

LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT



VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION PLAN

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Executive Summary

In May 2021, our city's violent crime reached 22%. However due to the hard work and dedication of all LRPD employees that rate has been reduced to 14%. **We believe one factor in the reduction can be attributed to the seizure of over 600 illegal weapons leading to the arrest of over 400 individuals in possession of illegal weapons.**

The City of Little Rock is the largest and the most culturally and economically diverse city in the State of Arkansas. The ability for the City to grow and improve the lives of its residents depends on its ability to effectively provide public safety. The residents, employers, and civic and community leaders with whom we speak routinely cited public safety as a principle concern affecting their decisions about where to live, where to locate their business, and how to make our City better and safer. What we have discovered is that violent crime within Little Rock displaces the criminal activity to another area of the city. That is why it is important to have a reduction plan that can be modified to meet the needs of each area of the city. This plan encompasses each of the 21st Century Policing Pillars. Those are:

- Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Policy and Oversight
- Technology and Social Media
- Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Training and Education
- Officer Wellness and Safety

The City of Little Rock, like other urban cities, has experienced significant reductions in crimes in certain categories in recent years. For example in 2019 and 2020 the city experienced reductions in overall crime. This has been attributed to improved policing strategies. Like other urban cities, Little Rock continues to experience increases in crimes of violence, drug crimes and nuisance crimes. These increases were noticed during the COVID pandemic. LRPD observed that warmer weather along with holidays initiated larger crowds. Which at times produced various violent crimes. Especially crimes of domestic violence and crimes with weapons. With this being said local, state, and county officials, in conjunction with business owners, visitors and residents must understand the increase in violence that cities are experiencing cannot be solely attributed to a lack of public safety initiatives? All stakeholders must be engaged and understand that our Little Rock and nation's violent crime increase is a public health concern. The Center for Disease Control has formally acknowledged that the increase in the nation's violence as a public health concern.

What does this mean? The economic costs of violence must include the direct costs of medical, law enforcement, legal services, lack of mental health services, homelessness, no value in education, a lack of respect for human life, a lack of conflict resolution, the indirect costs of lost earnings and productivity, lost investments in human capital, life insurance costs and reduced quality of life. Estimates of costs across cities vary widely due to the use of different methodologies, including the measurement of productivity losses via foregone wages and income, which tends to undervalue losses in low income communities. Despite these differences, there is

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no doubt that violence results in staggering costs through urban areas much of which is borne by the public sector. Bottom line, millions of dollars are spent annually as the result of violent crime. Violence causes many more injuries than deaths, with the latter typically representing “the tip of the iceberg”.

Citizens must realize that our criminal justice system consist of four prongs. The prongs consist of the community, law enforcement, the judicial system, and corrections system. All four prongs must work collaboratively if we are to have significant reductions in violence. We must utilize a holistic approach. Although this may sound cliché-ish, law enforcement executives have come to realize that we are unable to arrest our way out violent crime. LRPD will continue to engage our citizens and other non-law enforcement partners, in an effort to increase an understanding of violence as a potentially public health concern. Police staff believes this plan will provide insight to our community as it relates to both proactive and reactive steps taken by LRPD to address and reduce violent crime within the city.

Violent Crime Trends in Little Rock

Little Rock is a medium-sized city with slightly more than 200,000 residents and policed by almost 600 sworn police officers. The Capitol City of Arkansas, it is the hub of state government, banking and finance. It’s a diverse community with a rich history.

The Little Rock Police Department is tasked with continuing initiatives focused on reducing violent crime while answering calls for service, investigating property crimes and providing for the overall safety of its citizens. LRPD remains dedicated to reducing the increasing violent crime trend.

