *Nov 21 2005 12 yr old reports finding loaded 9mm handgun in wooded area
Outside of Arbor Hill Elementary School, brings it to school,
Police arrest boy for Criminal Possession of Weapon
- Nov 21 2005 11 AM, Second Street, man is victim of armed gunpoint home
Invasion. Victim is pistolwhipped, one perp in custody
- Nov 19 2005 Stewarts, Morton at South Hawk/South End/Gunpoint Robbery
- Nov 18 2005 Elk Street just north of Central, shots fired at home, no reports
In the local media
- Nov 13 2005 3 males armed with handgun rob 22 year old male of cellphone 3:15 AM
early morning, State Street. Police believe trio is same group which
(below) attempted to rob St Rose students. Location-State and Quail
- Nov 13 2005 3 males, one displaying handgun, attempt to rob two 18 yr old women
from College of St Rose-women say they don't have money, perpetrators
run off, Location: State and Ontario
- *Nov 13 2005 14 year old male shot once in hand, handgun, several broken bones,
Front of Ida Yarbrough Homes at N Pearl and Livingston, 3PM, victim
describes male in blue sedan being involved, victim has not
fully cooperated with Police
- Nov 7 2005 315 South Pearl, evening robbery/business, man with handgun, Rite-Aid
- Nov 6 2005 Driveby shooting downtown Albany of Anthony Fenner, corner of First St
And Lexington Avenue. Citizens see Albany Police crime scene taping the
Scene and ambulance fleeing to Albany Med with victim. Victim wounded
In buttocks with small arms fire. Time of shooting 7:40 PM evening.
- Oct 2005 (10)
- *Oct 27 2005 Male 17 yr old Dominique Young shot to death 7 PM First Street, North
Albany, APD uncertain if driveby shooting or if perpetrator on foot
(WXXA Ten O'Clock News). Around Dec 2, 15 yr old Albany male
arrested in South Carolina and charged with murder.
- Oct 23 2005 2 AM 517 Washington Avenue, gunpoint armed home invasion by men,
\$800 taken, no report of injuries to five residents

- Oct 22 2005 Three Schenectady men, 2:30 AM, Ontario Street, 3 Schenectady men, Routine traffic stop, loaded .32 caliber handgun, ski masks found
- Oct 20 2005 9:15 PM, Two St Rose students robbed at gunpoint, masked male points gun at one of victim's heads
- Oct 17 2005 Midnight, 100 Block Western Ave, two perpetrators pull alongside Walking 21 yr old victim, one jumps out with handgun, forces victim To walk to yard behind a building, robbed of \$25, police later apprehend 21 yr old perp, .22 caliber handgun seized from their vehicle, other perp on the loose
- Oct 17 2005 Two female 21 yr old college students walking to their apartment on Hudson Avenue, held up at gunpoint by two perpetrators near Quail
- Oct 15 2005 CVS (Madison and North Main Ave), Sat evening robbery, two males, At least one with gun, hooded sweatshirts and masks, Fled on foot out back Door, Thousands of dollars in cash and 20 cartons of cigarettes taken
- Oct 13 2005 WROW Radio, Sheriff Dept arrests male on Kenosha St, Ward One/South End for drug dealing, illegal possession of loaded firearms, Sheriffs Chief Loaded Intratec .22 caliber handgun, three .12 gauge shotguns (one with barrel illegally cut shorter than 18 inches), two .22 caliber rifle) Criminal Investigator (John Burke, Albany PD, Retired) critical of City Court Judge Keefe for granting bail even though illegal loaded firearms found at the scene. CCI Burke notes on radio that bail is not usually granted when illegal firearms are involved. Sheriff's press release "usually the guns would not be illegal if you had a permit", but re arrestee Bullock, "he had served 20 years for Robbery 1st Degree in 1978..."
- *Oct 7-2005 8 PM, 15 yr old shot in leg by 13-15 year old African American perpetrator 250 Block of Elk Street, shooter unknown
- Sept 2005 (5)
- 9-30-2005 11:20 AM daytime shooting of male, twice in leg after altercation, on Grand St
- 9-25-2005 Male fires four shots into air and at vehicle in which girlfriend is sitting, No Manning Blvd, no one injured (first reported in Albany TU Feb 6 2006
- 9-18-05 10-26 Times Union reports 28 yr old male, from Quail St, indicted kicking in door of apt, threatening victim in front of his child, stealing cash, may (?) be same incident as noted blow at Quail and Yates
- 9-18-05 Quail and Yates, 3 males, 1 caught, home invasion, cash taken PD says may be drug related, uncertain if gun is involved

9-6-05 Midnight, 27 year old male shot in stomach, Colonie near Lark,
Critical condition after surgery, girlfriend says men on bikes opened fire
Reported September 7, day after incident, by TV News 13.

August 2005 (5)

8-05 No Date 10-26 Times Union reports sentencing of "Big Homie" Tafari Campbell
age 28, pleaded guilty in August, APD buy/bust, Campbell found with
Loaded T200 Talon 9mm handgun with serial number defaced, drugs etc

8-31-05 10 PM, 123 Grand, driveby shooting of male, car moving from Grant up Myrtle
Time Union reports the story for the first time a week later on September 7

8-22-05 Central Avenue, male arrested, shots fired at male at Waterworks bar
4 AM following argument

8-21-05 27 yr old woman walking, Spring and Lark, 7 AM, accosted by male with gun
after walking a few blocks, woman is raped in an alley on Jefferson Street

* 8-7-05 1:30 AM, shots fired, young male hit and rushed to Albany Med, Pennsylvania
off of Colonie. Male victim age 14 years shot in leg, beaten on head after
getting into an argument/fight with other teens, who shot/beat him

July 2005 (18)

Undated July 2005 34 yr old, Robert Clarke, 400 Central, search of apartment yields
Crack, 4 shotguns, 1 rifle, semiautomatic 9mm handgun, sentenced to DOCS
Sept 22 Albany County Court

7-31-05 Arbor Hill, 34 year old woman raped, pistol whipped during home invasion
Woman and 17 yr old son tied up by two perpetrators. 31 year old perpetrator
arrested August 25. Perps had been looking for money and drugs

*7-31-05 Evening, Livingston Avenue area, APD responds to 15 year old youth down
with gunshot wound to the leg, police believe self-inflicted, youth at Albany
Med without life-threatening injury

7-29//7-30-05 \$10,000 damage to Duffy's Taxi, windows of several cabs shot out
by BB or pellet guns

7-29-05 North Pine Avenue, armed home invasion, afternoon/broad daylight, one of
perps displayed handgun, resident claims no knowledge of perpetrators, APD
responded and investigating

*7-24-05 Evening, Morton and Delaware, shooting, 13 yr old male shot in shoulder
interviewed claims he was shot by four males, police investigating
(CapitalNews9)

- 7-24-05 Daytime, Second Street and North Lake, West Hill shots fired (WNYT phone call to this writer PM 7-24, Police search for shell casings, WNYT advises it will not be reporting incident on 11 PM News)
- 7-22-05 APD reports two in custody, 11 AM gunpoint holdup of ATM Customer broad daylight outside of Sunoco/Washington Avenue, near University at Albany. APD busts perps outside of Colonial Tower/Quad UAlbany, gun tossed outside of Sunoco. Victim not harmed.
- 7-20-05 Early 2:45 AM. Lark Street. Gunman on blue bike pulls gun, robs victim, no shots fired, gunman seen escaping down Lark Street
- 7-16-05 Sat/9 PM, 435 Third St residence off of Quail/Arbor Hill Section of City 43 yr old African-American male, Brian Tascoe, shot to death with gunshots to chest inside residence APD advises shooter is on the loose as of 11 PM, armed and dangerous
- 7-11-05 Third, between Grant and Watervliet, inside a home 2 shots fired
- 7-7-05 Times Union July 17 reports neighbors reported July 7, Third and Quail Sts 18 shots fired, 4 PM, no one injured.
- *7-7-05 Lark and Colonie Street, fight, afternoon, at least one gunshot fired, APD searching for 15 yr old involved in fight. Suspected shooter is juvenile
- 7-6-05 Mid Morning, Lexington Ave, shots fired in front of store, no injuries
- * 7-6-05 Third and Teunis, 6 AM shots fired, 18 yr old shot to death by Perp from inside of a vehicle, arrested, 23 yr old shooter is parolee from Bronx
- *7-6-05 Two hours before above 6 AM fatal shooting of 18 yr old, APD believes 18 yr old and his friends robbed 23 yr old parolee at gunpoint, take cellphone etc.
- *7-4-05 2:30 AM Front of Bleeker Terrace Apts, NJ male robbed of Nextel camera phone at gunpoint. Victim approached by three teens with two armed with pistols. They force him to empty pockets and flee One aged 15 with pistol, other with pistol aged 17, scarces on faces
- 7-3-2005 Before midnight Sunday, two masked men with shotguns, 1st floor apt 100 Block Colonie St, kick down front door, rummage through apt, leave by front door. Resident Caroline Terrell arrested, uncooperative, when asked if anything was taken. Police confiscate marijuana, illegal fireworks allegedly belonging to Terrell

June 2005 (8)

- 6-27-2005 Radio report of shots fired, Third Ave, between Clinton and Broad, in South End, broad daylight. Detectives arrive on scene. Police find a NYS Parolee Anthony Billups age 25 of NY City, with what appears to be self inflicted gunshot wounds to leg and groin, based on angle to shot. Billups Was not cooperative, and there were no witnesses. Billups is not charged At the scene, injuries from gunfire not life threatening. Released from hospital after three days and arrested on new charges and parole violation (parolees are prohibited from possessing firearms etc) including charge of assaulting parole officers who came to arrest him at Hospital (Information provided via email by Times Union Reporter, to this author)
- 6-27-2005 Prior to 3 PM, Hackett Blvd outside Lios Eye Institute, boyfriend pistol whips girlfriend with loaded .357 magnum, victim kicks gun under car, perpetrator takes off, later arrested by State Police in Bethlehem for seat belt car-stop when Trooper notices man had stabbed himself and was "wanted" by Albany PD. Perp not identified
- 6-22-2005 4:30 PM broad daylight. Albany PD chasing suspect Fields, who has handgun. First Street between Henry Johnson Blvd and Lexington Ave When Fields is tackled, gun goes off, shots fired. APD unsure of accident Or if Fields intentionally shot at the officers
- 6-18-2005 5 PM report of shooting, North Swan, no victim found, shell casing found, Times Union
- 6-17-05 Sheriff Campbell reports arrest of 23 year old male, Queens County/NYC, at Greyhound Bus Terminal upon arrival for crack cocaine possession, possession of loaded .22 caliber handgun
- 6-13-2005 14 year old shot along Delaware Avenue off of Whitehall general vicinity opposite Shopping Area beyond Keenans' Funeral or Nicole Restaurant/500 Block, shooter(s) and gun not retrieved, reported in WRGB, not in Times Union. NOTE. This case is being reviewed, a Common Council Member has noted on 6-20 that the Albany Police found no evidence at the scene of a shooting.
- 6-3-2005 Police arrest 19 yr old, Elk St apt, loaded revolver, semiautomatic handgun
Drugs
- 6-1-2005 Project Impact for three Capital Counties announces 50 illegal guns seized
And over 500 arrests which includes City of Albany
- May 2005 (13)
- 5-24-05 28 yr old Hamilton St resident, 9:45 PM, 3 males hit him several times in head with handgun, rob him of \$30 (Schenectady Gazette)

- 5-22-05 11 PM, six shots fired, Judson (TV News)
- 5-22-05 Three males fire on two teen aged males, 259 Sheridan, 3 PM
both in serious condition AMCH, one shot in back, other in neck
- 5-17-05 Early/1 AM armed home invasion, 645 Second Ave, perpetrators with
guns, money taken from resident, no injuries
- 5-13-05 Man shot, Quail and First, in Albany Med, police seeking suspect
- 5-13-05 Male 19, 800 Block of Myrtle Ave, shot to death before 5 AM, after midnight
- 5-12-05 Sheriff Campbell/two arrested, one from 38 Seminole Ave, in residence
Loaded handgun (.44 magnum) w/speed loaders, several ammo boxes
(Gazette-Schenectady)
- 5-12-05 Late day, partially blind man walking on Myrtle Ave near Price Chopper/
Delaware, two men in vehicle call him over by his first name, drive points
Handgun, says give me your money, pulls \$135 out of victim's pocket
(Gazette-Schenectady)
- 5-8-05 Woman taking groceries out of car, 616 Myrtle Ave, perpetrator with
Handgun demands money and wallet and takes off (TV Website)
- 5-6-09 26 Dana Ave, armed home invasion with shotgun, male and female
perpetrators (CapitalNews9)
- 5-5-05 Mobil at Watervliet Avenue and Central, 6:30 AM, three males in car
Ask direction to nonexistent street, one leaps out, sticks gun at head, demands
And receives \$100 from victim, who is not hurt (CapitalNews9, WROW)
- 5-5-05 Albany PD called to South End/Pastures, shots fired. 12:15 AM, Green and
Plum, evidence (shell casings?) in front of a bar and front of 230 Green
- 5-3-05 52 year old male, shot in back near 632 South Pearl, two of three in custody
possible armed robbery, in critical condition, medically induced coma-
Albany Med
- April 2005 (10)
- 4-27/4-26 Gateway Diner, mid/uptown (Colvin and Central), fight spills out of diner
into lot, perpetrator on roof, APD responds, arrest for illegal handgun(s)
(FOX 23 News TV report evening of 4-27)
- 4-25-05 Sheriff Campbell/Arrest of 29 yr old, Ida Yarborough, drug sale/possession
two .25 caliber auto handguns in coffecan, loaded and defaced
- 4-22-2005 40 year old male, Dove St, 4 PM, fight inside residence, male was convicted

felon, charges include criminal possession of weapon, loaded shotgun illegally possessed due to his convicted felon status

