

GUN VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN AND TASK FORCE UPDATE

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Office of the City Clerk
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Item #2023-547B



FEBRUARY 2ND, 2023 CITY COMMISSION MOTION

- 1) Declare gun violence as a public health crisis in the City of Gainesville and draft a resolution to that effect.
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to draft a letter to the County Commission asking them to join us and declare gun violence a public health crisis in Alachua County, and draft a resolution to that effect, and partner with us in this effort to prevent and stem gun violence.
- 3) Advance and lay a foundation for convening a Gun Violence Task Force.
- 4) Ask staff to bring back ways that they can expand or tailor programs that we already do in the city to specifically address gun violence.

DRAFT GUN VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN OUTLINE

Discussed at the Monday, June 12th Public Safety Committee

1. The Gainesville City Commission pass a resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis.
2. The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners pass a mirror resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis.
3. The City of Gainesville establish a website presence related to the gun violence prevention action plan to share relevant information and opportunities for involvement

DRAFT GUN VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN OUTLINE, CONTINUED

4. A Gun Violence Prevention Task Force is convened
 - Purpose: Establish a Gun Violence Action Plan
 - Focus Areas: youth opportunity, expanded health care and mental health care, crisis management systems, education, and law enforcement
 - Partners: Alachua County (Board of County Commissioners, Health Department, Manager, School Board, Superintendent, Sheriff's Office), City of Gainesville (CRP, Police Department), Children's Trust, HCA North Florida, Interruptors, One Nation One Project, Randall VA, Santa Fe College, University of Florida (Shands), other community groups
5. A Gun Violence Action Plan is established based on Task Force recommendations with explicit data collection metrics
6. Institutional partners enter into interlocal agreements as needed to affirm Action Plan commitments.



Best Practices to Developing a Multi-Sector Task Force

- Define the goals and actions of the task force
- Determine the institutional leader of the task force
 - Responsible for staffing and providing authority to task force
- Define the relationship of the task force to the larger group
 - Operates independently (may come back to larger group for help, support, resources, or progress reports)
 - Operates fairly independently (can't commit larger group to anything without permission)
 - Requires permission for any action
- Designate Task Force Chair(s) and Staffing
- Identify critical participants
- Recruit members
 - Either through direct appointment with no application, or by opening membership through applications
- Gather the group, set expectations, establish subcommittees



Gun Violence Task Force Structures

- Creation: Typically by city ordinance, resolution, or executive order. This document should establish purpose, membership, governing rules, meeting frequency, staffing, etc.
- Leadership: Chair and Vice-Chair are typically appointed by the Council Chair or elected by the Task Force as a whole.
- Membership and Appointment: Some task forces had members appointed by the Council Chair or City Executive with no formal application process. Others allow individuals to apply for membership and be selected by the City Council. Membership varied from 9 to 37 members comprised of government staff and institutional/community partners.
- Meeting Frequency: Typically monthly
- Subcommittees: Common topics - schools and education, firearms, health/mental health, social services, domestic violence and sexual assault
- Reporting: May require regular progress updates to the Mayor or City Council or a set timeline for deliverables.



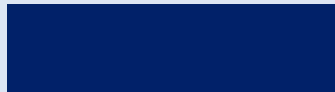
New York City, New York

- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force was created in June 2022 by Executive Order of the Mayor of new York City.
- Members were appointed by the Mayor, with the Task Force co-chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives and one community representative
- Task Force consisted of representatives from city agencies and community safety leaders from the non-profit, academic, and philanthropic communities.
- The Task Force meets weekly and regularly shares its progress with the Mayor.
- Each City agency appoints an Anti-Gun Violence liaison to serve as the primary agency point of contact.



Roanoke, Virginia

- Gun Violence Prevention Commission was created by ordinance in March of 2021 to study the issue of gun violence and recommend reduction strategies.
- The Commission had 9 members, one a member of the city council and the remaining being community members. The mayor is a non-voting member. Individuals must apply to be considered for membership by the City Council.
- The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary are chosen among the commission members.
- The Commission has a regular monthly meeting schedule and must present back to the city council at least once per calendar year.



Orange County, Florida

- The Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force was first convened in 2020 by the Orange County Mayor to brainstorm strategies to prevent gun violence. The group was reconvened in 2021 and 2022.
- The Task Force had 37 members appointed by the mayor, representing faith-based community, health professionals, community advocates, education professionals, law enforcement, and service-based organizations.
- Two co-chairs were chosen by the Mayor
- The Task Force had subcommittees on Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Prosecution. A staff liaison was dedicated to each committee for scheduling meetings, agenda and minute production, and scheduling of presentations.
- The Task Force produced a report and recommendations, and a crime survey on perceptions of violence and safety.



DISCUSSION?