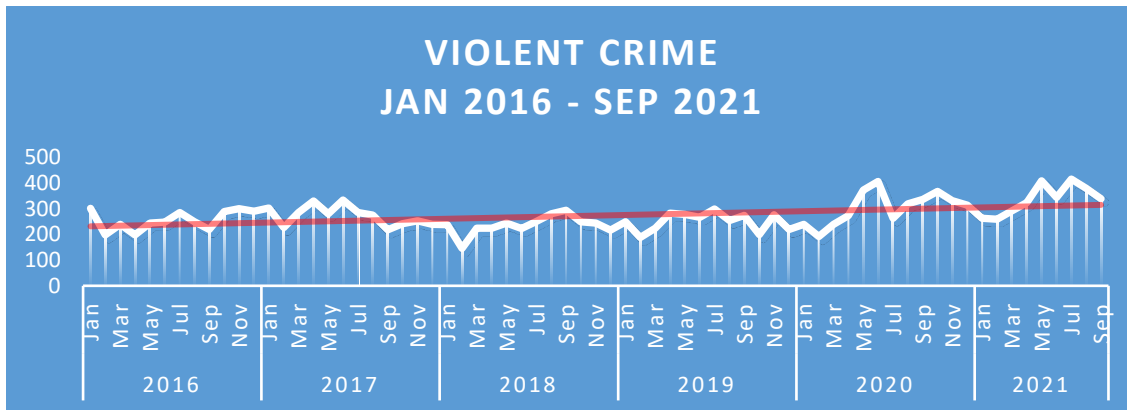
In four of the past five years, violent crime has increased. And violent crime is on a pace to increase again in 2021.

Year	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Violent Crime Total	VC % change
2016	42	143	659	2224	3068	6.32%
2017	52	166	499	2559	3276	6.35%
2018	42	191	365	2248	2846	-13.13%
2019	43	191	396	2385	3015	5.94%
2020	55	164	370	3068	3657	21.29%

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Despite the COVID pandemic in 2020 and the resulting lockdown, violent crime rose more than 20% in Little Rock. Through September 2021, the number of violent crime offenses reported in the city is up more than 15% compared to the same period in 2020. The primary driver of violent crime in Little Rock is firearms, and the LRPD focuses its violent crime reduction efforts in tracking and tracing the guns used in the commission of those crimes.

- In 2021, 22 of the 53 homicides the victim and suspects knew each other (domestically or casually).
- At least 5 of the incidents occurred inside of a residence.
- Nine (9) of the victims lived outside of Little Rock.
- Five (5) suspects who committed homicides were awaiting trial for a previous criminal incident (their bonds had been reduced or other reasons)
- Eight (8) homicide suspects resided outside of Little Rock
- One (1) homicide is unclear if it occurred within Little Rock



Just as cities larger, smaller, or of similar size, Little Rock has recognized a violent crime problem over the past several decades, and the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledged the issue in 2015 by inviting the city to participate in the Violence Reduction Network, a focused effort to put the LRPD together with other similarly-situated cities across the nation to come up with strategies and programs to fight violent crime.

At the end of that three-year period, LRPD had initiated many new programs focused on reducing violent crime. Those efforts continue.

Among those programs and initiatives are:

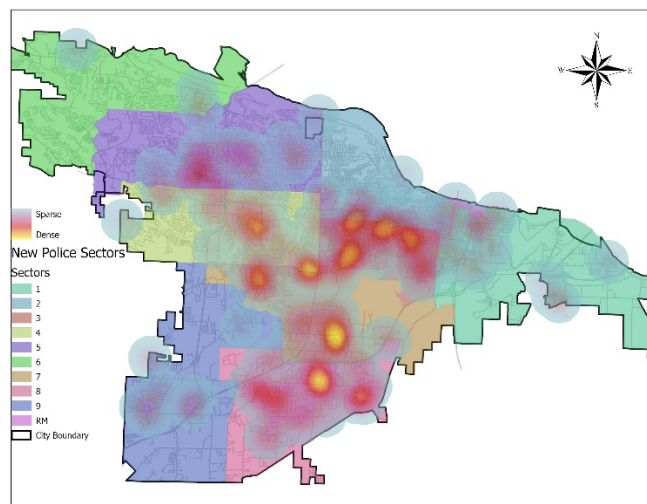
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- A Crime Gun Intelligence Unit, which tracks firearms evidence, linking shootings involving the same weapons together to help investigations. So far this year, there have been more than 500 investigative leads generated by that effort.
- Intelligence-Led Policing, in which the department’s Crime Analysis Unit identifies potential “hot-spots” where violent crimes are more likely to happen. Those areas are prioritized for extra patrol and enhanced visibility.
- Victim Advocates to address the needs of victims and families of victims of violent crimes
- Geographical Accountability, where individual patrol lieutenants are empowered to oversee all facets of crime within their area of responsibility, and are tasked with generating strategies to deal with issues in the “Hot-Spots” in creative ways. The focus is providing around the clock attention to a criminal behavior in a respective area.

Administrative Bureau Violent Crime Prevention Steps

The Administrative Bureau is made up of the Headquarters Division, Records and Support Division and the Training Division.