- 4-22-2005 Gun hold-up of male on bicycle downtown, 12:30 AM, reported on TV
- 4-20-2005 24 year old male, Second Street, suspected narcotics dealer, search of car yields crack cocaine and loaded handgun
- 4-17-2005 Two Albany students fight in residence, 467 Hudson, police Discover marijuana (10 pounds) \$4500 cash, 12 gauge shotgun
- 4-14 Project Impact, Albany reports 14 weapons seized past three weeks
*
- 4-9-2005 2 14 yr olds, 1 15 yr old, mugged two males at gunpoint, BB gun seized
Week of 4-4 2 incidents 1 Male shot in ear with pellet gun
2 Male pistol-whipped
- March 2005 (7)
- 3-24-2005 AK-47 Assault Rifle found at scene of fire at 3-story bldg, Park Ave
- 3-23-05 10 PM, 346 Orange, 27 yr old male robbed of cash and gold chain, after being hit in head with gun, shot in leg when he tried to run away
- 3-20-2005 Two males arrested, armed home invasion, Arbor Hill, .22 caliber gun
- 3-16-2005 Shots fired, Second St between Judson and N Lake, Noon, Two 26 yr old males with gunshot wounds appear at Albany Medical Center
- 3-13-2005 143 Western, Campus Convenient Store, robbery pellet gun stuck to head of one of two clerks. 3 males arrested during traffic stop Monday.
- 3-9-2005 Drive by shooting, 255 Sheridan, 3 PM while students walking home from School, male hospitalized, semiautomatic shellcasings recovered
- 3-8-2005 Men arrested at 478 Clinton Ave on drug charges and illegal possession Of 9 mm handgun
- February (2005) (12)
- 2-28-05 1 AM, 22 year old SUNY Albany student, 1 AM, along Quail St forced into convenience store at gunpoint to withdraw \$100. 2 perpetrators
- 2-27-2005 PM Man in Whitehall Road home held at gunpoint by 4 men, burglarized, they took off in two separate cars
- 2-17-05 11 PM, 3 men with shotguns, home invasion 191 Colonie St
- 2-16-05 PM, Elk Street, Chinese food deliveryman robbed of cash and car in alley
- *2-15-05 Afterschool fight, Livingston Magnet Academy, adolescent boy handles sawed off unloaded 12-gauge shotgun in basement, 386 Livingston, boy escapes
- 2-15-05 Late PM, Sherman Street, 2 men with handguns rob Chinese food delveryman of cash in alley
- 2-14-05 5:40 PM Clinton and Quail traffic stop, unidentified parolee flees vehicle Officers give chase, one reports gunshot heard, shell casing retrieved From semi-automatic, police do not reveal identity of parolee other than on parole till 2010 for drugs, suspect apprehended in Florida
- 2-10-05 7 PM gunpoint robbery in parking lot of Madison Ave Price Chopper

- across from rear side of Albany Police station as victim left store, credit cards taken, no injury to victim
- 2-10-06 2 AM, 23 and 24 year old males, Hudson Avenue, arrested for firing shots hitting three parked cars, 22 year old woman also arrested for hiding the handgun
- 2-10-05 morning evacuation of Clinton Ave. Domestic dispute call, woman said boyfriend threatened her and her son with handgun. Police get man to leave his nextdoor apartment, has history of weapons involvement
- 2-4-05 18 year old male of 536 First Street arrested, concealing .32 caliber (loaded) in jacket pocket
- *
- 2-3-05 15 year old arrested for participating in 2-2-05 armed home invasion involving four men with handgun who beat resident and looked for money, suspect being treated as adult

January (2005) (4)

- 1-29-05 Male enters Dunkin Donuts, displays handgun, demands to know from clerk where her boyfriend is, leaves when she provides no information
- 1-13-05 17 yr old 11th grader busted by Albany PD, tip from County Probation (he was on probation, illegal possession of .32 caliber, .45 caliber, 9 mm handguns 15 year old brother busted for pellet gun possession.
- 1-4-05 275 Colonie Street, shots fired 3 PM, 3 men run, police spot man digging into wasteband where silver gun is present, chase ensues, gun is tossed and later recovered, one male in custody
- 1-1-05 6:30 PM, handgun with serial number defaced, 20 year old male report of annoying male on Fourth Street

December (14)

- 12-31 100 Block Knox Street, two males, CPW, loaded Tec9mm handgun, inoperable .32 caliber, electronic stun gun, marijuana and menacing charges
- 12-25 4 PM Shooting of victim, Dana and Lark, victim from Dana Ave
- 12-24 Shooting of victim outside tavern, South Pearl and Third
- 12-23 Arrest S Payton, 29, Herkimer St, crack cocaine, illegal handgun
First comes to public/news attention on 2-10-05 upon arraignment
- 12-23 Drive by Shooting Lexington/Henry Johnson, victim hospitalized
- 12-21 Two men armed along Livingstone, 19 yr old arrested, two officers injured
- 12-15 Armed home invasion. 400 block of Washington Avenue
- 12-13 Group carjacks vehicle, assaults driver, First and North Lake, 8 PM
- 12-8 Arbor Hill, First and Lexington, daytime shooting, two being questioned
victim dies after being rushed to Albany Medical Center
- 12-7/12-8 Stewart's 1050 Western Avenue, Robbery, gun pointed at clerk's head (overnight, WXXA)
- 12-8 Early AM, Stewart's Henry Johnson Blvd, gunpoint, took money, holiday donation jar, unsuccessfully tried to get into safe, stole tape from video surveillance camera (CapitalNews9)

- 12-5 4 AM 24 year old male claims at Albany Med he was shot behind a Broadway tavern, no arrest
- 12-3 11 PM Hollywood Video, 818 Central, shotgun holdup
- 12-1 Stewart's robbery/gun displayed, holdup, clerk's driver license, film from surveillance videocamera taken, 1:30 AM 2205 Henry Johnson Blvd

November (12)

- 11-28 Mt Hope Drive/South Pearl, 9 month pregnant woman stopped at light, five men with guns attempt carjacking and robbery, scared off by other motorist
- 11-28 2 AM, gunpoint carjacking of Buzzys Taxi, 163 Central to 75 Van Rensselaer Blvd. \$100 stolen. Cab recovered.
- 11-24 Two overnight shootings, Clinton and Quail, Clinton and First, 3 civilians/teens hit by gunfire, WNYT TV 13 Report AM 11-25
- 11-23 Armed home invasion, five males, three armed with guns, ransack home while two women and baby look on, Sparkill Ave, First Ward
- 11-17 20 Central, Capital MiniMarket, armed robbery
- 11-15 Albany PD Community Response Unit "Sweep"-36 and 33 year old from Broad St and 29 yr old from Nutgrove Lane, arrested for illegal drug, 2 loaded Illegally possessed 9mm handguns
- 11-15 Convenience Store, 452 Madison, robbed at gunpoint, 1 AM
- 11-5 Sheriffs Department arrests of 26 and 33 year olds, cocaine at Clinton Ave apt Also .22 caliber handgun and 9mm semiautomatic handgun
- 11-5 Brazen 3:30 PM afternoon armed robbery of Trustoc Bank, New Scotland Ave Which share a building with an is inside of often busy Eckerd Drugstore Perpetrator had handgun tucked in pants and note to teller noted he had gun
- 11-5 Ronnie Spells age 26 of Brooklyn, arrested in Bronx by Downstate Fugitive Task Force, wanted in Albany for possession of leaded firearm
- 11-3 K Garland talks to ex girlfriend in front of 722 Central when 34 year old J Turner comes out front door, points gun at them, goes back inside. Police Officer hit by car while responding. Arrest for possession of weapon

11-1 7:30 PM. Home invasion. 57 Broad Street. 43 year old male shot in back perpetrators wearing masks stumbles to sister's house nearby, collapses, taken to hospital.

October (5)

- 10-31 Midnight, shots fired by male in 20s, North Pearl and Wilson, behind Palace Theater
- 10-29 1:30 PM shooting. Two brothers aged 18 and 19 arrested for attempted murder Dispute on Broad Street. Brothers returned with a gun to settle a dispute. Man in 20s hospitalized
- 10-15 Friday evening 11 PM, Alan Oliver shot in front of 8 Judson St In Fair Condition in Albany Medical Center
- 10-7 based on a tip, police stop after midnight a Toyota SUV, 35 yr old driver, the two 14 year olds each had a loaded handgun, masks, goggle gloves to disguise identity, were prepared to shoot someone in South End one handgun had serial number defaced, which is a crime. One of the two 14 year olds from 700 block of Central, the other from 300 block of Clinton Ave, driver is from Amsterdam
- 10-3 29 yr old South Lake Ave male breaks jaw of girlfriend during fight at Westgate Plaza. During search for suspect, police raid his apartment and seize illegal .22 caliber assault style pistol and bullet proof vest

September (13)

- 9-28 10:30 PM, Sheridan Avenue resident enters Albany Med Center Hospital, gunshot wound to neck, completely uncooperative with Detectives, claims he "knows nothing", 478 Clinton, report of gunfire in basement, evidence of shooting, this was just prior to Albany Med report of gunshot victim
- 9-25 Shots fired (6 reported), 3 AM, 718 Central, near Dino's Bakery, up from North Allen (Capitalnews9)
- 9-13 Unspecified incident at Park and Dove, referred to by Lt Carnevali, APD during interview with WRGB. This incident or the other noted below 9-13 by Lt Carnevali involved altercation in course of armed robbery
- 9-13 Unspecified incident at Ten Broeck, referred to by Lt Carnevali, APD, during interview with WRGB. This incident or the other noted above 9-13 involved altercation in course of armed robbery. Sheriff reported arrest at that location of 16 year old male who put on mask, pulled loaded handgun out and was about to rob two males when spotted by sheriffs' undercover and City Detectives on a narcotics operation.

- 9-11 10 AM, man with gun call to police, SWAT Team chases man into 400 block of First Street home, tear gas and storm home, man is not present, handgun and drugs are found and retrieved by police
- 9-10 8:30 PM, Loaded 9mm handgun tossed from vehicle, 27 and 28 yr old face weapons and other charges
- 9-10 6:30 PM, Loaded Colt .38 caliber handgun seized, 385 Elk Street, 17 and 24 year old face weapons charges
- 9-8 11 PM, Pine and State, home invasion involving robbery at gunpoint
- 9-8 Male shot in leg, Second Ave and Hampton Street, South End 1 AM
- 9-7 Male shot in Arbor Hill, after 8 PM, First and Judson, victim hospitalized
- 9-3 Albany Police raid Orange street residence seizing drugs and Tec-22 assault weapon
- 9-3 8 PM male shot four times while sitting in car at North First St and Jennings Drive
- 9-3 Outside Quail Street Market, shot time after North First shooting, 33 year old male shot in leg after taking a fight inside the store into the street.

