CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Agenda Date:	August 21, 2023
Action Required:	None
Presenter:	Michael Kochis, Police Chief
Staff Contacts:	Misty Graves, Director of Human Services
Title:	**Internal Work Group on Gun Violence**

Background

In May of 2023, Interim City Manager Michael Rogers charged Chief Kochis and Misty Graves with chairing an internal working group comprised of Department Directors with the idea of developing areas of priority to address gun violence within the City of Charlottesville. Unlike the University of Virginia Task group on gun violence, which is taking a whole of community approach and this internal group is to focus on city government capacity to address issues effecting an increase in gun violence.

Part 1 crime (Serious crime defined by FBI Uniform Crime Reporting) is down in several categories over the last twelve months compared to the prior annual reporting period. Those categories where there has been a reduction include aggravated assault, arson, burglary, vehicle theft, rape, and robbery. The categories where there has been an increase include homicide, and larceny. While shots fired incidents are not categorized as part 1 crime, there has been an increase in both reports of shots fired calls and confirmed incidents of shots fired calls for service.
Furthermore, data suggests a correlation between where stolen vehicles are reported and where shots fired are reported.

Discussion

On May 26, 2023, the workgroup held its preliminary meeting and agreed that the group would examine data, speak with stakeholders, and identify specific deliverables.
On June 20, 2023, the workgroup met again to discuss heat maps, data, and information gleaned from weekly community walks, the youth council and conversations with community stakeholders.
On July 19, 2023, the workgroup met with members of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, (CRHA) to discuss needs and ways City Government can address gun violence within the areas that are most affected. Several initiatives/ideas were discussed relating to CRHA needs.

During this meeting ideas were identified and broken down into short- and long-term deliverables. The following is a list of short- and long-term deliverables:
Short term:

1. PSA campaign for responsible gun ownership

2. City government career/mentoring program/CIYIP
3. Graffiti removal
4. Crime prevention through environmental design, (CPTED) assessments of areas most effected by gun crime.
5. City to host teen take over nights.
6. Implementation of Flock ALPR (PowerPoint presentation)

Long term:

1. Youth pre-arrest diversion initiative between CPD and DHS
2. Identify and procure an undesignated space for youth.
3. Scholarship program for professional licenses such as CDL
4. The city enter into agreement with PVCC to guarantee employment
5. Subsidized program fees for city residents to have access to programs.
6. Implementation of a strategic plan specifically to address gun violence

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan
This project supports Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan, to be a Healthy and Safe City. Furthermore, this project supports the mission and vision of the Charlottesville Police Department, which states: In partnership with our community, we strive to improve the quality of life of those who live, work, and visit our city.

Community Engagement
The recommendations identified above are a result of many conversations with community stakeholders who live, and work in communities that are disproportionately affected by gun violence. Partnering with community stakeholders to receive feedback on these recommendations has allowed for thoughtful long- and short-term deliverables to be presented.

Budgetary Impact
As part of the FY 24 budget, City Council allocated $200,000 to help address gun violence. Those funds will be used to help implement the work of this task force. Budgetary impacts of the recommendations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Recommendation
NA

Alternatives
NA

Attachments
None