Also reporting directly to the Bureau Commander is the Crime Analysis Unit, which is responsible for providing maps and reports to all divisions for a weekly COMPSTAT meeting. Among the documents created are maps showing “hot spots” (example below) where violent crime activity is occurring and other reports useful in Focused Deterrence and Intelligence-Led Policing. Successfully filling all Crime Analyst vacancies provides a method of providing each bureau, division, and unit the data needed to deploy appropriate resources.



Field Services Bureau Violent Crime Prevention Steps

The Field Services Bureau is comprised of four patrol divisions which include the 12th Street Station Patrol Division, Northwest Patrol Division, Southwest Patrol Division, and the Special Operations Division. The bureau is divided into three (3) geographical areas according to the volume of calls for service, square miles, and population. The bureau is responsible for the deployment of resources consistent with the needs of the city utilizing intelligence led policing to deter criminal activity; target high crime areas and high risk individuals; and follow up on citizen complaints. The workload is driven by citizen calls for service and officer-initiated contacts.

Little Rock is like most urban cities, where violent crime is geographically concentrated in a relatively small number of areas within the city. There are a few glaring causational societal factors regarding violent crime that must be highlighted:

1. Violent crime offenses are often perpetuated by individuals with mobility who drive to a location to quickly strike their target and flee the scene before law enforcement is able to respond. The prerequisites are the accessibility of a firearm and vehicle.
2. Social media impacts societal behaviors due to users utilizing the platforms to victimize other users. Social media interactions don't always stay in cyberspace with the ramifications of posted content spilling out into society. Some violent offenses appear to be unprovoked but upon further investigation yield conflict that is shown to have started or been inflamed on social media. The prerequisites are the accessibility of the internet and a keyboard.
3. Verbal disputes serve as a catalyst to violence for acquaintances, intimate partners, families, and household members. These types of violent offenses are often unpredictable occurrences that are hard to detect and prevent. The prerequisite is a disagreement.

These three (3) factors and other root causes, increasingly challenge the Field Services Bureau in our strategizing to reduce violent crime. Commanders recognize staffing, data-driven deployments, planning, and information sharing as the key dynamics in violent crime reduction.

Staffing:

As we endeavor to reduce violent crime, a decline in staffing presents many challenges. This is concern even though over the last 5 years our commissioned staffing has averaged 92% (filled). 2021 Year-to-date Field Services Bureau has answered a total of 190,707 calls for service in comparison to 162,556 for 2020 for the same time period which is a 17% increase.

Using the Geographical Accountability Means Excellence Model or G.A.M.E. each of the three (3) divisional geographical areas are broken down into nine (9) sectors with nine (9) assigned shift commanders responsible for problem-solving.

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The River Market Entertainment District is a special geographical area that *has one (1) lieutenant* assigned to manage operations for pedestrian activity, traffic enforcement, crowd control, park patrol, and calls for service with most activity occurring during the evening and night-time hours.

We have established an “all in” philosophy. This means that every commissioned officer is being utilized in our violent crime reduction efforts. Realizing that each officer brings a level of expertise in our efforts to keep our city safe. Effective October 20, 2021, the department will launch a new online reporting system. Citizens will be able to complete offense reports for 17 Part 2 non-violent offenses online. This remarkable system will provide more opportunities for officers to remain highly visible, reactive, and proactive in areas that have been identified as hotspots.

Shift Commander	Division	Sector	Districts
Lieutenant Rusty Rothwell	12th	1	40, 41, 42
Lieutenant Zachary Farley	12th	2	52,53,54
Lieutenant Aaron Simon	12th	3	50, 51, 55
Lieutenant John Trent	NW	6	70,73
Lieutenant James Wheeler	NW	4	61,63,72
Lieutenant Michael Terry	NW	5	60,62,71
Lieutenant Scott Miles	SW	9	90,92
Lieutenant C.P. Thomas	SW	7	80,81,93
Lieutenant Brian Grigsby	SW	8	82,83,91
Lieutenant Cody Miller	12th	RM	39

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Shift assignments are made according to the volume of community-initiated calls and police-initiated calls for service for the twenty-four (24) hour operational cycle, with approximately 219 officers (See Patrol Assignments and River Market Tables).