August (9)

- 8-31 18 year old from Bronx Shot 200 Block Colonie St, 9:50 PM two guns used .45 caliber and 9 mm
- 8-30-04 21 year old Albany male arrested for attempted robbery of chain pistol whipped one of the victims in the head, gun is discharged, perpetrator flees towards North Pearl, arrested, incident occurred 1:30 PM, two victims are 15 and 17 year old males
- 8-28-04 6:30 PM, man with gun near Livingston Avenue barricaded in home later arrested, in home loaded .357 caliber handgun
- 8-27-04 11:20 PM, North Second and Broadway, male shot in back Teens seen in area shortly after shooting
- 8-25-04 40 year old Troy resident fires three shots from a .45 caliber semi auto handgun at 46 Lexington Avenue at 11 AM in daylight

- 8-23-04 Second Ave resident shot in multiple locations at 54 Clinton St, 11 PM
- 8-22-04 Man fires stun gun at three victims at 418 Broadway, afternoon
- 8-11-04 Albany County Sheriff arrests 30 yr old from Third Avenue
Charges include Loaded .357 Ruger Redhawk with 150 live rounds
In residence with six children in age from 1-12 years
- 8-7-04 18 year old clinging to life after surgery at Albany Med
following shooting 5:30 AM, Alexander Street/South End
- July (11)
- 7-27-04 Mobil Station, Lark and Madison, armed hold-up
- 7-25-04 Two people hit by BB pellets shot by apparent shooter
in Central Towers Apartment Building
- 7-23-04 Mobil Station, Whitehall and Delaware, armed hold-up
- 7-21-04 Early AM shooting, man shot in leg, Fourth Ave area
- 7-20-04 Blockbuster Video, Delaware Ave, armed hold-up
- 7-18-04 1 AM Clinton Street, male Ricky Durham shot
right side of abdomen
- 7-17-04 17 r old girl savagely beaten and pistol-whipped by male
w/handgun in vestibule of home across from Governor
Patak's Mansion Eagle Street 11:30 PM attempt robbery
- 7-15-04 12 year old on probation for assault and illegal weapon possession
arrested in Second Avenue home for illegal possession of
hidden (in the home) loaded .357 magnum handgun in his
mom's closet. Claims he found it across street from Livingston
Food Market
- 7-14-04 Women shot in possible crossfire involving four men, Third Avenue
Albany
- 7-12-04 Women abducted at gunpoint in own car to downtown, raped and
Sodomized, car was parked 1:30 AM on South Allen St block off of
Madison and Western Avenue
- 7-8-04 33 yr old victim fatally shot in chest during argument at
bar at 2-3 AM in Albany's South End

June (1)

- 6-2-04 Victim of shooting, male, stumbles into Judson Street residence then vanishes, 9:40 PM Police issue notice to Hospitals

May (8)

- 5-29-04 Serge Ocano age 50 shot at 2 AM on Clinton Ave
Accosted by two perpetrators who shoot him after he walks away
When they demand money
- 5-22-04 APD arrests three men on drug and weapons charges 12:30 AM along
Central Avenue. Vehicle parked nearby had a 9mm handgun.
Arrestees include 2 16 year olds and a 24 year old
- 5-20-04 APD arrests 29 yr old Rahssan Smith after car chase; subject
Was wanted for questioning, when approached, he had Tech-9 around
His neck with 44 rounds ammo, .38 caliber handgun with 6 rounds
Ammo in his waistband. Taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital.
Car driver charged with other charges, no weapons charges.
(CapitalNews 9 Website)
- 5-16-04 Five shots fired involving two cars (Schenectady Gazette)
2:40 PM Sherman Street, Sunday/May 16, behind 45 Central
- 5-14-04 Shabar Perkins, 91 Hunter Ave, arrested after foot chase
17 yr old defendant charged with tossing loaded handgun
and drugs into alleyway near North Lake Ave
- 5-13-04 187 Sherman St resident, arrested, Albany County Sheriff
Heroin, two illegal loaded handguns
- 5-7-04 Three men enter a South End apartment, shots fired
One person wounded, taken to hospital
- 5-2-04 382 Livingston, 7 shots fired, no injury, driver flees
in SUV, runs, taken in for questioning

April (5)

- 4-17-04 Henry Wilkins, 17 years of age, 288 Third Street, arrested for
criminal possession of .22 caliber loaded handgun.
- 4-16-04 Fifteen year old shot while sitting on front porch of Second Street
home at 10 PM with arm and leg wounds. Police suspect victim was

caught in shooting cross-fire.

4-10-2004 Albany Police charge two men with weapons charges after they are found shot at 4 AM. Two handguns are found hidden under two cars in a nearby parking lot (Henry Johnson Blvd near Washington Park) Police find 17 shell casings on the street.

April 2004 (continued)

4-6-2004 Sheriff Campbell arrests various people for drug crimes and possession of a handgun and two assault rifles (Times Union)

4-1-2004 Sheriff Campbell arrests various people for drug crimes and possession of a .22 caliber "long gun" (April 2 Gazette)

March (2 incidents)

3-28-2004 Paul Walter, 45 of Mercer Street shot in the back along Slingerlands Street Saturday evening

3-11-2004 Albany County Sheriff arrests four on drug charges and gun charge (loaded handgun)

February (1 incident)

2-5-2004 Man wanted for shootings in NY City shoots himself to death with 9 mm handgun when Albany Police close in on him

January (3 incidents)\

1-26-2004 68 year old Alexander St male found shot to death in his home shot in the head

1-13-2004 Firearms/ammunition Arsenal confiscated from South End resident's Home by Albany Police

1-1-04 3 AM. Albany police officers arrest three individuals
None of arrestees tied to shootings, stabbings Liquid Lounge 519 Central Av
100 people on the street, various brawls
2 people shot, one in the shoulder, another in the thigh, 3 people stabbed

December (10 incidents)

12-31-2003 Albany Police Officers open fire on suspect vehicle
Following initial vehicle stop after driver attempt to pin officer by
Backing up vehicle. One bystander injured, another bystander killed
By police gunfire. Suspect flees and is apprehended, 32 year old
Daniel Reed of Delmar charged with two counts of Reckless Endangerment

12-30-2003 Damanyia Coles, mother of six children,
found dead in backyard at 8 Teunis Street
Autopsy reveals multiple gunshot wounds-one to the head and two to
the Chest. Her 24 year old boyfriend Tyron Ware arrested and charged

12-24-2003 Nelson Arrington III, teacher's Aide-Arbor Hill Elementary,
in custody after robbery of South Pearl Market, 11 PM, December 23
December 24 police seized firearm at Arrington's apartment. Court
Records indicate Ruger semiautomatic handgun reported stolen in
North Carolina during 1996

12-23-2003 Albany PD Lt John Finn shot at Trinity Place 11 PM allegedly
by 26 year old Keshon Everett, Everett allegedly fired 12 shots at Lt Finn
using outlawed rapid-fire pistol, knockoff of the banned Tec-9 assault
pistol, weapon carries 20 rounds. Lt Finn returns fire wounding Everett
Shooting follows police response to gunpoint robbery of South Pearl Market
Lt Finn later dies during 2004 from his gunshot injuries.

12-23-2003 CVS Drugstore Western Avenue opposite University at Albany
robbed at gunpoint of almost \$500

12-14-03. 12:30 AM. Five masked men enter unlocked apartment,
750 State Street, 24 yr old male, 19 yr old female held at
gunpoint, demanded drugs

12-14-03 Re above incident, gunmen take 24 yr old male to another
apartment, demand drugs. Held people at gunpoint on floor
Return with male to first apartment, tie him and his girlfriend up,
Steal ATM card and video camera from first apartment and
Various games from second apartment

12-8-03 Two males on break from Price Chopper Delaware Ave
held up by three men at gunpoint, each hit on head with object,
\$45 taken, after midnight

12-3-03 8:30 PM, Dove and Jay, woman robbed of purse at
gunpoint

12-3-03 9:30 PM, South Swan and State, woman held up at
gunpoint, robbed of backpack and purse

12-2-03 1:30 PM, N. Pearl Express convenience store, Ida
Yarbrough Homes Tower Building, 2 bandits, rifle used,
At least \$200 taken

November (3 incidents)

1. 11-13-03 three fugitives arrested at 781 Livingston, 1 of 2 from Queens County arrested for .22 caliber assault rifle
2. 11-12-03 4 pm robbery of Fratelo Pizza, 215 Western, \$200 taken at gunpoint by two perpetrators
3. 11-7-03 8:30 AM, armed pair breaks into 104 Morton Ave apartment, Force two men and woman to lie down at gunpoint. Things taken from victims pockets. Loaded M-1 Rifle found in suspects car

October (5)

- 1 10-25-03 4 AM Two 25 yr olds arrested, Delaware Avenue, Loaded .22 caliber on floor of car
- 2 10-22-03 9 PM robbery, Grand Street, Two perpetrators, 17 yr old and 31 yr old, armed home invasion, Sawed-off shotgun, hit victim on head
- 3 10-16-03 11:30 PM, Henry Johnson and Orange, reports of two males shooting at each other
- 4 10-14-03 20 yr old from Delmar 16 yr old from Albany people being hit by paintballs. Arrested with paintball gun and Taser gun, which uses high voltage to stun target
- 5 10-4-03 8:05 PM, Shots fired at Elberon Place apartment 3 perpetrators and 3 shots

September (7)

1. 9-30-03, 5:30 PM, Lancaster and Dove, male robbed of \$16, gun retrieved from suspects car (2 perpetrators)
- 2 9-24-03, Midnight robbery, 3 men displayed pistol, 63 Irving, 17 yr old arrested
- 3 9-20-03, 17 yr old sprays 12 yr old girl with air gun pellets 6:45 PM, 275 Second Street, no apparent reason for shooting
- 4 9-18 to 9-28, four armed robberies admitted to by one of suspects in above 9-30 incident, Center Square

88 Gun-Related Cases Occuring Within City of Albany, NY Reported by Albany Times Union and by Schenectady Gazette Between September 19, 2002 and Sept 21 2003 Prepared by Leonard I Morgenbesser PhD Sept 21, 2003
2002

1. Sept 19 Brooklyn resident found shot at Dana Avenue in apartment, shot at 7:45 PM, 23 yr old victim
2. Sept 20 Vehicle stop at Lark St, 22 yr old Ravena resident arrested for tossing .357 caliber weapon. Shots fired report earlier on Orange St
3. Oct 5 Daytime, two armed men rob Westgate Shopping Area Jewelry Store filled with patrons in what Time Union calls "brazen robbery" Two masked gunmen escape, 11:45 AM
4. Oct 7 9 PM, vehicle stop, Frisbie and Second, 32 yr old arrested for gun Possession, motel room searched, second .25 caliber handgun seized 26 yr old driver staying at motel is also arrested. 32 yr old is resident of Dana Avenue
5. Oct 11, Early AM, fleeing burglar with gun wounds, 29 yr old Sherman Street resident
6. Oct 11, Afternoon, Gunpoint hold-up of grocery, 200 Block of Central Avenue, 48 yr old male arrested
7. Oct 13, Two men one with shotgun abduct 32 yr old male from parking Lot behind his 421 Central Avenue. Victim recovered bound and gagged On Livingston Avenue
8. Oct 13, Jefferson and Delaware, 11:30 PM, wounded 19 yr old Morris St Male victim. 9 mm handgun shell casing retrieved. No arrests
9. Oct 14, Third Street, 8:30 PM, 19 yr old Syracuse male shoots 22 yr old male and 24 yr old male with 9 mm. 19 yr old and two females (23, 21) arrested, male charged with attempted murder
10. Oct 21, midnight, cab driver robbed of \$65 at gunpoint (silver handgun) Two suspects escape
11. Oct 22, 7 PM Attempted armed robbery of 1215 Broadway, Sami Market Shot fired. Merchandise thrown at suspect, suspect escapes
12. Oct 25, Man robs convenience store, 25 Broadway, one shot from .22 caliber Rifle, to get Clerk's attention. Rifle jammed when he tried to load another Bullet in chamber. Suspect apprehended

13. Oct 26, 10:15 PM, Delaware Avenue apartment. Two males 21 yr old, another Arrested. 19 yr old male shot with .38 caliber handgun, gun serial number Had been filed off
14. Oct 30, Evening, 21 yr old male wounded by shotgun in South End, no Arrests, victim is Clifton Park resident
15. Oct 30, 2:30 AM, Three men try to force their way into Elk Street resident's Apartment, three shots fired, resident wounded, suspects escape, resident Arrested on drug charge, 26 yr old male
16. Oct 31, 9 PM, Burger King (1041 Central Avenue). Two men, one with gun, Rob \$300 from register, suspects escape, no arrests
17. Oct 31, 5 PM Armed hold-up of Dean's Foods-911 Central Ave/Westgate Gun displayed, no injuries, no arrests, one suspect, \$700 taken
18. Nov 4, Before 5 PM, Central and Robin, 27 yr old male and 38 yr old male Injured, semiautomatic firearm, four young men including shooter had Hassled young women beginning at Washington and Lark, continuing Onboard the bus. Women known to shooting victims, no arrests
- 19 Nov 6, 10:45 PM, Chestnut Street, Two males hit 20 yr old female on head With handgun, grab handgun and escape, no arrests, \$20 missing
- 20Nov 8, 5 PM, Lark and Orange. Man fires after argument at van with three Men, no injury, gun retrieved, no arrests
- 21Nov 9, 9:35 PM, Pine Hills Market, Ontario and Hudson, Robbery, suspect Escapes, no arrests
- 22Nov 11, 4 PM, Lexington and Orange, 19 yr old male shoots into vehicle While riding on bicycle, murders 24 yr old Syracuse female studying At Mildred Elley School, wounds 22 yr old male, also in vehicle, Six month old baby onboard not injured. Albany's 9th homicide victim During 2002. 9 mm firearm, Sunday afternoon
- 23 Nov 14 8:30 AM, 15 yr old student at Lincoln Park/Sunshine School runs Home after fistfight, gets .22 caliber handgun, fires at 14 yr old from Fistfight and misses, Family Court case, police trying to trace gun Origin, Delaware Avenue

