

# Gun Violence Prevention

**Morgan Spicer**

Research and Prototyping Fellow  
Office of the Clerk of the Commission

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# **What We Can't Do: The Status of Preemption**

- The State of Florida severely restricts local authority over gun regulation, occupying the entire field of firearm regulation.
- Pending the result of an appeal, local legislators are subject to personal liability and removal from office if they violate the preemption law.
- The City of Gainesville and Alachua County have enacted every regulating ordinance permitted by the Florida preemption statute.

# What We Can Do: A Public Health Approach to Violence

- Cure Violence is an internationally recognized, public health approach to gun violence utilized in cities including Chicago, New York, and Baltimore.
  - After implementing the program, homicides in Chicago dropped by 35%, and in New York City by 18%.
- The City of Gainesville likely does not have the need for the entire program, however the model can frame the way we look for policy solutions.
- Three elements:
  - Detect and interrupt conflict,
  - Identify and treat the highest risk individuals, and
  - Change community norms.

# Policy Examples

- Detect and Interrupt
  - Hospital Based Intervention Programs
- Change Community Norms
  - Education and Employment Programs
- Identify and Treat
  - Red Flag Law Community Awareness

## Detect and Interrupt

# Hospital Based Intervention

## Disrupting Cycles of Violence

- Emphasis on detecting and interrupting the cycle of violence.
- Programs designed to reach high-risk individuals who have been recently admitted to a hospital for treatment of a serious violent injury.
- This strategy calls for the screening of those patients by trained non-profit staff to identify individuals most at risk for re-injury, and connecting those individuals with case managers.

## Detect and Interrupt

# Hospital Based Intervention - San Francisco

- San Francisco General Hospital's Wraparound Project was introduced in 2005, and saw a 400% decrease in the rate of injury recidivism.
- All patients who are victims of violent injury between ages of 10-20 are screened by case managers.
- Those who are invited to participate in the program receive case management services and are guided to risk reduction resources.
- The prevention of just 3.5 recidivist injuries a year makes the program cost neutral.

## Change Community Norms

# Educate and Employ

- Creation of a program which emphasizes educating and employing low-income youth who are at risk of turning to violence.
- Traditional Jobs Program – New York City
- Jobs Program Intertwined with a Resiliency Strategy - Tallahassee

## Change Community Norms

# **Educate and Employ - New York City**

- Train and Earn program – short term career pathway program for low-income youth ages 16-24 who are not working and are not in school.
- The program provides job training, employment services, and academic and professional support services to help participants find a permanent job or enroll in college.



## Change Community Norms

# Educate and Employ - Tallahassee

- Seeks to educate and employ individuals aged 16-24 through partnerships with businesses, non-profits, and individuals.
- Pillar of Tallahassee's Resilience Plan, which puts an emphasis on training and hiring individuals in the industries that will build and maintain more sustainable infrastructure.
- Promotes economic vitality among low-income youth while generating a new population to help with sustainable infrastructure.
- Costs the city \$500,000 annually and the program has, so far, had 640 participants.

## Identify and Treat

# Red Flag Laws - Community Awareness

- Where someone poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to themselves or others by having a firearm, law enforcement may petition the court for a Risk Protection Order. If granted, that person's firearms may be temporarily removed from their custody.
- There may be room for improvement in community awareness around this tool.
- The City could establish a community hotline, where individuals could call in to voice concerns about individuals who possess guns, creating a less stigmatizing alternative to calling 911.
- The City could create a marketing campaign to educate community members on the option of risk protection orders.

Identify and Treat

# Red Flag Laws - Community Awareness



AND HE GOT UPSET  
AND THEN HE SAID HE  
WAS TIRED OF LIVING  
AND YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT TO DO,  
**BUT THERE IS ONE  
THING YOU CAN DO:  
REMOVE THE GUN  
FOR NOW.**

85% of suicide attempts with a gun are fatal. But without a gun, less than 5% of suicide attempts are deadly. You can't always stop someone from hurting themselves. But a Red Flag Order can temporarily prevent loved ones from accessing the most lethal form of suicide until the crisis passes, giving them a second chance to get the help they need.

OneThingToDo.org

## Identify and Treat

# **Existing Efforts - Training & Implementing Red Flag Laws**

- From March 2018 – August 2019, Alachua County has seen five Risk Protection Orders issued. Some counties have seen zero orders issued, others have seen hundreds.
- Gainesville Police Department has been trained on the intricacies of this new tool and has continuing education planned.

## Change Community Norms

# Existing Efforts - GPD Gun Buyback Program

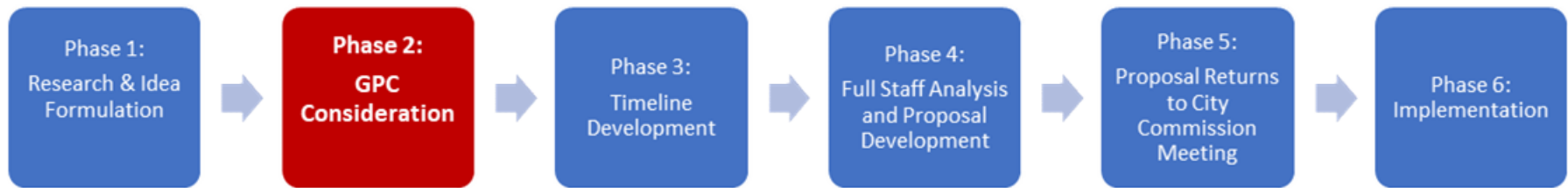
- The Gainesville Police Department has conducted 2 gun buyback programs in the past year.
- In August of 2019, 134 unwanted guns were collected.
- In December of 2019, an additional 121 unwanted guns were collected. Both of these events ended early after GPD reached its monetary allotment to buy back weapons.

## Detect and Interrupt

# Existing Efforts - Green Dot

- Green Dot GNV has worked to educate individuals on ways to prevent violent deaths and to shift community norms away from personal violence.
- The program has offered “bystander trainings” to help individuals recognize violent behaviors that could cause harm to an individual.
  - Promotes the “3 Ds”: Directly get involved, do something to Distract, or Delegate.
- Green Dot also held the Fading Out Violence Expo in September, which highlighted different forms of violence in the community to help prevent those acts of violence.
- Funding was discontinued in September of 2019 but the state is expecting grant dollars to be available in 2021 to continue this work.

# Recommended Next Steps



We are here!

If the General Policy Committee wishes to proceed with any specific ideas, they may move this matter to Phase 3 of the Policy Process.

**Questions?**