Patrol Assignments			
	0700-1500	1500-2300	2300-0700
12th St	22	26	22
SW	20	22	22
NW	18	26	25
Total	60	74	69

Detectives	
Hours Vary/Subject to Callout	
12th St	6
SW	5
NW	5
Total	16

River Market	
Hours May Vary	
Days	6
Mids	6
Nights	4
Total	16

Community Resource Officers	
Hours Vary	
12th St	1
SW	1
NW	1
Total	3

Street Crimes Unit	
Hours Vary	
Sp Ops	13
Total	13

Motors & Hit & Run	
Hours Vary	
Motors	6
Hit & Run	2
Total	8

School Resource Officers	
School Hours	
SROs	2
	1
Total	2
	1

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Data Driven Deployments:

The Crime Analysis Unit continuously analyzes violent crime trends and developed *eleven (11) high crime zones* throughout the city. With the assistance of the Information Technology Department, this information was developed into mapping capabilities that provides historical data for marked unit presence in the zones and serves a management tool.

Division/28 Day Period	Traffic Stops	Citizen Contacts	Subject Stops
SW March 30-April 26	431	46	
12th March 30-April 26	295	60	
NW March 30-April 26	412	23	
SW April 6-May 3	360	53	
12th April 6-May 3	232	77	
NW April 6-May 3	347	34	
SW April 13-May 10	398	54	
12th April 13-May 10	330	84	
NW April 13-May 10	372	45	
SW April 20- May 17	376	51	
12th April 20- May 17	327	77	
NW April 20- May 17	347	56	
SW April 27-May 24	380	58	
12th April 27-May 24	329	90	
NW April 27-May 24	362	64	
SW May 11-June 7	476	72	
12th May 11-June 7	460	106	
NW May 11-June 7	455	64	
SW May 18-June 14	453	79	
12th May 18-June 14	446	119	
NW May 18-June 14	458	68	
SW May 25-June 21	511	81	
12th May 25-June 21	455	119	
NW May 25-June 21	482	69	
SW June 1-June 28	484	75	
12th June 1-June 28	393	92	
NW June 1-June 28	445	64	
SW June 8-July 5	421	67	
12th June 8-July 5	359	86	

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NW June 8-July 5	409	57	
SW June 15-July 12	390	48	
12th June 15-July 12	349	70	
NW June 15-July 12	376	45	
SW June 22-July19	420	68	
12th June 22-July19	370	101	
NW June 22-July19	409	72	
SW June 29-July 26	399	73	
12th June 29-July 26	350	107	
NW June 29-July 26	371	73	
SW July 13- Aug 9	383	80	
12th July 13- Aug 9	388	114	
NW July 13- Aug 9	392	63	
SW July 20-Aug 16	384	51	
12th July 20-Aug 16	413	82	
NW July 20-Aug 16	463	34	
SW July 27-Aug 23	426	42	
12th July 27-Aug 23	457	68	
NW July 27-Aug 23	500	26	
SW Aug 3-Aug 30	422	42	27
12th Aug 3-Aug 30	474	69	80
NW Aug 3-Aug 30	459	33	22
SW Aug 10-Sept 6	473	29	17
12th Aug 10-Sept 6	476	69	70
NW Aug 10-Sept 6	469	29	17
SW Aug 17-Sept 13	458	62	27
12th Aug 17-Sept 13	472	80	69
NW Aug 17-Sept 13	455	44	23
SW Aug 24-Sept 20	512	67	33
12th Aug 24-Sept 20	473	88	59
NW Aug 24-Sept 20	452	51	17
SW Aug 31-Sept 27	471	48	14
12th Aug 31-Sept 27	484	85	57
NW Aug 31-Sept 27	471	48	14
SW Sept 7-Oct 4	506	55	27
12th Sept 7-Oct 4	450	86	57
NW Sept 7-Oct 4	445	52	19

*Denotes statistic not yet captured

Planning-Evaluation-Information Sharing:

Every week, all Command Staff (Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Majors, and selected civilian staff) meet on Mondays and Thursdays. These meetings consist of strategic reviews to assess the effectiveness of the strategies regarding crime trends at which point decisions are made for any changes or adjustments. It is not uncommon for staff from Major Crimes, Intelligence, and Operations also meet to discuss violent crime trends occurring within the city.

In addition, the Field Services Bureau Commanders meet on Thursdays for additional discussion and strategizing for the bureau. The additional purpose is a recognized problem will be addressed continuously and not just confined to a respective shift.