- 24 Nov 18, 6:30 PM, Three males rob another male on Third St, \$500 taken
- 25 Nov 21 6 AM, 32 yr old drunken man shot by several young men, Quail
And Sherman
- 26 Nov 24, evening, 37 yr old male, threatens female friend at her Livingston
Ave home, with loaded .380 caliber handgun, while her four children
Looked on, before he hits woman several times in the head. Male arrested
At her apartment during evening hours. Note-charges listed in article do not
Include CPW (Criminal Possession of Weapon)
- 27 Nov 26, 8:30 PM, 480 First Street, Male hit in head with handgun, half dozen
Shots fired, no people hit, one car struck by shots, victim treated at hospital
- 28 Nov 30 Three males (20, 22, 27) home invasion at Orange Street residence,
Display what appears to be shotgun but which actually was a pump action
Pellet gun. Arrested 5 AM while driving and stopped for running stop sign.
Crimes at residence include beating, robbery
- 29 Dec 3, 1 AM, shots fired report at 500 Block-Washington Avenue, 20 yr
Old U/Albany male student arrested, jailed without bail. Besides drug
Sale/possession charges, two violations of Albany City Ordinances, police
Seize one SKS Assault Rifle with two 30-round magazines, one Bushmaster
SM15 .223 caliber assault rifle (similar to assault rifle used in Washington
DC Sniper Case). Note Albany City Ordinances require anyone owning such
Assault rifles to first obtain a City permit. Note, charges listed in newspaper
Article do not appear to include CPW (Criminal Possession of Weapon)
- 30 Dec 9, 1 PM, 15 yr old male student taken into custody at Harriet Gibbons
High School, .25 caliber semiautomatic unloaded handgun found in his
Locker in this alternative High School. Student also was carrying jackknife.
Family Court, student charged with three counts Criminal Possession of
Weapon
- 31 Dec 16, PM, 52 yr old male opens door of his Ten Broeck Place residence,
Arbor Hills, shot in abdomen and hospitalized
- 32 Dec 18, 2:30 PM, Myrtle and Orange, daylight, taxi cab driver found bleeding
From head and slumped over in vehicle, hospitalized and fighting for life,
In critical condition, 23 yr old arrested and charged, other 35 yr old
Passenger held on parole violation charges, ride from Schenectady to
Albany. Later articles indicate police do not believe robbery was motive
For shooting, and do not have a motive

33 Dec 24, Officer shoots and kills suspect who reportedly pointed a loaded hand-Gun at officer following afternoon foot pursuit, South End

34 Dec 29, Home invasion with pellet gun (victims claimed it was a revolver)
Two perpetrators ages 35 and 44. Victim beaten, kicked and hit on head
With firearm. Robbed of \$160 cash, Clinton Avenue residence, 2:30 AM

2003

35 Jan 3 Murder of Patrick Johnson, Age 25, by 21 yr old male with rifle, 4 AM
During argument over stolen vehicles, Judson Street

36 Jan 4 6 PM gun discharge in Quail St home. Sawed off rifle, 11 yr old boy not
Injured. Mother had told him to move and hide the firearm. Mother age 3
33 charged with various criminal charges. Rifle had been reported stolen
from New Lebanon (near NY-Mass border) to NY State Police

37 Jan 4 10 PM 110 Central Avenue. 23 year old female and accomplice
enter an apartment, threaten a person with semiautomatic pistol,
take \$398

38 Jan 6 Chinese food deliveryman, gunpoint robbery, State and Ontario, on
Street, 11 PM, \$150 taken, 25 yr old victim

39 Jan 12, Chinese food deliveryman, gunpoint robbery, VerPlanck St address
28 yr old victim, 12:55 AM, robbed of \$100 and his vehicle, a 1998
Mitsubishi, description of thieves match those in above incident #38

40 Jan 15, 21 yr old male charged with North Allen St robbery of male. Victim
Refused to empty pockets, then is punched and kicked to ground and
Pistol-whipped (Note, no weapons charges referred to in article,
Incident is included due to reference to "pistol whipping")

41 Jan 26, 8:45 PM, Niem Market, 213 South Pearl Street, \$150 taken,
Partially concealed rifle or long barreled shotgun. Weapon pointed
At clerk, clerk unharmed, robber escaped on foot

42 Jan 28 24 year old arrested behind Motel Six, Watervliet Ave
Extension, early AM. Drug charges and possessing gun
Stolen in Omaha, Nebraska

43 Feb 1 20 year old beating girlfriend while she holds their infant
Police seize drugs and AK-47 style rifle, charges include
City Ordinance Violation (possessing unlawfully Assault Weapon)
and police study whether other weapons charges can be filed

44. Feb 12 11 AM at Third Avenue, Two brothers charged with drugs and illegal weapons crimes. Weapons charges for .38 caliber revolver and assault rifle

- 45 Feb 28: 17 year old mugs male walking to Delaware Avenue Drugstore with child (11 years old) using a pellet gun

- 46 March 14. Ten people are arrested as police, acting on citizen Complaints, execute search warrants searching for drugs. Three people are arrested for criminal possession of weapons One of these three is arrested for possessing a firearm reported stolen in Houston, Texas

- 47 March 19. Times Union Business Reporter Kevin Hardin is shot in The face at 8:45 PM near Washington Park at Sprague and State Streets after a young man who appeared to be a teenager fired one shot

- 48 March 23. 6 AM. TS Mini Mart at South Pearl, gunpoint robbery. \$1900 and 20 cartons of cigarettes are taken

- 49 March 23. 10:40 AM 911 Central Avenue Mr Subb. Gunpoint Robbery. \$186 is taken

- 50 March 23. Evening. 55 year old male walking down his West Street neighborhood approached by young man with gun Demanding money. When victim refused, gunman hit victim Twice with gun saying "now give me your money or I will shoot you Wallet containing \$330 is taken after suspect checks victim's pockets Victim treated at Albany Med for broken nose and cuts above his eyes

- 51 March 24. Early morning attempted gunpoint robbery of cab driver. Cabdriver shot in leg by passengers when he refuses to give them money Treated at Albany Med for injury.

- 52 March 31 11:45 AM robbery of 818 Central Avenue Credit Union. Suspect Vehicle, chased by police, collides with State Trooper vehicle In Downtown Albany. In collision and in ensuing chase, two Police Officers are injured. Suspect apprehended

- 53 April 1 24 yr old motorist reports being shot in leg at 4:30 pm ALONG Third Avenue, treated and released from Albany Med, police Report shows two bullet holes in vehicle

- 54 April 4 45 year old resident of Henry Johnson Blvd. Home and florist shop raided. Loaded .380 caliber semiautomatic handgun with serial number defaced seized, 12-gauge shotgun and rifle seized, drugs and \$7,000 seized. Charges include Criminal Possession of Weapon 3rd, and Criminal Possession of Defaced Weapon. Prior convictions include weapons possession in 1982. Colonie Police joined with Albany Police in arrest, but Albany did not note reason for Colonie Involvement.
- 55 April 8 Home Invasion on Elizabeth Street. Three people including 11 year old girl, threatened with loaded .357 handgun to their heads 17 yr old and 22 yr old perpetrators. Cash and diamond earring stolen. Gun and cash retrieved, perpetrators arrested
- 56 April 9 3 AM, 380 Third Street, two men report being shot at by people in a Black SUV as they walked along the street, no injuries Police recover six empty shells, two live rounds, and 9 mm Handgun
- 57 April 15 33 year old female carrying her two year old son shot in the chest at 506 Second Street (Quail and Second Streets) at about 4:50 PM and dies at Albany Med forty minutes later
- Police arrest and charge 20 year old male “drifter” from Brooklyn, NY, in Albany to sell some marijuana. Victim unwittingly walked into “middle of shootout between two groups of young men who had been at each other for the past two days. Weapon used was .38 caliber revolver. Suspect arrested in Brooklyn, NY City.
58. April 22 Afternoon, 300 Block of First Street. 37 year old woman reported that three men wearing masks and armed with guns had forced their way into her second floor apartment and demanded money. Three suspects are arrested.
59. April 26 3 AM robbery, gun displayed, three perpetrators at corner of Western Avenue and Partridge Street (Capital News 9 TV)
- 60 April 28 11 AM armed holdup of Torian Insurance, 32 Ten Broeck Place Woman is hit in the head with a handgun, ordered to open safe, Tied up with duct tape, two perpetrators, \$340 taken
- 61 May 8 1 AM. Man shot and sent to hospital. Shot once in upper arm Corner of Second Street and North Lake Avenue (Capital News 9 TV)

- 62 May 10 Early Sat AM, Cab driver driving three teens from Schenectady to Albany. At the Colonie Street destination, one displays a gun and demands money. Cab driver grabs gun away but one of the teens stabs him in the back. He ran for help and is cared for at a hospital. Cab is stolen and found abandoned at Second St. (Capital News 9 TV and TV13)
- 63 May 15 One 19 year old and two 17 year olds rob Jeff's Pizzeria, 1038 Madison on May 15 (\$30 taken at 7 PM) and May 16 (\$20 taken at 4 PM). Waved gun and razor Demanded store profits in exchange for protection. Apprehended In Library
64. May 19 11 PM, Ida Yarbrough Homes/Arbor Hill, Male shot twice in back standing in courtyard near mailboxes, by someone at the top of the stairway. Police gather evidence in the rear of 44 Ida Yarbrough. Victim treated at Hospital.
65. May 22 Albany County Sheriff and City Detectives arrest three males after search of Cavallo Pizza (261 New Scotland Avenue) and apartment in 200 Block of New Scotland Ave yield loaded .357 magnum handgun, Cocaine and marijuana. All three are charged, only the Oldest, a 23 year old male living in apartment with 22 Year old, charged with felony weapons possession
- 66 May 24 WRGB reports on May 25 that patrons outside of Big House Brewery downtown robbed at gunpoint. This may be same Crime reported in Times Union as occurring early 3:50 AM/Sunday, May 25, Monroe Street. Two males, one displaying Handgun rob two males walking to cars of money and carkeys. Victims are ordered to the ground, when perpetrators try to Start car and fail, the perpetrators flee the scene.
- 67 May 28 24 year old Albany male, of Sheridan Avenue, arrested for marijuana, cocaine, and weapons charges in his apartment In possession of loaded .38 caliber handgun
- 68 May 28 18 year old male arrested at Second St apartment he was staying at. Had crack cocaine. During April, police responded to domestic violence call at North Pearl St. When they arrived, 18 year old (later arrested on May 28 in this incident #67) had already fled but police had found a sawed off 12-gauge shotgun and an SRL-95 assault rifle

- 69 May 31 21 year old male of Clinton Avenue arrested at 3 PM on CDTA bus at Ontario Street for having a loaded .38 caliber Handgun in his possession along with crack cocaine.
- 70 June 2 2:30 PM armed robbery of civilian on Monroe Street Niskayuna resident reports while entering his car in a parking Lot, he was robbed by two men, one with a gun. Six dollars, Car keys, and a cellphone were taken. Victim is 43 years old.
- 71 June 14 1:40 AM, 100 Block of Central Avenue. 30 year old woman 2002 Toyota with Georgia License Plates. Police found loaded .45 caliber handgun. Boyfriend told police about gun. Criminal Possession of Weapon. Woman tells judge gun is Legal in another State. Judge replies "You come in here with A gun, even if it is legal in another state, you cannot do it"
- 72 June 17 7 AM, two men hold up Kem Cleaners 1068 Madison Avenue money taken, store employee placed in back of store, across from Police Station
- 73 June 24 Three teen-agers rob male at gunpoint midnight June 24 \$100 taken in front of Van Vechten Street home
- 74 June 30 Periwinkle Sheep Yarns/Fine Crafts Store (540 Delaware) Evening, masked man with rifle or shotgun enters knitting Class. Demands cash, \$100 taken as class looks on in horror
- 75 July 1 5:30 AM, 338 New Scotland Ave at Norwood. In front of his residence, 30 yr old man is robbed of wallet, shot in chest, and his car is carjacked. Passing ambulance brings victim to Albany Med. Victim had been coming home from overnight Job.
- 76 July 1 Late afternoon/daytime. 44 yr old Federal employee mugged at gunpoint as she walks to her care on North Pearl near O'Brien Federal Building where she works. Male holds silver Plated handgun to her head while another takes her purse. Victim is shoved to the ground and left with cuts and bruises. Purse found nearby but money had been taken.
- 77 July 11 Just after midnight, start of July 11, Colonie Street, two males shot and injured. Police suspect either botched armed hold-up, or argument over dice game.

