

Project Longevity – Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Hosted On Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the Project Longevity Executive Committee Meeting was held on May 19, 2021. Due to public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at 2:30pm, with the following members present:

Attendance:

- **Peter Markle**, Assistant US Attorney, **Presiding**;
- **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 Police Department;
- **Sergeant Christopher Mastroianni**, City of Hartford Police Department;
- **Glendra Lewis**, City of Hartford Program Manager;
- **Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson**, City of New Haven Police Department;
- **Chief Renee Dominguez**, City of New Haven Police Department;
- **Stacy Spell**, New Haven Program Manager;
- **Chief Rebeca Garcia**, City of Bridgeport Police Department;
- **Assistant Chief James Baraja**, City of Bridgeport Police Department;
- **Sergeant Phillip Sharp**, City of Bridgeport Police Department;
- **Harold Dimbo**, Bridgeport Program Manager;
- **Louisa Aviles**, National Network for Safe Communities, John Jay College of Criminal Justice;
- **Chidi Nwuneli**, CCT Planning Analyst, Office of Policy Management; and
- **Patrick Lakha**, CCT Research Analyst, Office of Policy Management;

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Markle thanked members for dedicating time to today's meeting; A roll call was taken.

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 21 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes, approved first by Achilles Generoso

III. New Haven Project Updates

Stacy Spell, New Haven Program Manager

Mr. Spell reported an uptick in violence in New Haven, with 11 homicides and 40 shootings recorded year-to-date. He stated that an increase in custom notifications would be occurring to address the issue. He informed the group that a custom notification workshop will begin within the coming months to increase the outreach and community engagement.

Chief Renee Dominguez, City of New Haven Police Department

Chief Dominguez informed the group that there have been 40 shootings and 11 homicides thus far this year, while at this time last year, there were 26 shootings and three homicides. The Chief stated that the reduction in department staffing has officers stretched thin, thus mitigating the department's ability to engage in crime reduction strategies.

Assistant Chief Karl Jacobson, City of New Haven Police Department

Assistant Chief Jacobson informed the group that the pandemic has increased the number of repeat offenders remaining out on bond, with pending cases, actively driving up crime in their communities. He stated that due to criminal cases being put on hold because of the pandemic, the presence of these individuals is increasing the amount of group/gun-related crime in the city.

Louisa Avelles, National Network for Safe Communities

Ms. Avelles informed the group that the national network has seen spikes in group-driven crime across urban centers in the country. She noted that only a few jurisdictions did not see an uptick, but it was tied to services, and probation and parole being available during the height of the pandemic. She believes that linking individuals with services and more active policing would revert the trends as normality returns.

IV. Hartford Project Updates

Sergeant Christopher Mastroianni, City of Hartford Police Department

Sergeant Mastroianni stated that there have been 55 shootings and 12 homicides in Hartford year-to-date (YTD), with 11 shootings in the previous weekend at the time of this meeting. He informed the group that 99 firearm arrests were made in the city YTD. He stated that Hartford faces similar issues mentioned by New Haven officials, and an increase in juvenile carjackings is being observed.

Peter Markle, Assistant US Attorney

Attorney Markle stated that a forum should be held with the Mayors of the three sites to address the issue of probation and parolees as it relates to reducing violence and crime in the cities. He also commended the project managers for their ability to complete Call-Ins during a pandemic, making Project Longevity Connecticut one of the standout models in the nation.

Glendra Lewis, City of Hartford Program Manager

Ms. Lewis informed the group that Mothers' United Against Violence has requested training to assist with custom notifications. She stated the next Call-In is slated for August with the date currently pending, with the next shooting review and group/gang audit scheduled to occur in July.

V. Bridgeport Project Updates

Chief Rebeca Garcia, City of Bridgeport Police Department

Chief Garcia informed the group that Bridgeport is facing similar levels of reduction in staffing, recruitment issues, and lateral movement that can also be seen in New Haven and Hartford. She stated that despite reduced staffing, their department has still performed on a high level with its active policing, community engagement, and Project Longevity related programs.

Sergeant Phillip Sharp, City of Bridgeport Police Department

Sergeant Sharp, provided the group with the current city crime data. Bridgeport year-to-date has had: six homicides, two group member involved (GMI) homicides, 35 non-fatal shootings, 15 GMI non-fatal, 3,000 shots fired. The Sergeant informed the group that an enforcement action was actively taking place to reduce crime in the city.

VI. Adjourn

Chairman Markle thanked the three sites for the work being carried out; adjourn at 3:30PM.
The next meeting is June 16, 2021 at 2:30PM and will be held virtually.