Weekly or more frequently as required, all Command Staff, supervisory personnel, and investigative personnel meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for a series of meetings to discuss all Part 1 Offenses. During these meetings, internal information is provided to better inform field operations. Information related to each homicides and gun crimes is highlighted as it relates to homicide incident, the impacted division, and Major Crimes Division. Executive Commanders are continuously debriefed.

Every quarter, Field Service Bureau Commanders for the 12th Street Station Patrol Division, Northwest Patrol Division, and Southwest Patrol Division host Neighborhood Quarterly Meetings to facilitate transparency and stakeholder input on quarterly crime reports that outline high crime zone presence strategies, detailed information on observed changes in crime trends, and divisional staffing.

Investigative Bureau Violent Crime Prevention Steps

The Investigative Bureau is made up of the Major Crimes Division, Special Investigations Division and the 21st Century Policing Division.

Major Crimes Division is responsible for investigations of Violent Crimes in the city, which includes separate squads dedicated to investigating Robbery, Sexual Assault, Homicide, and other Violent Crimes. It includes a new squad dedicated specifically to Gun Crimes.

Crime analysts are embedded in both the Gun Crimes Units in Major Crimes and in SID in order to facilitate cooperation. The two divisions hold weekly Gun Crimes meetings to discuss activities and share intelligence on both sides.

The Special Investigations Division includes two squads dedicated to investigating Narcotics activity in Little Rock, as well as squads concentrating on Vice, Internet Crimes Against Children and Intelligence matters. In 2017, as the result of a federal grant, a Crime Gun Intelligence Unit was developed in SID. A further grant allowed for the purchase of a NIBIN (National Integrated

Ballistic Information Network) computer terminal, which allows specially-trained SID investigators to process ballistic information (bullets and shell casings) to determine whether they are linked to weapons used in other firearms cases.

The grants also allowed for the deployment of ShotSpotter technology in a specifically-selected part of the city. The ShotSpotter area was selected based on an analysis of five-years of gun crimes data. The gunshot-detection software directs officers to specific locations where weapons were fired. Evidence collected as a result of the detected gunshots is then fed into the NIBIN terminal for comparison to evidence from other firearms crimes.

In addition to the Crime Gun Intelligence Unit, the Bureau's Special Investigations Division also includes the LRPD's task force officers, who partner with federal investigative agencies like the DEA, FBI, and ATF to address violent crime in the Little Rock area. In May an additional task force officer was permanently assigned to the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) task force. This has provided an additional resource to hopefully double the number of violent gun crimes referred for federal prosecution.

In addition to officers currently being assigned to the Drug Enforcement Agency Task force, an expanded partnership with the DEA is focused on preparing gun cases for federal prosecution and includes a new effort called the Domestic Cartel Initiative, which has just gone operational. The plan allows five (5) agents with the DEA to temporarily set up their operations in the SID office and work with the narcotics and street narcotics squads. Narcotics use and trafficking will be the nexus of the investigations which will focus on violent offenders and/or gang members. We believe that this 60-90 day operation will result in the reduction of violent crime, particularly that crime which is related to illegal narcotics.

Thirty-one homicides have been solved. Which is a 58% arrest rate for current year homicides. The national average is 50-54%. Since January 2021 Forty-five (45) gun cases have been referred for federal prosecution** The department's partnership with the United States Attorney's Office has been crucial in our efforts to remove violent offenders from the streets of Little Rock. Any gun crime that occurs within 1000 feet of a park or school will be presented for federal prosecution. **The significance of federal prosecution is there is no early parole. Also, the offender must serve at least 90-95% of their sentence.

Economic Impacts of Violent Crime

Violent crimes (murders, rapes, assaults, and robberies) impose concrete economic costs on the victims who survive as well as the families of those who lose their lives, in the loss of earnings and their physical and emotional tolls. Violent crimes also impose large costs on communities through lower property values, higher insurance premiums, and reduced investment in high-crime areas. In addition, violent crimes impose significant costs on taxpayers, who bear the financial burden of maintaining the police personnel and operations. Reduction in violent crime would

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provide an array of tangible and intangible savings for the City of Little Rock. Successful efforts to reduce violent crime can generate significant savings for the city budget and large benefits for residents, as well as increase property values. Successful efforts can also produce an array of tangible savings to include but not limited to, reduction in pain & suffering of victims, increased quality of life for residents, higher investment levels and property values.