- 78 July 12 2 AM, July 12, following fight at night club between two groups of young women, shooting of four teens at Ida Yarbrough Apartments. Two 17 year old victims treated and released from Albany Med. Thirteen year old shot in chest still in Hospital. Fifteen year old shot in head and elsewhere on life support. Seventeen year old suspect from Ida Yarbrough Apts arrested at father's residence in Vermont
- 79 July 30 Albany County Sheriff coordinated raid with other law enforcement arrests 14 Albany and NY City residents on federal drugs and gun related crimes. Loaded 9 millimeter semiautomatic handgun is confiscated. Alleged drug kingpin residing at Clinton Avenue
80. August 6 Albany Police arrest two teens on drug and gun charges 19 year old charged with felony criminal possession of weapon, sawed off 12 gauge shotgun, residents of Clinton Avenue, firearm confiscated at 2 Quail Street
81. August 7 3:13 AM. 10 to 12 shots fired at 389 Third Street, at front of Dorton's Bar. From unknown firearms, causing damage to two vehicles. Nobody arrested or hurt.
- 82 August 17 2 AM. 157 Morton Avenue 14 shell casings recovered 26 yr old woman from Beach Avenue shot in front of #157 in leg and treated/released from Albany Med. 40 yr old Delmar woman sitting in vehicle barely missed being shot In the head. Bullet lodged in roof of her car
- 83 August 15 5 PM. 22 yr old male resident, Second Avenue, answers doorbell And four men barge in and pistol whip him with silver colored Handgun. Nothing is taken from apartment after beating.
84. August 22 1:45 AM, Lancaster Street, walking near Lark, two women and a man are robbed of \$18 by two males with a pellet pistol
85. August 23 Washington Avenue. AM. 28 year old male arrested. Loaded .22 caliber rifle concealed under clothing. Had sawed off Barrel and nine rounds. Charged with criminal possession of a Weapon

86. August 27 2 AM, Outside Cero's Club on Broadway near Menands Line. 18 year old woman shot in stomach and in leg. Victim and 2 friends in car, 25 year old male was standing outside car talking to women. Shooter came out of club and fired several rounds, missing the male but injuring the female. A loaded .22 caliber handgun was found on the 25 year old male, who is believed to have been the intended victim (following an argument inside the club). The 25 year old was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, and marijuana possession. The shooter was not apprehended.
- 87 August 31 7 AM Judson and Third Streets. Male with handgun attempted to abduct woman into a car as she was walking home from a club
- 88 Sept 1 5 AM, 200 Block of Hudson Avenue, 50 year old woman is bound, beaten and sexually abused by four males with handgun. They threatened to take her four year old grandson.

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX E



THE JOHN F. FINN INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, INC.

Hospital-Based Violence Prevention Programs: An Overview

Prepared for
The City of Albany Gun Violence Task Force

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The Finn Institute is solely responsible for the contents of this report. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not represent the official position of the Gun Violence Task Force.

Introduction

Some violence prevention programs provide for interventions with victims of violence that commence at the point of their hospitalization. We might call these programs hospital-based, inasmuch as the hospital is the site at which would-be participants are identified and at which the intervention is initiated, even though many of the services that are provided are not delivered by or within the hospital. Research shows that patients admitted with intentionally inflicted injuries are at elevated risk of repeat violence, and one might speculate that they are also at elevated risk of perpetrating violence, in retaliation or more generally, and that in the immediate aftermath of a violent injury, victims would be especially receptive to behavioral change. Some programs that target this population for intervention have been effective in reducing their risk. Research also shows that such programs vary some in their components. Drawing on studies of several programs, we first describe the principal components of the programs, and we then summarize the evidence on program effectiveness.¹ The programs include these: Boston City Hospital's Violence Prevention Program; the Violence Intervention Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore; a program at the Harborview Medical Center in Seattle; a program at a Chicago level 1 trauma center; and a program at an unnamed children's hospital.² In addition, a program of this kind currently operates at Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong in Rochester, about which the Task Force has already learned, and a hospital-based initiative is part of the CeaseFire program in Chicago; neither of these has been systematically studied, but some descriptive information is available, and some anecdotal evidence about outcomes is available about the latter.³ Finally we note estimates of the incidence of assault-related injuries in Albany, based on police records of incidents reported to them between 2000 and 2006.

Program Components

Hospital-based violence-prevention programs vary mainly with respect to two broad components: the target population; and the nature, intensity and duration of the services provided. We would note also that some target populations afford greater leverage on client participation and retention in the program, and insofar as program retention contributes to programmatic success, this leverage may enhance program effectiveness.

¹ We gratefully acknowledge the research assistance of Jennifer Owens.

² On Boston's program, see Edward De Vos, David A. Stone, Margaret A. Goetz, and Linda L. Dahlberg, "Evaluation of a Hospital-Based Youth Violence Intervention," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 12:5 (suppl, 1996): 101-108. On Baltimore's program, see Carnell Cooper, Dawn M. Eslinger, and Paul D. Stolley, "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs Work," *Journal of Trauma Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* 61:3 (2006), pp. 534-540. On Seattle's program, see Larry M. Gentilello, et al., "Alcohol Interventions in a Trauma Center as a Means of Reducing the Risk of Injury Recurrence," *Annals of Surgery* 230:4 (1999), pp. 473-480. On Chicago's program, see Leslie S. Zun, LaVonne Downey, and Jodi Rosen, "The Effectiveness of an ED-Based Violence Prevention Program," *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* 24 (2006), pp. 8-13. On the program in the unnamed children's hospital, see Tina L. Cheng, et al., "Randomized Trial of a Case Management Program for Assault-Injured Youth," *Pediatric Emergency Care* 24:3 (2008), pp. 130-136.

³ On CeaseFire's emergency room response initiative in Chicago, see http://www.ceasefirechicago.org/R_response.shtml and Advocate Christ Medical Center / CeaseFire Violence Prevention Outreach Program, *A Synopsis of Twelve Test Cases* (<http://www.ceasefirechicago.org/Hospital%20Pilot%20Proposal%202.htm>) (accessed July 2, 2008).

Target population

The target populations for hospital-based programs all include patients admitted for an injury related to a violent assault, but they vary in terms of subjects' age, substance abuse, criminal justice status, and histories of assault-related injuries. A program might serve both juveniles and adults, as Chicago's program does, or it might serve only juveniles or only adults. Boston's program, for example, treats adolescents aged 12 to 17, and Rochester's program treats juveniles. Baltimore's program, in contrast, treats only adults age 18 and over. In addition, Baltimore's program is limited to victims who are currently under criminal justice supervision, on probation or parole, and who were admitted at least once previously for such an injury. Seattle's program is limited to adult patients who are screened positively for alcohol abuse.

Services

These programs, in general, provide for moderately or more intensive case management with referrals as needed to a variety of services, including individual and family counseling, support groups, parenting education, tutoring and alternative education, employment training, youth mentoring, anger management, legal aid, recreational and after-school programs, crisis intervention, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, community-based violence prevention programs, outpatient child psychiatry, and medical services. Case managers assess the needs of the clients and plan and coordinate service delivery accordingly. The Baltimore program is particularly intensive, providing in addition for bi-weekly (or more frequent) meetings with a social worker or case worker, meetings with probation or parole officers, weekly group encounter sessions, and home visits by the program team. The duration of program involvement ranges from four months to over six months. The CeaseFire-Chicago program provides for responses by "CeaseFire violence interrupters and outreach workers, street-savvy individuals – many of them ex-offenders – who have strong ties in their communities and the ability to connect with the high-risk population"; the program seeks to mediate conflicts and prevent retaliation, as well as facilitate clients' access to needed services.

Outcomes

The effectiveness of these programs has been examined in terms of a number of outcomes, including the incidence of re-injury, arrest, conviction, and incarceration, as well as service utilization, substance use, employment, and (for Seattle's program) alcohol consumption. Only a few program evaluations have been conducted, however, so we can not capitalize on a broad base of research findings in order to draw inferences about the relative efficacy of different program structures and components or about the magnitude of program impacts, and we cannot with confidence estimate the ratio of benefits to costs.⁴

In general, the incidence of re-injury was lower among the patients in treatment groups, compared with that of control groups, in experimental studies with fairly strong research designs.

⁴ The report on Boston's program describes the design of an evaluation, and provides baseline data, but it does not include evaluation findings, and we have been unable to locate any other report on that program. The only outcome information on the CeaseFire hospital initiative of which we are aware is anecdotal in nature; the initiative was not examined as a part of the evaluation recently completed by Northwestern University (Wesley G. Skogan, et al., *Evaluation of CeaseFire-Chicago* (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University, 2008).

Clients in Baltimore's program, for instance, were one sixth as likely to be hospitalized for a violent injury as the control group over a comparable follow-up period (ranging from less than one year to over two years). Chicago's program was also effective, though somewhat less so: 8 percent of the treatment group, compared with 20 percent of the control group, sustained a (self-reported) assault-related injury (though no difference was found in the prevalence of return visits to the emergency department). The program in the unspecified children's hospital also yielded a lower prevalence of assault-related injuries among the treatment group than among a control group, though with small samples, the difference was not statistically significant at a conventional level.

In addition, the incidence of violence perpetrated by patients in treatment groups was somewhat lower, compared with that of control group subjects, though the findings were not uniformly positive. Participants in Baltimore's program were one third as likely as control group subjects to be arrested for a violent crime during the follow-up period, and one fourth as likely to be convicted of a violent offense. Youth who participated in the children's hospital program were less likely than those in the control group to have been in a physical fight, though they were equally likely to have carried a weapon. And the evaluation of Chicago's program showed no evidence of effects on post-intervention arrests, incarceration, or self-reported offending. In the pilot phase of the CeaseFire-Chicago hospital program, twelve "test cases" were tracked, from which staff surmised that four retaliations were prevented.

Most reported evaluations of programs of this nature have not included information on the costs of the programs, and of course the cost will hinge on the components that comprise the program. But most of these programs, it appears, are operated at a fairly low direct cost inasmuch as they make use of existing service delivery (and payment) mechanisms, e.g., for counseling, substance abuse treatment, youth mentoring, mental health treatment, and the like. The cost of a case manager who coordinates referrals for these services is fairly modest – in Chicago, approximately \$65,000 for a case manager with a caseload of 20.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a non-fatal assault entails \$57,209 in lost productivity and \$24,353 in medical services.⁵ The cost of medical care is subject to variation across hospitals, of course, and so the health-care savings of prevented injuries in any one hospital could be more or less than the average. Cooper, et al., report that "the total cost of hospitalization for the three recidivists from the intervention group [of 56] was \$138,000, compared with \$736,000 for the 16 recidivists from the nonintervention group [of 44]," based on an average cost of \$46,000 for the management of an assault-related injury at that hospital.

⁵ Phaedra S. Corso, James A. Mercy, Thomas R. Simon, Eric A. Finkelstein, and Ted R. Miller, "Medical Costs and Productivity Losses Due to Interpersonal and Self-Directed Violence in the United States," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 32:6 (2007), pp. 474-482.

Assault-Related Injuries in Albany

Last year, in a report to the Albany Common Council, we provided estimates of injuries sustained by the victims of violent crime.⁶ Based on police records of criminal incidents, in which victims' injuries may be characterized as "major" or "minor," we found that nearly one quarter of the 137 victims of serious gun assaults, along with three percent of the more numerous victims of non-gun assaults, had suffered a major injury. More than one third of the gun assault victims, and almost two thirds of the non-gun assault victims, had what police recorded as a minor injury. Unfortunately, these data cannot tell us how many of these injuries eventuated in a visit to a hospital emergency department, nor can they tell us how many assault-related injuries were never reported to the police.⁷ We can surmise that the number of assault-related injuries originating in the City of Albany that are treated in hospital emergency departments is substantial. Estimates of "violence-related recidivism" – that is, the fraction of people once injured as a result of intentional violence who are injured by assault on a second or subsequent occasion – range from 6 percent to as high as 45 percent.⁸ If the rate of violence-related recidivism in Albany lies within that range, then a violence prevention program of moderate effectiveness might well save more than it costs in medical care alone.

Program Options

A hospital-based violence prevention program in Albany need not be modeled after any one of the programs reviewed above, but rather could and should be formed to suit the environment of Albany, including the contours of violence in this city. Youth are disproportionately represented among the victims of violent crime, but a program that focuses exclusively on juveniles would fail to reach many of those at the highest risk of violent victimization and offending. The law affords greater programmatic leverage on juvenile victims of violence, and on their parents or guardians, and conditions of probation or parole afford some leverage on victims who are under criminal justice supervision; a violence prevention intervention might be especially effective on these populations.

If the program will consist of the delivery of services to high-risk individuals, addressing identifiable risk factors, then the program would be appropriately staffed with professional caseworkers. If in addition the program will provide for an intervention that is designed to reduce the immediate potential for retaliation, then staffing might include, in addition or instead, the kind of "street-savvy" outreach workers employed by CeaseFire-Chicago, who have a natural rapport with the highest-risk youth – youth who disproportionately are economically disadvantaged, African-American, and gang-involved.

⁶ Robert E. Worden and Sarah J. McLean, *Violent Crime in Albany: A Preliminary Assessment*, A Report to the Albany Common Council (Albany: John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety, 2007), pp. 7-8.

⁷ Nationally, about 40 percent of serious (aggravated) assaults are not reported to police. See Michael Rand and Shannan Catalano, *Criminal Victimization, 2006* Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin (Washington: Department of Justice, 2007).

⁸ Zun, et al., "The Effectiveness of an ED-Based Violence Prevention Program," p. 9.

APPENDIX F



THE JOHN F. FINN INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, INC.

CeaseFire-Chicago: A Synopsis

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The John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety, Inc., is an independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan corporation, whose work is dedicated to the development of criminal justice strategies, programs, and practices that are effective, lawful, and procedurally fair, through the application of social science findings and methods. The Institute conducts social research on matters of public safety and security – crime, public disorder, and the management of criminal justice agencies and partnerships – in collaboration with municipal, county, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, and for their direct benefit. The findings of the Institute’s research are also disseminated through other media to criminal justice professionals, academicians, elected public officials, and other interested parties, so that those findings may contribute to a broader body of knowledge about criminal justice and to the practical application of those findings in other settings.

