



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00600

Agenda Date: 6/25/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Gun Violence Prevention Activities Update

Presenter:

Carl Smart, Deputy County Manager of Community & Strategic Initiatives

Description:

Update and discussion on the various activities planned and underway to prevent gun violence.

Recommended Action:

Hear update and provide staff with direction

Prior Board Motions:

On 8/1/23 the Board adopted a Resolution declaring Gun Violence a public health crisis in Alachua County. The Board has held additional meetings with the City of Gainesville (8/28/23 and 3/25/24), also with the City of Waldo (5/9/24). The Board has also had some discussions with the Children's Trust of Alachua County (5/6/24). During these and other meetings the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions both committed \$150,000.00 each for gun violence prevention activities. The Children's Trust of Alachua County has also allocated \$250,000.00 for gun violence prevention activities.

Fiscal Note:

n/a – no fiscal impact associated with this update.

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

Both the City of Gainesville and Alachua County declared gun violence a public health crisis and are in agreement with addressing it using a public health model. Alachua County, the City of Gainesville, and Santa Fe College have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to form a Gun Violence Prevention Alliance. Alachua County staff working under the leadership of Deputy County Manager of Community & Strategic Initiatives Carl Smart to address gun violence include the Victim Services Rape Crisis Center Director, Project Coordinator, and the Alachua County Crisis Center Director along with their Assistant Department Director. The City of Gainesville has organized its staff efforts under the leadership of Fire Chief Joe Dixon, along with the Community Health Director and a newly created Gun Violence Program Manager position. Santa Fe College has organized its efforts under the leadership of Asha Brunings, the Interim Executive Director of Organization and Community

Engagement. The Alliance staff have met several times to implement the Memorandum of Understanding including planning for a larger community stakeholder group. A larger group of community stakeholders met on June 5, 2024 at the Santa Fe Blount Center to begin a strategic planning process to address gun violence in Alachua County. This stakeholder group will be meeting monthly and expects at its next meeting to draft a list of activities for the coming months. See the attachments for a listing of other specific activities taken to address gun violence.