

The Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities

Executive Summary

Mandate:

While overall violent crime is down in Philadelphia, the 351 homicides and 1,403 shootings in 2018 — the most in the last decade — represent an alarmingly increasing trend in gun violence in our city. On September 27, 2018 the Mayor issued an urgent “Call to Action” mandating that the Cabinet and senior leadership develop within 100 days a plan for how to dramatically reduce the killings and shootings in Philadelphia.

A Violence Prevention and Reduction Strategy Working Group was developed to analyze, define, and address the issue of community gun violence. Throughout the 100 days of the development, the team conducted numerous focus groups, stakeholder meetings, and community listening sessions.

This report is the result of that effort: a comprehensive plan establishing a strategy for gun violence prevention and to reduce the rising gun violence rates. This plan takes a public health approach to violence that uses science and data to better understand the problem. We believe these recommendations will dramatically reduce shootings and homicides in the city over the next five years.

Key Recommendations:

The key recommendations to the Mayor are informed by the public health approach and a nationally recognized violence prevention framework, which includes a focus on prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry.

- Promote community health and well-being by prioritizing the reduction of structural violence through unpacking and addressing the physical and programmatic inequities that exist in the communities at the highest risk of violence.
- Invest in additional analytical capacity and technology to implement Philadelphia Police Department’s Violent Crime Reduction Strategy “Operation Pinpoint,” which is a combination of intelligence-based and community-oriented policing.
- Build on the administration’s successful criminal justice reforms by improving reentry programs and services in Philadelphia and establish the Office of Reentry Partnerships in the Managing Director’s Office, in order to support successful reintegration of justice-involved and formerly incarcerated individuals to thrive in their communities.

The Vision:

Every Philadelphian will be safe from gun violence in their communities, with full access to opportunities to create their path to a fulfilling life.

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Goals & Strategies



Connected & Thriving Youth, Young Adults & Families

1. Connect more youth and young adults at a high risk of violence to education, including adult education programs
2. Connect more youth and young adults at a high risk of violence to paid training and employment opportunities
3. Connect more youth, young adults and families, at a high risk of violence, to high-quality, community-based programs that promote health and social wellness



Strong Community Engagement & Partnerships

1. Launch a comprehensive communication campaign for gun violence reduction
2. Fully engage neighborhood residents in planning and implementation of the City's violence reduction work
3. Create opportunities for community feedback on overall violence reduction strategy and City-supported programs



Coordinated City Services & Planning

1. Improve coordination among City agencies and external stakeholders to reduce shootings and homicides
2. Establish public health infrastructure focused on violence prevention
3. Collect and evaluate outcomes of current City-supported violence reduction programs and overall violence reduction strategy
4. Ensure that the City's reentry efforts effectively target those most at risk of violence and strengthen the cross-agency coordination for reentry solutions



Safer & Healthier Neighborhoods

1. Provide resources to respond when residents feel unsafe in their neighborhoods
2. Support hyper-local efforts to address hot spots in high risk neighborhoods
3. Reduce availability and accessibility of firearms
4. Improve environmental factors and reduce structural violence in high risk neighborhoods