The Finn Institute was established in 2007, building on a set of collaborative projects and relationships with criminal justice agencies dating to 1998. The first of those projects, for which we partnered with the Albany Police Department (APD), was initiated by John Finn, who was at that time the sergeant who commanded the APD’s Juvenile Unit. Later promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the department’s Administrative Services Bureau, he spearheaded efforts to implement problem-oriented policing, and to develop an institutional capability for analysis that would support problem-solving. The APD’s capacity for applying social science methods and results thereupon expanded exponentially, based on Lt. Finn’s appreciation for the value of research, his keen aptitude for analysis, and his vision of policing, which entailed the formulation of proactive, data-driven, and – as needed – unconventional strategies to address problems of public safety. Lt. Finn was fatally shot in the line of duty in 2003. The Institute that bears his name honors his life and career by fostering the more effective use of research and analysis within criminal justice agencies, just as Lt. Finn did in the APD.

Introduction

The term “Ceasefire” is widely associated with Boston’s “Operation Ceasefire,” which was a focused deterrence initiative conceived and implemented in 1996, and replicated (with some variations) in a number of other cities since then. Focused deterrence initiatives target high-risk offenders for enhanced enforcement, and notify the offenders that continued violence will evoke extraordinary enforcement actions, in order to more effectively deter the violence in which the targeted offenders are prone to engage.¹ However, a number of other violence-reduction programs go by the name “Ceasefire,” and they are not focused deterrence initiatives. One of those, implemented by the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention (CPVP), differs from the Boston model in a number of respects, but it too has been favorably evaluated.² We briefly describe the philosophy and theory behind CeaseFire-Chicago, describe the program components, and discuss the findings on its effectiveness.

Chicago implemented the Project for Violence Prevention in 1995. Unlike the enforcement-focused, deterrence-based CeaseFire strategies favored by Boston and its progeny, Chicago’s program applies what it characterizes as a public health approach to violence prevention. That is, violence is viewed as a serious health threat in the same way as polio, smallpox, and HIV/AIDS. The disease metaphor implies that the spread of violence can be interrupted. According to CPVP Executive Director Gary Slutkin, “punishment doesn’t drive behavior. Copying and modeling and the social expectations of your peers is what drives your behavior.”³ A two-stage approach toward violence follows from this premise. First, Slutkin observes, as you would fight tuberculosis, “find those who are most infectious and stop the transmission. This means going after young men most likely to fire a gun and set off a spiral of further violence and try to stop them pulling the trigger. The longer-term aim, like treating AIDS, is to change the behavior of the whole group so that shooting (like unsafe sex) becomes unacceptable in the peer group, even gang communities.”⁴

We would note that if CeaseFire-Chicago represents the public health approach to gun violence,⁵ it does not differ dramatically from a contemporary criminal justice approach. Over the past twenty-five years, criminal justice has become more proactive and more preventative in its approach to public safety problems, more eclectic in the tactics that are designed and implemented, and more prone to partner with social service agencies and community institutions to reduce crime and disorder. The parallels between these approaches extend from strategic theory to strategic practice. Criminologists will recognize the proposition that peer influences shape the (delinquent) behavior of youth as social learning theory. Law enforcement will recognize the concentration on high-risk youth as the same strategic focus of focused deterrence initiatives.

CeaseFire’s program theory rests on three factors that contribute to violence – norms, decision-making, and risks – and the CeaseFire model addresses each in turn. First, to

¹ See Heidi S. Bonner, Robert E. Worden, and Sarah J. McLean, *Focused Deterrence Initiatives: A Synopsis* (Albany: John F. Finn Institute, 2008).

² For a comprehensive description and evaluation of CeaseFire-Chicago, see Wesley G. Skogan, Susan M. Harnett, Natalie Bump, and Jill DuBois, *Evaluation of CeaseFire-Chicago* (Chicago: Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research, 2008).

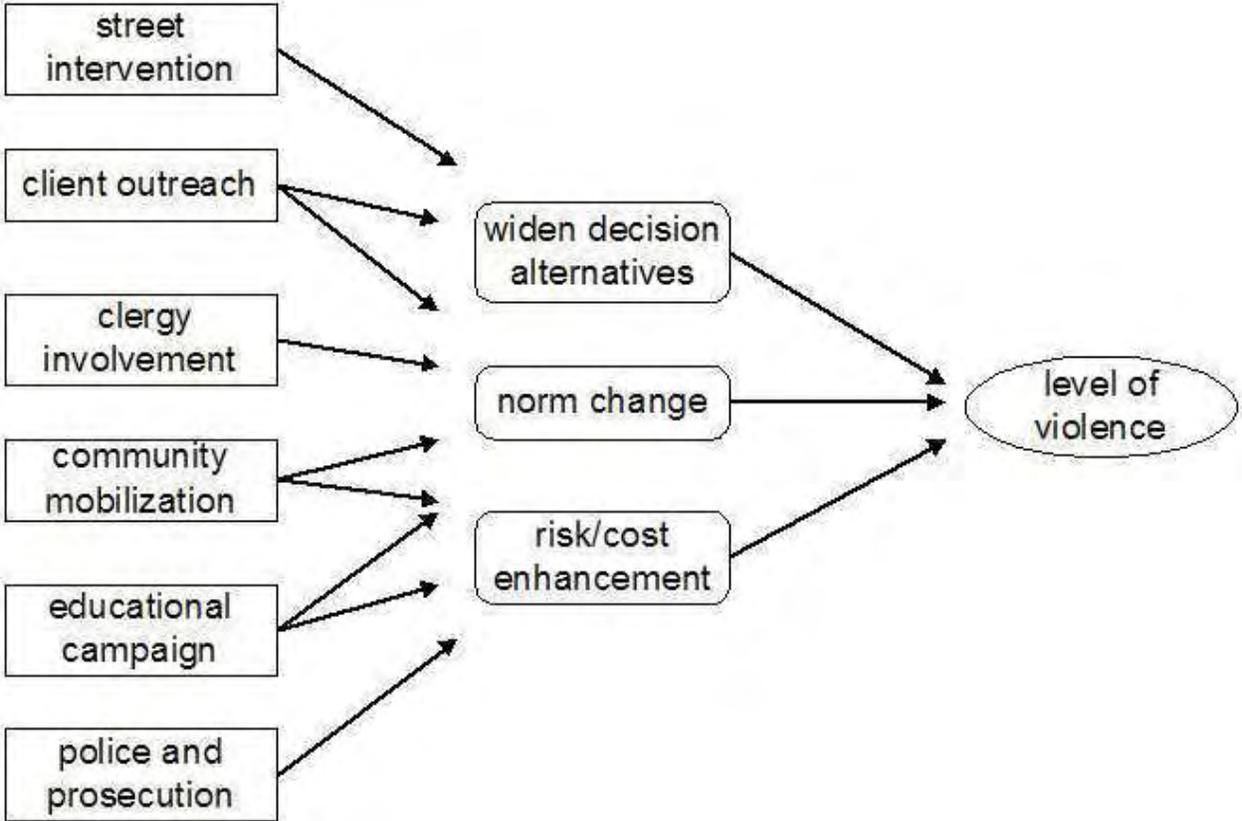
³ Alex Kotlowitz, “Blocking the transmission of violence,” *The New York Times Magazine* (May 4, 2008).

⁴ Damian Whitworth, “Street violence is an infection. I can cure it,” *The Times* (July 2, 2008). Available online at http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article4251027.ece.

⁵ Also see David Hemenway, *Private Guns, Public Health* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 2004), especially chap. 2.

influence community norms about the appropriateness of violence, CeaseFire-Chicago provides for community mobilization, public education, and mentoring via outreach workers (more on these components below). Second, to provide immediate alternatives to violence at the time when individuals are making decisions about retaliation, CeaseFire-Chicago uses “violence interrupters” to intervene. Finally, to heighten awareness of risks – incarceration, injury, or death – CeaseFire communicates a classic deterrence message.

CeaseFire-Chicago’s Program Theory⁶



To date, Baltimore, Maryland, Kansas City, Missouri, and a number of cities in New Jersey, including Newark, Irvington, and Camden, have adopted the CeaseFire-Chicago model. Rigorous evaluations have not been conducted in these other jurisdictions, and in some cases it is difficult to ascertain whether the jurisdiction is implementing the Boston model, the Chicago model, or some hybrid of the two.

⁶ Skogan, et al., *op cit.*, p. 1-4.

Program Components

The goal of CeaseFire is simple – prevent shootings. Although CeaseFire staff hopes for broader behavioral changes, there is no expectation that offenders will desist from offending altogether, only that they refrain from gun violence. Furthermore, the Chicago strategy focuses on *preventing* harm (in the form of shootings), though harm *reduction* is also seen as a worthwhile goal. Although CeaseFire staff frequently negotiate truces to prevent violence, they also occasionally negotiate a fistfight or payment of a fine in order to prevent a *shooting*. On-the-spot alternatives to gun violence are improvised. Because the CeaseFire goal is so tightly defined, the program focuses on behavior change among a small number of individuals in a community (most outreach workers have only ten clients at a time).

CeaseFire-Chicago puts community involvement, not law enforcement, at the forefront. Project members involve community-based organizations and focus on street-level outreach and conflict mediation to change community norms regarding violence (particularly gun violence). These CeaseFire activities are conducted in each of 25 sites across Chicago, and they are organized around five core components: outreach and violence interruption, public education, faith-based leader involvement, community mobilization, and criminal justice participation.⁷

Outreach and Violence Interruption

Outreach workers are street-smart individuals who maintain a client base of high-risk youth. Their goal is to establish a relationship with their clients so that they may attempt to steer them away from violence and toward education and employment opportunities. Outreach workers are trained to recruit as clients high-risk individuals, who meet at least four of the following criteria: between the ages of 16 and 25; have a prior offense and arrest history; a member of a gang; formerly in prison; the recent victim of a shooting; involved in high risk activity (in practice, this meant involvement in street drug markets).⁸ CeaseFire participants are recruited on the streets.

Violence interrupters, generally former gang members, represent a newer CeaseFire component, which dates to 2004. Violence interrupters were added to the CeaseFire program because outreach workers were unable to reach the most high-risk people. Interrupters have the necessary background – a familiarity with the players and an intimate understanding of gang culture – to navigate the street gang world. Under the program model, interrupters work at night to monitor impending conflicts; their focus is to reach out to high-level gang leaders to call for truces and to stop retaliations. In January 2005, two full-time violence interrupters were placed at a local hospital to mediate with victims of violence and their families.

Public Education

In addition to client-oriented outreach work and case-oriented conflict mediation, CeaseFire-Chicago employs a broad-based public education campaign to promote nonviolence. Following a public health approach that has been successful in targeting smoking, seat belt use, drunk driving and more, the public education campaign seeks to change community norms and increase awareness of the costs of violence. Neighborhoods are saturated with succinct nonviolence messages (“Stop the Killing,” “No More Shooting”) in a variety of formats (posters,

⁷ CeaseFire: Fiscal Year 2007, Report to the State of Illinois (August 2007). Available at: <http://www.ceasefirechicago.org>.

⁸ Skogan, et al, *op cit*.

flyers, yard signs, bumper stickers, etc) that point out the consequences of gun violence. CeaseFire staff believe that it is the volume of literature distributed rather than the details of the message that result in behavior change, which is why saturation is key to the public education component. The goal is “massive messaging.”⁹

Faith-Based Leader Involvement

CeaseFire also enlists the help of faith-based leaders in the community, whose work is intended to complement that of CeaseFire outreach workers and assist in community mobilization. Clergy are considered one of CeaseFire’s most important local partners both for outreach and for direct service provision. Eighty-seven percent of the churches collaborating with CeaseFire had separate not-for-profit arms that provided services.¹⁰ Clergy also operate safe havens, counsel high-risk youth, provide leadership in response to shootings, and preach nonviolence. Because many people turn to their place of worship for comfort and guidance, “faith-based leaders are in a unique position to influence the thinking and behavior of community members and those who are at risk of involvement in shootings and killings.”¹¹ Indeed, 72 percent of surveyed clergy had direct contact with CeaseFire clients.¹²

Community Mobilization

Community mobilization efforts are designed to build a base of support for CeaseFire activities, stop violence in the near term, and change the underlying conditions that lead to violence in the long term. According to the CeaseFire-Chicago website, the development of a violence prevention plan – which describes the violence in the community, efforts to respond, and identified the goals and activities directed at stopping the shootings – is central to mobilizing a community. Additionally, community organizations were often asked to provide citizen input (via local coalitions). Members served on hiring panels, and helped generate turnout for marches and responses to shootings. Additionally, when CeaseFire staff had to travel to the state capital to lobby for support, community organization members often help fill the buses.

Law Enforcement

Finally, CeaseFire is heavily dependent on partnerships with criminal justice, especially for information. CPVP basically “structured their entire initiative around the availability of timely information on shootings and killings from police.”¹³ However, the police were generally reluctant to share intelligence, and although police headquarters was aware that CeaseFire wanted access to information in the police districts, no policy guidance was given to local commanders on how to respond to information requests. Some sites managed to gather information in other ways (e.g. via a police scanner). But we might expect that such reluctance to share information with non-sworn personnel – especially people whose backgrounds afford them access to the street gang world – would be found in any city that implements a CeaseFire program. At the same time, CeaseFire staff had information that law enforcement wanted, but their credibility with clients and others would be compromised were they to share it. These

⁹ Skogan, et al., *op cit.*, p. 1-11

¹⁰ Skogan, et al., *op cit.*

¹¹ CeaseFire: Fiscal Year 2007, Report to the State of Illinois (August 2007), p. 4, available at <http://www.ceasefirechicago.org>.