A thorough budget analysis will be required to determine the exact savings to conclude the direct effect on the City of Little Rock Budget. Based on an analysis conducted by the ^{Center} of American Progress in Dallas determined, a budgetary saving. If their rates of violent crime declined by either 10 percent or 25 percent, the savings could include lower expenditures on law enforcement and the justice system, as well as the additional revenues that the city could expect to collect from applying local taxes to the income earned by those who otherwise would have been victims or perpetrators of those crimes.

Below is a list of LRPD staffing levels. Upon review, there has been a 50% increase in sworn positions. Which results to positive presence it the community.

LRPD Sworn Positions					
Year	Number Authorized	Number Filled	Number Vacant	Capacity Rate	Vacancy Rate
2016	594	488	106	82%	18%
2017	594	488	106	82%	18%
2018	594	488	106	82%	18%
2019	594	554	40	93%	7%
2020	594	563	31	95%	5%
2021	594	540	54	91%	9%

Sworn Positions Only					
Authorized	Filled	Vacant	Capacity Rate	Vacancy Rate	
593	540	53	91%	9%	
Non-Sworn Positions Only					
Authorized	Filled	Vacant	Capacity Rate	Vacancy Rate	
97	86	11	89%	11%	
All Full Time Positions Only					
Authorized	Filled	Vacant	Capacity Rate	Vacancy Rate	
690	626	64	91%	9%	

Police Community Relations

The primary objective of police community relations is **to establish a collaborative partnership that can analyze problems, design and implement solutions that are truly community-based.** In doing this the Little Rock Police Department has partnerships who serve and sponsor events such as Gun Buy Back, tickets to Arkansas Repertory Theater for victims of violence, and the Faith based community.

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Community Partnerships 2021
Arkansas Asian Pacific Collation
Arkansas Black/Brown Pride Organization
Arkansas Repertory Theater
Arkansas School for Blind-Deaf - School
DORI- Arkansas Baptist College
Dunbar Neighborhood Association
Handle Barbershop (Chop it UP with a Cop)
Healing Hearts
Islamic Center of Little Rock (Ramadan End)
Jericho Way
Latino Pastor's
Longley Baptist Church
Moms Demand Action
Neighborhood Crime Watch Groups
Next Level Strategy- Professional Development
Our House
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Philander Smith College
Prince Hall Lodge/Masons
Saint Mark Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church
Second Presbyterian Church (Life Quest)
UALR - Intern Social Worker
USA Veterans Hope Center
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Short and Long Term Responses:

- *Interval assignments of patrol officers (uniformed officer and marked patrol unit) to remain in identified high crime zones with their emergency lights activated for fifteen (15) minutes during peak hours of crime as identified in each division's Impact Map.*
- *Focused deterrence (uniformed and covert officers in marked and unmarked patrol units) on high-risk individuals in high crime zones through circulating and surveillance of repeat offenders who have been identified through a separate analysis of arrestees and who live or are known to frequent the high crimes zones.*
- *Special operations with other city departments (i.e. Fire, Planning, Housing & Neighborhood Programs, Public Works, 311, LRPD Social Worker, Parks and Recreation, etc.) to address crime, code violations/city ordinances, life safety, and quality of life issues at multi-family apartment complexes.*
- *Continue weekly gun crimes and violent crime meetings. What we have noticed is that real-time information shared between Major Crimes and Operations has led and will continue to lead to significant arrests and identification of violent suspects.*
- *School Resource Officers Increased deployment of Operation Watchful Eye. A program which focuses on the social media of school youth to capture threats of potential violent acts before they occur. Parents are provided this information in an effort to immediately address the behavior. This information is also shared with school officials*
- *Continued saturation details by personnel (uniformed and non-uniformed) in areas identified as hotspots*
- *Continued monitoring and enforcement at two multi-family housing locations that have experienced increases in violent crimes*
- *Continue our partnership with our federal law enforcement partners. Operation Cease Fire Partnership with Federal Partners resulted in 61 total physical arrests (10 of the most violent felons were arrested in the first 4 hours of the initiative, 80 felony charges and 26 misdemeanor charges), 12 firearms seized, \$16,095 seized. This is an ongoing initiative that will be conducted for the remainder of the year*
- *Continue the increased patrols in areas that have been identified as hotspots for potential violent crime*
- *Continue to work with external stakeholders who have provided valuable information related to the identity of suspects involved in violent crimes*
- *Continue to work with the States Juvenile Department in efforts to identify juveniles who have a history of violent criminal activity. We believe the arrests of several juvenile offenders with violent criminal history may have interrupted numerous possible homicides and violent gun crimes*
- *Continue to work with Arkansas Department of Corrections, State Probation and Parole to keep track violent parolees and probationers*

