

Project Longevity – Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

2:30 – 3:30 PM Hosted On Microsoft Teams

Meeting called to order at 2:30

Attendance:

- Peter Markle, Assistant US Attorney;
- Marc Pelka, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning, Office of Policy Management;
- Achilles Generoso, Statewide Director, Project Longevity;
- Chief Jason Thody, City of Hartford;
- Sergeant Christopher Mastroianni, City of Hartford Police Department;
- Glendra Lewis, City of Hartford Program Director
- Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson City of New Haven;
- Assistant Chief Renee Dominguez;
- Stacy Spell, New Haven Program Manager;
- Assistant Chief James Baraja, City of Bridgeport;
- Harold Dimbo, Bridgeport Program Manager;
- Jefferson Pinerio, National Network for Safe Communities, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and
- Chidi Nwuneli, CCT Planning Analyst, Office of Policy Management.

Opening Remarks

Co-Chair Marc Pelka welcomes all to the meeting and acknowledges the meeting will be recorded on Microsoft Teams. Co-Chair Peter Markle gave thanks to everyone gathered to participate in the meeting also.

Introductions

Mr. Patrick Lakha, CT Careers Trainee, Criminal Justice, Research

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes, approved first by James Baraja, motion seconded by Achilles (Archie) Generoso.

Overviews

Archie Generoso

The Director stated that New Haven had completed a Call-In on January 26, with Bridgeport following up on March 29, and Harford scheduled for April 27.

The National Network has completed a review of each program site to evaluate their adherence to the project model. The executive committee will be setting up meetings to discuss with the site's Chief of Police.

Peter Markle

The Assistant US Attorney stated that the National Network reviews are essential for project adherence and streamlining.

He congratulated the various sites as the project has received numerous accolades from multiple entities within the state's judicial branch for its ethos.

New Haven

Chief Karl Jacobson

The Assistant Chief stated that there has been a rise in gun violence, with a minute portion related to group and gang-related violence.

Since the Call-In, New Haven Police Department has conducted over 30 customs in the last month. Overall, there has been an observable decrease in group and gang-related violence.

Stacy Spell

New Haven is currently in the process of hiring a Social Services Coordinator, with a final decision being made on 3/19 with regards to the final candidates.

A shooting review is scheduled for April 19. Stacy, along with the Police Department, has completed 30 custom notifications since the last Call-in. The next Call-In is being planned for the last week of May.

Community events centered around gun violence reduction are being organized.

Jefferson Pinerio

Asked for clarity on positions to be filled.

Hartford

Sergeant Christopher Mastroianni

The Sergeant stated that Hartford year-to-date has had four homicides and twenty-four nonfatal shootings, with only one being GVI.

Under the Sergeant's purview, the Police Department is creating a dossier for the court that lists those who have been to call-ins or received custom notifications that were later arrested. In addition, two full-time detectives have been added to the project, with one fluent in Spanish, which will expand the project's reach in the City.

The Department is exceeding its goal of ten custom notifications a week and is finalizing the date and location of the Call-In with the Site-Manager.

Finally, The City continues to have a juvenile problem with stolen motor vehicles.

Chief Jason Thody

The Chief stated that overall crime has been down in the City, with shots fired incidents decreasing significantly due to intelligence and our Patrol division.

Crime has been noted to spike in the summer statistically and has prompted the Department to be proactive and enhance its summer initiative with extra details focusing on the stolen car issue and shots fired.

The Department has adopted a model used by the City of Denver with regards to nonfatal shooting. The Chief has assigned a sergeant and four detectives to nonfatal shootings cases to treat them like homicides in investigating and identifying the perpetrators.

The Chief said that he is excited to work with the new State's Attorney for the Hartford Judicial District.

Glendra Lewis

The Project Manager stated the first Hartford Call-in of the year would be held on April 27. This was made possible through inroads she was able to make with community partnerships. In building these partnerships, she was able to find a venue at no-cost that the Police Department approved. The Safety Coalition, Faith-based Initiative, and Community Partners have become partners of the Hartford site.

The last shooting review was conducted on May 12, 2020, while the previous group audit was on January 20, 2021. No time has currently been scheduled for their follow-ups.

The Police Department and Project Manager have conducted 48 Custom Notifications, with 28 referrals from that group. An attempt is being made to assist 10 of these individuals in acquiring resources and services.

Bridgeport

The Assistant Chief provided statistics of gun violence in Bridgeport since the beginning of the year. There have been zero deaths, five nonfatal shootings in relation to GVI.

The City has 576 rounds fired, with the last enforcement action on January 27, 2021. The previous enforcement action led to 40 arrests, 16 persons arrested based on federal indictments, and 11 firearms seizures.

Harold Dimbo

The Project Manager stated that the last Call-In was January 09, 2020, the previous shooting review was December 09, 2020, and the prior audit group was December 02, 2020.

The next Call-In has been scheduled for March 29, 2021, with the previous Call-in having 14 attendees and expecting similar attendance.

The site has performed 49 notifications and 29 referrals in 2021.

Adjourn at 3:30 by Chairman Pelka,
Chairman thanked sites for the work being carried out.