¹² Skogan, et al., *op cit.*, based on survey results.

¹³ Skogan, et al., *op cit.*, pp. 6-12.

mutually unfulfilled expectations, along with histories of unpleasant contacts with the police, were the sources of tension between police and CeaseFire staff.

Police commanders also sat on hiring panels and officers frequently participated in CeaseFire directed community responses to shootings, providing security and traffic control at CeaseFire events. But plans for enhanced prosecution of perpetrators in shootings were never realized.

Costs

Original funding for CeaseFire-Chicago came from multiple sources; contributions from federal and state grants as well as from local foundations and corporations led to a budget of \$6.2 million for 2005 and \$9.4 million for 2006. However, in 2007 Illinois' governor discontinued funding for CeaseFire and the operating budget dropped to \$3.6 million.¹⁴ Interestingly, although the mayor was supportive of the program, the City of Chicago never provided any funding. Individual CeaseFire sites operate on budgets of about \$250,000 per year.¹⁵

The CeaseFire program currently operates in five areas in Chicago – only two of these sites remain under the CPVP umbrella. Due to the loss of state funding in 2007, CPVP operates a CeaseFire demonstration and training program on Chicago's West Side (with federal funding) and also has grant funding to provide training and technical assistance to other cities seeking to implement the CeaseFire model.

Outcomes

Skogan and his colleagues conducted an extensive process and outcome evaluation of CeaseFire-Chicago. For the process evaluation they conducted observations, interviews and surveys to examine how the program operated in the field, and for the outcome evaluation they utilized statistical models, hot spot maps and network analyses to assess CeaseFire's impact on shootings and murders.¹⁶ The authors caution that shortcomings of the data and the time series research design temper the conclusions that can be reached about the impact of CeaseFire on violent crime.¹⁷ However, an analysis of seven Chicago sites (of the twenty-five in which the program then operated) reveals that the introduction of CeaseFire was associated with significant declines in actual and attempted shootings in four areas. Additionally, four sites experienced declines in persons actually shot. Overall, six of the seven program areas became

¹⁴ Funding for CPVP staff was stable because it came from local foundations and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (which manages federal pass through money). Individual CeaseFire sites, however, were funded by yearly appropriations from the state legislature which made them vulnerable to political machinations. See Skogan, et al, *op cit*.

¹⁵ Skogan, et al., *op cit*.

¹⁶ Evaluation staff observed 63 headquarters meetings and 52 weekly meetings of violence interrupters and outreach workers, and conducted interviews with 10 headquarters staff. Multiple visits were made to 18 program sites and staff conducted 79 interviews, attended 31 meetings, and went on 15 ride-alongs with outreach workers. A total of 153 surveys were gathered from CeaseFire staff and evaluation staff conducted 230 interviews with potential CeaseFire collaborators (clergy, police, business, etc). Additionally, staff interviewed 297 CeaseFire clients.

¹⁷ These shortcomings include a lack of any measures of strength of the programs in the analysis, the use of crime rates (due to significant changes in beat populations over the time frame) and potential errors from projecting population figures forward from the 2000 Census, and a large degree of spillover in the geographical targeting of interventions.

safer and there is conclusive evidence in four of the six sites that a decrease in the intensity of shooting hot spots was due to the introduction of CeaseFire.¹⁸

Transplanting Ceasefire-Chicago

Chicago-CeaseFire is based on an explicit and plausible set of expectations – its program theory – and the evaluation conducted by Skogan, et al., was well-designed and executed, with fairly persuasive evidence of impacts on shootings and shooting related injuries. CeaseFire-Chicago is, then, a program that offers promise of some relief from gun violence in urban neighborhoods in which gun violence is rife. We would caution localities considering such a program, however, that the generalizability of the findings from Chicago are unknown. Programs that have sought to replicate the model are in the early stages, making it difficult to assess the success with which the program can be adapted and implemented in other settings. Nor do we know whether every component (e.g., outreach workers, violence interrupters, the faith community) is vital, or whether sites exploring the development of such a program might eliminate a component or alter the model without compromising its violence reduction benefits.

In making an informed decision to adopt a CeaseFire program, which is service intensive, localities should take stock of existing resources to ensure that offenders contacted by program staff have access to a broad array of services (e.g. social, educational, and vocational) and, where available, evidence-based services and programs.

Localities considering the adoption of such a program should acknowledge at the outset the importance of information sharing. The resistance of Chicago law enforcement to sharing information with CeaseFire staff is not surprising, given the entrenched resistance of law enforcement to sharing information, the background of many violence interrupters, and the multi-site scope of the program, which necessitates buy-in from multiple districts and levels within the police department. The resistance of CeaseFire staff to sharing their information with law enforcement is also unsurprising, as they must maintain the trust of their clients and other people on the street in order to be effective. Program planners should describe the nature of needed information and work with law enforcement to prescribe information sharing protocols.

Justice, service, and community-based agencies working together can interrupt the cycle of violence. With the shared commitment of a multi-agency partnership, violence prevention efforts benefit from the perspective and expertise of each agency, and the costs need not be borne by any single agency. Moreover, the sustainability of any program is bolstered by multiple streams of funding, as it becomes less likely that cuts in one source of funding will force the program to close its doors. Jurisdictions considering the adoption of a CeaseFire program should capitalize on the opportunity to tap blended funding streams.

¹⁸ The intensity of shooting hot spots declined in two other sites as well, but evidence linking the decline to CeaseFire was inconclusive.

APPENDIX G


F I N N

THE JOHN F. FINN INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, INC.

Focused Deterrence Initiatives: A Synopsis

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The John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety, Inc., is an independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan corporation, whose work is dedicated to the development of criminal justice strategies, programs, and practices that are effective, lawful, and procedurally fair, through the application of social science findings and methods. The Institute conducts social research on matters of public safety and security – crime, public disorder, and the management of criminal justice agencies and partnerships – in collaboration with municipal, county, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, and for their direct benefit. The findings of the Institute’s research are also disseminated through other media to criminal justice professionals, academicians, elected public officials, and other interested parties, so that those findings may contribute to a broader body of knowledge about criminal justice and to the practical application of those findings in other settings.

The Finn Institute was established in 2007, building on a set of collaborative projects and relationships with criminal justice agencies dating to 1998. The first of those projects, for which we partnered with the Albany Police Department (APD), was initiated by John Finn, who was at that time the sergeant who commanded the APD’s Juvenile Unit. Later promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the department’s Administrative Services Bureau, he spearheaded efforts to implement problem-oriented policing, and to develop an institutional capability for analysis that would support problem-solving. The APD’s capacity for applying social science methods and results thereupon expanded exponentially, based on Lt. Finn’s appreciation for the value of research, his keen aptitude for analysis, and his vision of policing, which entailed the formulation of proactive, data-driven, and – as needed – unconventional strategies to address problems of public safety. Lt. Finn was fatally shot in the line of duty in 2003. The Institute that bears his name honors his life and career by fostering the more effective use of research and analysis within criminal justice agencies, just as Lt. Finn did in the APD.

Introduction

Focused deterrence – also known as “lever-pulling” – is a matter of enhancing the threat of criminal sanctions for the highest-risk offenders and deliberately communicating that threat in order to maximize its impact on offenders’ behavior. Research has repeatedly shown that a small number of offenders account for a disproportionately large volume of violent crime.¹ Further, violence is often concentrated in specific neighborhoods. By focusing amplified enforcement efforts – pulling all of the available levers – on the individuals most likely to commit violent crimes (in the neighborhoods in which they are most active), and thereby increasing the threatened likelihood of their apprehension and/or the severity of the sanctions applied, law enforcement and other community actors can expect to deter criminal acts. It might also be possible to disrupt or reverse patterns of peer influence that draw youth into violence. A number of communities have implemented focused deterrence initiatives, and some of these interventions have been demonstrably effective in reducing levels of youth violence. Drawing on studies of several programs, we first describe their principal components and then summarize the evidence on program effectiveness. The programs described include: Boston’s Operation Ceasefire; the Violence Reduction Partnership (IVRP) in Indianapolis; Chicago’s Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative; the PSN program in Lowell, Massachusetts; East Los Angeles’ Hollenbeck Operation Ceasefire; High Point, North Carolina’s West End Initiative; Minneapolis’ Hope, Education, Law and Safety (HEALS) Initiative; Winston-Salem’s Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) program; the SACSI program in Rochester; and the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence.²

¹ For example, research prior to the implementation of the Winston-Salem SACSI program revealed that only 0.4 percent of the total juvenile population had been charged with violent offenses, and that only 0.05 percent of the juvenile population was regarded as “serious” violent offenders; Doug Easterling, Lynn Harvey, Donald Mac-Thompson, and Marcus Allen, *Evaluation of SACSI in Winston-Salem: Engaging the Community in a Strategic Analysis of Youth Violence* (Washington: NCJRS, 2002). Additionally, a homicide review in Cincinnati revealed that less than 1 percent of the city’s total population was responsible for 74 percent of the homicides; Robin S. Engel, S. Gregory Baker, Marie S. Tillyer, John Eck, and Jessica Dunham, *The Implementation of the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV): Year 1 Report* (Cincinnati: University of Cincinnati Policing Institute, 2008).

² On Boston’s program, see Anthony A. Braga, David M. Kennedy, Elin J. Waring, and Anne M. Piehl, “Problem-Oriented Policing, Deterrence, and Youth Violence: An Evaluation of Boston’s Operation Ceasefire,” *Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency*, 38 (2001), pp. 195-225; see also David M. Kennedy, Anthony A. Braga, and Anne M. Piehl, *Reducing Gun Violence: The Boston Gun Project’s Operation Ceasefire* (Washington: NIJ, 2001). On Indianapolis’ program, see Edmund F. McGarrell, Steven Chermak, Jeremy M. Wilson, and Nicholas Corsaro, “Reducing Homicide through a ‘Lever-Pulling’ Strategy,” *Justice Quarterly*, 23 (2006), pp. 214-231. On Chicago’s program, see Andrew Papachristos, Tracey Meares, and Jeffrey Fagan, *Attention Felons: Evaluating Project Safe Neighborhoods in Chicago* (New York: Columbia University, 2006). On Lowell’s program, see Anthony A. Braga, Glenn L. Pierce, Jack McDevitt, Brenda J. Bond, and Shea Cronin, “The Strategic Prevention of Gun Violence Among Gang-Involved Offenders,” *Justice Quarterly*, 25 (2008), pp. 132-162. On East Los Angeles’ program, see George Tita, K. Jack Riley, Greg Ridgeway, Clifford Grammich, Allan F. Abrahamse, and Peter W. Greenwood, *Reducing Gun Violence: Results from an Intervention in East Los Angeles* (Santa Monica: RAND, 2003). On High Point’s program, see High Point, North Carolina Police Department, *High Point West End Initiative: A Data-Driven, Police & Community Partnership Strategy to Reduce Drug-related Crime and Violence*. On Minneapolis’ program, see David M. Kennedy and Anthony A. Braga, “Homicide in Minneapolis: Research for Problem Solving,” *Homicide Studies*, 2 (1998), pp.262-290. On Winston-Salem’s program, see Easterling, et al., *op. cit.* On Rochester’s program, see John M. Klofas, Christopher

Program Components

Focused deterrence strategies share a number of common components and follow the same general framework (although the ways that they may differ are detailed below). They rest on the fundamental assumptions that offenders are rational,³ and that confronting offenders directly is the first step toward altering their perceptions of risk. They further assume that such direct communications may also reverberate through the informal communication network of offenders, especially if they are gang-involved.⁴ Such strategies are implemented by a multi-agency consortium to ensure that a variety of sanctions can be used against these chronic offenders, and also that a variety of services are available to them to facilitate the choice to desist from crime. Once a particular crime problem (such as youth homicide) is selected, an interagency working group conducts research to identify offenders, gangs, and behavior patterns, and then the group frames a response designed to offer a range of sanctions to deter offenders. The threats that these sanctions represent are communicated directly to identified offenders, through media described below. At the same time that this deterrence message is being delivered, community resources are also focused on targeted offenders and groups to further induce a cessation of violent behavior. Cincinnati's program summarizes the pulling levers message succinctly: "We will help you if you let us, but we will stop you if you make us."⁵ During the intervention, working group members continue to communicate to offenders the purpose of the ongoing attention.⁶ The success of a pulling levers strategy depends on two factors: how well the response is tailored to the selected crime problem, and whether or not the promises that are made (regarding subsequent law enforcement crackdowns and access to social services) are kept. Offenders are able to quickly ascertain hollow threats and empty promises.

Focused deterrence strategies differ along a number of dimensions including the targeted population, preliminary enforcement actions, the medium for delivering the pulling-levers message, and how well the message is followed by action (see Table 1). All of these components differ according to the type of crime problem the intervention is designed to address: firearm homicide, gun violence more generally or, in the case of High Point, NC, drug-related crime and violence.

