



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #:** 23-00507

**Agenda Date:** 8/28/2023

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Gun Violence Prevention**

**Presenter:**

City of Gainesville

**Description:**

Post-Event Report for the City's Gun Violence Prevention Summit – Choose Peace: Gun Violence Must Cease

**Recommended Action:**

Hear presentation

**Prior Board Motions:**

Aug. 1, 2023 – approved Resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis in Alachua County.

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Strategic Guide:**

Social and Economic Opportunity

**Background:**

City of Gainesville staff will provide a presentation on gun violence prevention.

In a multi-phased approach to confront the community's rising tide of gun violence, the Gainesville City Commission held a Gun Violence Prevention Summit on August 6 and 7, 2023 at the Hilton University of Florida (UF) Conference Center. The event, which was built around the message, "Choose Peace: Gun Violence Must Cease," drew an estimated 400 people to the Hilton UF Conference Center.

This comes after the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners each passed resolutions declaring gun violence as a public health crisis in the community.

Supported by the full City Commission, the summit stemmed from the staunch advocacy of Mayor Harvey L. Ward Jr. and District I Commissioner (Mayor Pro-Tem) Desmon Duncan-Walker, who together anchored the two-day event. Each day centered on a different approach.

- “Community Day,” was open for anyone to attend and participate. It included workshops on violence intervention, social media and mental health, and youth and hip-hop culture. The day’s culminating event, a youth town hall sponsored by the Children’s Trust of Alachua County, focused on the role of drill music, a popular rap genre, and provided attendees an opportunity to share their stories.
- “Policy Day” was a workshop for elected officials and stakeholders from specific sectors (educators and school administrators, business and civic leaders, and representatives from public health, local government, public safety, and the judicial system). The public was welcome to attend and observe the discussions. Scribes took minutes for entry into the official record. The day featured a tabletop exercise, panel discussion, and keynote address from Ariel Cathcart of Everytown for Gun Safety.

Those present agreed to continue the dialogue while developing action items in the realms of public safety, support services, and policymaking. City and County leaders committed to address the issue further in a future joint meeting.

Funding support for the summit came from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Children’s Trust of Alachua County, Alachua County Public Schools, Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, and Coca Cola Florida.

Staff collected a voluminous amount of feedback, observations, comments, and proposals over the course of the summit. This material is provided as a report in the backup along with a summary and budget documenting the City’s anti-violence programs and services.