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- *Continue to utilize the department's NIBIN system which has identified several guns utilized in violent crimes*
- *Continue to deploy a newly created task force consisting of housing, code enforcement, fire department, and police department to address quality of life issues within the city, by working with the City Attorney's Office and Board of Directors to strengthen the current City Abatement Process*
- *Establish a city- wide Conflict Resolution Training Program to help youth and young adults in the community recognize the importance of respecting others*
- *LRPD Command Staff will continue to network with cities throughout it nation to share ideas and initiatives (new ideas)*
- *Continue to increase our social media footprint to increase and improve communications with internal and external stakeholders (FB, Twitter, Instagram, New Developed City Website, and New Citizen Crime Application –ATLAS)*
- *The reimplementaion of the Police Service Assistant Program. This program trains civilian employees to respond to non-emergency calls. (Non-injury accidents, certain property crimes, and information reports etc.). This resources will help reduce officer response times and allow more discretionary time in hot spot areas. Convene internal and external stakeholders to establish a Little Rock Against Gun Violence Committee (LRAGV). Following an initial meeting to establish the mission and the vision of the group a town hall type of meeting would be facilitated. Once this occurred then either a quarterly or biennial meeting would be required to follow the effectiveness of this resource. This group would consist of:*

- The Mayor (or designee)
- The City Manager (or designee)
- Board of Directors
- Local, County, State, and Federal Criminal Justice Professionals (LE, Judicial, and Corrections)
- Medical Professionals
- Social Services
- Mental Health Professionals
- Faith Based Partners
- Community Leaders
- UALR, Philander Smith College, Shorter College, and Arkansas Baptist College
- Media Experts (as facilitators for the initial meeting)
- Non Profits
- Little Rock Public Schools
- Neighborhood Watch Leaders
- Parents of Victims of Violence
- Conflict Resolution Experts

Summary

This document serves as the Violent Crime Reduction Strategic Plan of the Little Rock Police Department. It contains data driven methods that have proven to be short, mid, and long-term strategies to address violence and its underlying conditions in the City of Little Rock over the next three years. In any city, violent crime is caused by a combination of social, structural, and environmental conditions, many which are outside of the direct control of the police. As criminal justice and bail reform efforts continue to gain traction throughout the nation and in Arkansas, legislators and judges must be cognizant of how bail decisions can impact violent crime by increasing the number of offenders on pre-trial release, a portion of whom will commit additional crimes while on release pending trial. We continue to experience this in Little Rock. In order for this plan to be effective there must be active participation, cooperation, and investment by a wide-range of stakeholders in Little Rock, including City leadership, multiple City, County, State, and Federal partners, faith based organizations, non-profits, research partners, and community members themselves. LRPD recognizes its leading role in protecting the safety of our city, its residents, visitors, and business owners, and the department must continue to take the lead in executing this plan.

In the short-term, LRPD will continue to execute a hot spot, geographical accountability means excellence strategy to continue to increase police visibility in identified violent crime areas and deter violent offenders through lawful enforcement and surveillance activity. As a mid-term strategy, LRPD will coordinate and lead a place-based enforcement strategy to identify and target networks of crime prone places to arrest offenders and address underlying environmental conditions conducive to crime. Long-term, LRPD will lead a problem oriented, focused deterrence strategy to arrest and prosecute violent offenders, deter others from committing violent crimes, and facilitate the provision of social services to crime prone individuals willing to take advantage of them. At the same time, LRPD will work with City leadership and other city and non-profit partners to address urban blight by hopefully “greening” vacant lots, improving the appearance of vacant and neglected houses, and abating crime conducive environmental conditions at multi-family housing complexes (crime free multi-housing initiatives). From short term to long term, LRPD is committed to facilitating the independent evaluation of these strategies to document our successes or failures and to provide a roadmap for future leaders in Little Rock and beyond to follow in their continuing efforts to reduce violence and the toll it takes on our community.

All must remember these strategies are evidence based and purposely designed to work with other entities to recognize the increase in violent crime as a public health crisis. This must be acknowledged in efforts to affectively lower violent crimes and improve the environmental conditions that facilitate it, recognizing that lowering poverty, improving education, reducing unemployment, improving food insecurity, and supporting families are also critical to reducing violence in communities in the long term.