Target population

Many programs, including Boston, Lowell, Minneapolis, and Cincinnati, target gang members. In Lowell, 71 percent of the homicides had gang-related motives and gang members were identified as offenders in 74 percent of the homicides. Additionally, not all gangs

Delaney, and Tisha Smith, *Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) in Rochester, NY* (Washington: NCJRS, 2007). On Cincinnati's program see Engel, et al., *op. cit.*

³ As Easterling et al. note, a "rational" offender will understand the negative consequences of offending, will appreciate the positive consequences of pro-social behavior, and will then be able to make a choice that maximizes his or her welfare ("expected utility"). However, offenders often act impulsively rather than logically and notification sessions do not address other factors that may influence negative behavior such as peer pressure, mental illness, boredom, and lack of opportunity. Easterling, et al., *op. cit.*

⁴ McGarrell, et al., *op. cit.*

⁵ Engel, et al., *op. cit.*, p. 6

⁶ Adapted from Braga, et al., *op. cit.*; based on David Kennedy, "Pulling Levers: Chronic Offenders, High-Crime Settings, and a Theory of Prevention," *Valparaiso University Law Review* 31 (1997), pp. 449-484; and "Old Wine in New Bottles: Policing and the Lessons of Pulling Levers," in David Weisburd and Anthony Braga (eds.), *Police Innovations: Contrasting Perspectives* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

contributed to the violence equally – less than one half of the gangs in the city were responsible for the majority of the gang violence.⁷

Table 1. Programmatic Options

Target Population		Preliminary Enforcement Action	Medium for Delivering Message		
Offender type	Offender age range		Type of call-in	Type of attendance	Additional methods
All gang members	Open / no restriction	None	No call-in ^a	Compelled probationer/parolees	Individual police/probation contacts
Selected gang members	Youthful	Federal prosecution	Traditional call-in ^b	Voluntary ^c	Meetings with inmates
High-risk offenders	Juveniles only	Local crackdown	Enhanced call-in ^d		Gang outreach workers
Crime-specific offenders		Cases made against targeted offenders	Call-in combined with additional methods		Radio bulletins Home visits ^e Street outreach after violence Hospital-based intervention

^a. Only additional methods used.

^b. Law enforcement, social services, and community.

^c. In the case of juvenile offenders, parents may be invited.

^d. Law enforcement, social services, and other attendees such as local employers.

^e. By social service representatives.

Other programs, such as Indianapolis and Rochester, target high-risk probationers and parolees, while High Point’s program focuses on active street dealers. Most programs focus on

⁷ Interestingly, Lowell developed different strategies based on the type of gang. Task force members felt that a general lever-pulling strategy would work with Hispanic gangs, but not with Asian gangs who are more organized, more secretive, and less territorial and visible. Thus, when an Asian street gang was violent, LPD targeted the gambling businesses run by older gang members, relying on evidence that more social control is exerted by older Asian criminals over their younger counterparts.

youthful (but not juvenile) offenders, but Winston-Salem’s program formally focuses on four separate age cohorts – 11 and under, 12-15, 16-17, and 18 and older. It is important to note that none of these decisions about the target population(s) occurs in a vacuum. Each site that has implemented a lever-pulling strategy began with a problem solving framework that included a collaborative effort to determine the exact nature of the violence problem (and, therefore, the offenders to target) in their jurisdiction.

Preliminary Enforcement Action

For some programs, notification meetings are the first public step in the focused deterrence initiative. For others, the initial message delivery is preceded by a federal prosecution or some other law enforcement initiative. For example, at a press conference in Minneapolis, officials pointed to a recent federal prosecution as the kind of consequences that violent gangs would face if their violent activities continued.⁸ High Point, with a focus on drug dealers, makes cases against offenders prior to the call-in meetings; during the notification session, law enforcement officials inform offenders that undercover purchases have already been made and all that is needed is a signature on the arrest warrant if offenders step out of line.

Medium for Delivering the Message

Boston’s Operation Ceasefire, the first lever-pulling strategy, developed a concept for delivering a focused deterrence message dubbed “call-in” (or notification) meetings. Most of the lever-pulling programs that followed Boston use a similar method as their primary means of communicating a deterrence message to violent offenders. Groups of selected offenders are directed or invited to appear at a designated place – often a courtroom – at a designated time. Call-in meetings typically follow a specific format that begins with representatives of law enforcement detailing how violent behavior will evoke an immediate and intense response. The law enforcement segment is followed by social service speakers, who describe various program options for those who wish to change their behavior, as well as community members who speak about the impact that violence has on the community. In Chicago, local employers often attend call-in meetings and tell offenders the necessary steps to gain employment with their respective firms. A well-organized call-in meeting is theatrical, which may make the message more powerful and memorable, and the call-in meeting is generally considered to be a successful medium for delivering the focused deterrence message.

Offenders are typically compelled to attend meetings by virtue of their probation or parole status.⁹ However, some programs (such as Chicago’s) merely invite offenders to attend, on the premise that compulsion would tend to erode offenders’ sense of procedural fairness, and the corollary that their compliance with the law turns to a degree on their regard for the legal system.¹⁰ Programs that focus on juveniles will also invite parents to call-in meetings as well.

⁸ In Indianapolis, a long-term federal investigation (started during the initial formation of IVRP) resulted in the arrest of 16 violent gang members. Although this crackdown occurred after call-in meetings had begun, it helped working group members communicate a zero tolerance message towards violence in subsequent call-in meetings; it showed that the law enforcement threat made was credible.

⁹ Warrants may be ceremoniously issued for the arrest of no-shows, and made a part of the focused deterrence message during the call-in for those who do attend.

¹⁰ See Papachristos, et al., *op cit.*, pp. 5-6, and more generally Tom R. Tyler and Yuen J. Huo, *Trust in the Law: Encouraging Public Cooperation with the Police and Courts* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002). Papachristos, et al., report that while voluntary, attendance was 98 percent (p. 15).

In addition to (or instead of) call-in meetings, focused deterrence initiatives get the message out to targeted offenders via secondary methods such as individual police and probation contacts, meetings with inmates, contacts with gang outreach workers, or radio bulletins. In Winston-Salem, notification sessions are followed by individual home visits by “Operation Reach” representatives who provide information on the services available to the offender and his or her family. Other forms of communication may be used: Lowell, for example, floods the street after gang violence to communicate that offenders are under scrutiny for continued violence and to reiterate offers for social services. One program – Minneapolis – takes the unique step of delivering a deterrence message to gang-involved victims of violence in the hospital.

Follow-up/Consequences

Follow-up concerns two components: law enforcement and social services. We might suppose that it is important to pair sanctions (or the promise of sanctions) with help and services, both in order to most effectively shape offenders’ choices and to promote the legitimacy of the initiative in the eyes of the community, though neither supposition has been empirically tested.

Working group members utilize a number of law enforcement “levers” to deter violence. These include: parole and probation checks, warrant enforcement, saturation patrol, increased prosecutorial attention (including federal), intensified disorder enforcement, disruption of street-level drug markets, and housing and property code enforcement. Lowell took the step of reserving federal enforcement efforts for “impact players” (those deemed particularly dangerous and resistant to any social intervention) because removing them from the street was the only means to protect other youth from their violent behavior. A wide variety of social services were offered to offenders as well. These included: substance abuse treatment, tattoo removal, counseling, job training and development, housing assistance, parenting assistance, mentoring, and union and vocational training. Other programs, like Winston-Salem, High Point and Cincinnati, utilize resource coordinators and/or a case management system to ensure offenders can get the help they need.

Although many evaluations provide information on the *intended* consequences for recurring violence following notification, they do not routinely describe the *actual* consequences, but some evaluations detailed both the successful and unsuccessful efforts to deliver on promises made during call-in sessions. In High Point, notified drug offenders were flagged in the police record management system and any subsequent drug dealing resulted in an immediate arrest. Cincinnati law enforcement conducted targeted crackdowns following a homicide, but information from gang members on the street suggested members did not believe law enforcement knew who they were and, further, that they would not focus on groups. This perception was refuted at the next call-in session through a display of surveillance photos and a group network analysis, as well as with the presence of 30 individuals currently in police custody. In East Los Angeles, however, although the law enforcement component was fully implemented, efforts focused almost exclusively on the two groups involved in the triggering incident, and this singular focus meant that the intervention “never created a constant perception that violent behavior would provoke an immediate response.”¹¹ Winston-Salem had difficulties enforcing promised consequences for subsequent violence, especially in the case of juveniles. Judges were often reluctant to impose harsh penalties for anything but the most serious cases, which meant prosecution efforts were not as successful.

¹¹ Tita, et al., *op cit.*, p. 18.

Service delivery was also hit or miss. For example, in East Los Angeles, the law enforcement intervention began before services were in place, which meant they were never widely available. The Operation Reach program in Winston-Salem offered only one-time contact and is quite time-intensive so promises of support were not always substantiated. In Cincinnati, however, 176 individuals have been engaged in the services program, 81 percent of whom had not attended a call-in session, but rather heard about it through some other means.

Costs

Focused deterrence initiatives, done properly, demand commitments of resources from multiple agencies. As with many innovations in law enforcement, the development of the early focused deterrence initiatives benefited from external financial support. For example, Boston, Chicago and Indianapolis received a substantial infusion of federal funds to underwrite the costs associated with the interventions. But even without generous funding from external grants, it may be possible to implement focused deterrence initiatives through the strategic management of agencies' existing resources. Drawing on lessons learned from the Indianapolis experiment, Chermak observes that applying levers should be viewed as a more strategic means of allocating current resources rather than conceived of as add-on responsibilities.¹² For example, social service providers need not presume they must expand current capacity, but rather they might tailor eligibility criteria. Law enforcement need not rely only on overtime to fund enforcement actions; it might more strategically direct units. Probation and parole could reduce costs by restructuring caseloads. Chermak also suggests that limiting the number of groups and/or individuals targeted, in lieu of a more broad-based strategy, could be a sound means of maximizing cost-effectiveness.

Even with multi-agency collaboration at the local level and strategic allocation of resources, focused deterrence is a significant undertaking that carries with it costs that may not be feasibly absorbed in normal operating budgets. Successful programs have capitalized on blended funding streams and diverse sponsor agencies. Costs should be spread across agencies, and drawn from local, state and federal sources as well as from private foundations and corporate sponsors.

Outcomes

A number of evaluations of focused deterrence strategies have been conducted, most of them on the "flagship" program in Boston, implemented in 1996. Operation Ceasefire in Boston is generally credited with a 63 percent reduction in the number of monthly homicides and, when compared to 39 other major cities, Boston had the largest statistically significant decline in youth homicide between 1991 and 1997.¹³ Other programs experienced similarly substantial

¹² Steven Chermak, *Reducing Violent Crime and Firearms Violence: The Indianapolis Lever-Pulling Experiment* (Washington: NIJ, 2008).

¹³ Braga, et al., "Problem-Oriented Policing, Deterrence, and Youth Violence." Other evaluations find evidence of a large youth homicide drop in Boston following Ceasefire, but suggest caution in the interpretation of findings based on data-driven limitations with statistical models, the complexity of analyzing city-wide trends, and the limitations of a non-randomized, non-controlled experiment that cannot fully consider all of the complex factors that may affect youth homicide. See Richard Rosenfeld, Robert Fornango, and Eric Baumer, "Did Ceasefire, Compstat, and Exile Reduce Homicide?" *Criminology & Public Policy* 4 (2005), pp. 195-225; Jens Ludwig, "Better Gun Enforcement, Less Crime," *Criminology & Public Policy* 4 (2005), pp. 677-716; and National Research Council, *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*, Committee to Improve Research Information and Data on Firearms, Charles F. Wellford, John V. Pepper, and Carol V. Petrie, eds. (Washington: National Academies Press, 2005).

reductions: High Point noted a 38 percent decline in violent crime one year post-notification; in Cincinnati, overall homicides declined 43 percent compared to the same period in the preceding year and homicides involving a group member declined 61 percent; and in Lowell, mean monthly counts of firearms violence decreased by 28 percent. A number of more rigorous quasi-experimental evaluations also found significant reductions. The lever-pulling strategy in Indianapolis was associated with a 34 percent drop in homicide (a decrease that was not matched in other comparable cities), and focused enforcement in East Los Angeles resulted in significant reductions in violent and gang crime in the target areas relative to matched comparison areas. Chicago experienced a 37 percent drop in quarterly homicide rates in treatment areas, and the evaluation further found that decreases in gang-related homicide were directly related to the percentage of offenders who attended a call-in session.

In Winston-Salem, however, where efforts were focused on juveniles (who did not believe they would be subject to harsher penalties, especially as long as they were juveniles), rates of re-offending among notified youth were the same as offending rates in a comparison group. However, in targeted neighborhoods, violent crime (especially robbery) declined. This “apparent paradox” between re-offending rates among targeted youth and neighborhood crime reductions “suggests that SACSI’s primary benefits occurred at the systems level – introducing new norms into the community and improving coordination among the various players who can influence violent behavior on the part of young persons.”¹⁴

¹⁴ Easterling et al., *op. cit.*, abstract.