

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON

**PR24-1084, the “Sense of the Council on the Adoption and Implementation of
the Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Resolution of 2022”**

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Roundtable via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public roundtable on PR24-1084, the “Sense of the Council on the Adoption and Implementation of the Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan Resolution of 2022”. The roundtable will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The District continues to experience unacceptable levels of violence. From 2002 to 2021, the District saw, on average, 164 homicides -- an overwhelming number of which involved the use of a firearm. 2021 also marked the first time in 17 years that the number of homicides in the District surpassed 200, and the District has already experienced 190 homicides in 2022, to date. Victims of gun violence are also increasingly younger, with the number of fatal and non-fatal juvenile shooting victims almost doubling when compared to the same point last year. Moreover, the use of firearms across all violent crimes has almost doubled in a little over 10 years, from just 28% in 2011 to 58% in 2022. These levels of violence, fueled by the proliferation of firearms, among other factors, represent a public health crisis – a position shared by both the Council and Executive.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (“CJCC”) is an independent District agency that convenes criminal justice and law enforcement agencies – both District and federal – to identify challenges to, and find solutions for, improving public safety. In response to persistent levels of violence in the District, the CJCC has spent significant time considering comprehensive strategies for reducing gun violence. Throughout those discussions, various models of “focused deterrence” have emerged as promising strategies around which to coordinate the District’s public safety and criminal justice agencies. Focused deterrence strategies stem from a basic, verifiable premise: that an overwhelming majority of violent crime is committed by a small, identifiable number of individuals who operate in a limited number of places. By focusing on these “hot people” and “hot

places,” cities can dramatically reduce gun violence. Focused deterrence still relies on traditional law enforcement tools – arrests and prosecutions – when individuals commit violent crimes. But the strategy also relies on support-based initiatives within the criminal justice system – such as the service referrals and case management offered by violence interruption programs – and resources like housing, education, and employment assistance provided by core services agencies.

CJCC led discussions on adopting a focused deterrence model beginning in fall 2019. The initial component of this project was to conduct a “problem analysis,” which identifies the networks and individuals within a community which are at greatest risk of violence to help tailor interventions. The CJCC then contracted with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (“NICJR”) to develop a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy. In developing the plan, the NICJR researched national best practices, conducted interviews with key District agencies and community members, and hosted community events at which residents could provide input and feedback.

The NICJR published its [Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan](#) (“Plan”) for the District in April 2022. NICJR found that the District is “is one of the few cities in the country that has the needed talent, ability, and resources to drastically reduce gun violence in the city” and yet, paradoxically, is “lacking the political commitment, coordination, and a coherent strategy to reduce gun violence.” The Plan consists of three main components. The first component, Violence Prevention, focuses on the “elimination or reduction of the underlying causes and risk factors that lead to violence” in the first place. The second component, Violence Intervention, is “designed to prevent the reoccurrence of violence or intervene and prevent the imminent act of violence.” And the final component, Community Transformation, “refers to the elimination of factors that give rise to violence in a neighborhood, like poverty, blight, low performing schools, disinvestment, and chronic unemployment.” The Plan would leverage a whole-of-government approach to combat violent crime in the District, and it would synthesize many of the programs already being administered by the District. It is an ambitious, yet actionable, evidence-based strategy for reducing gun violence, and must be fully adopted without delay.

The Committee’s roundtable will focus on the status of the Plan’s adoption and implementation by the District government. The roundtable will also be an opportunity to re-examine ongoing initiatives related to gun violence prevention, how those initiatives should be incorporated into the Plan, and the troubling gun violence the District is continuing to experience, including gun crimes committed by youth.

This roundtable will be open to invited public witnesses only, but the Committee will schedule a future opportunity for other public witnesses to testify.

The public is also invited to submit written statements, which will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.gov. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Monday, December 19.**