

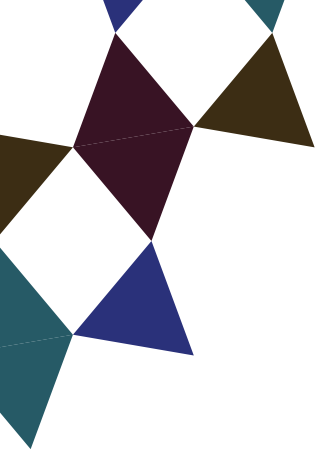
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

# ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

Executive Report ❖ *February 2017*

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MAYOR JORGE ELORZA



## MEMBERS OF MAYOR ELORZA'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

**Sol Rodriguez**, Executive Director of Open Doors (Chair)

**PJ Fox**, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence

**Pilar McCloud**, Chairwoman of the NAACP Youth Division

**Dr. Toby Ayers**, Executive Director of the Rhode Island for Community and Justice

**Eugene Monteiro**, President and CEO of CCRS

**Jordan Seaberry**, Chairman of the Univocal Legislative Minority Advisory Commission

**Steven Paré**, Commissioner of Public Safety

**Hugh Clements**, Colonel, Chief of Providence Police Department

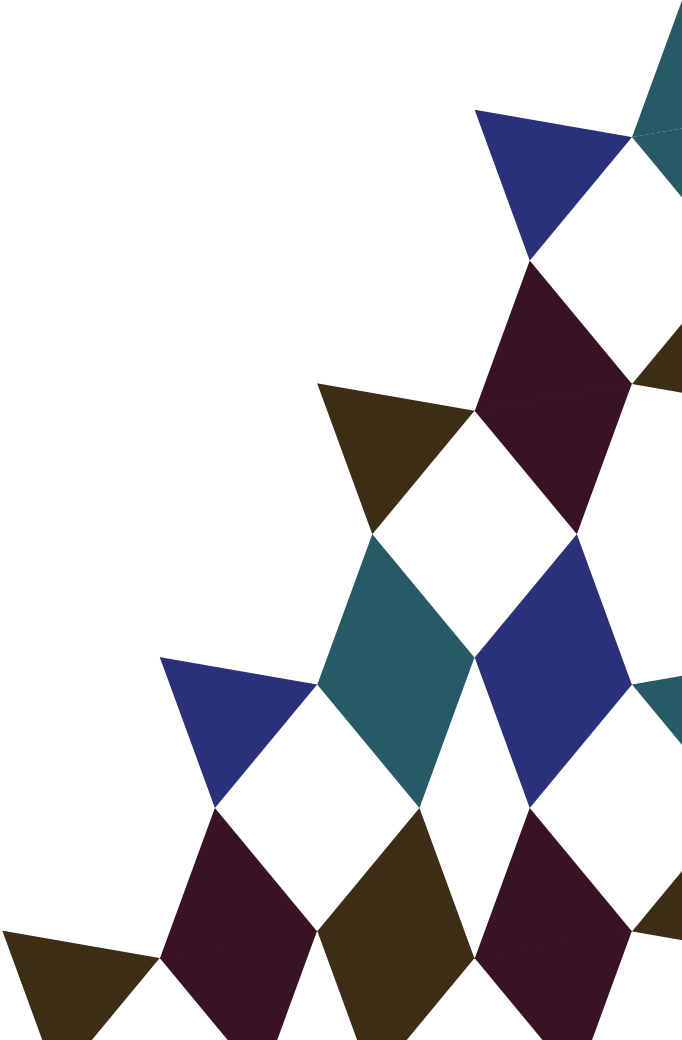
**Anthony Roberson**, Detective, Providence Police Department

**Oscar Perez**, Captain, Providence Police Department

**Courtney Hawkins**, Chief Policy Officer for the City of Providence

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 3rd, 2015, Mayor Jorge O. Elorza issued an executive order commissioning the creation of the Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence (Appendix A). The council was established to catalyze collaboration between community stakeholders, law enforcement, and the Mayor's policy team to generate creative solutions to reduce gun violence in the City of Providence.

Throughout the six meetings in its first year, the Advisory Council reviewed data in Providence and best practices nationally (Appendix B). The group considered strategies such as social media campaigns targeted towards youth, opportunities for collaboration with other cities engaged in the New England Summit to Reduce Gun Violence (Appendix C), and ways to engage gun owners to promote gun safety, safe storage and prevent theft. The group also reviewed the feasibility of different legislative approaches both at the municipal and state level.

Based upon this work, the Advisory Council puts forth the following key recommendations for the administration and the Providence Police Department to reduce gun violence in the City.

### **1. SYSTEMIZE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPONSE TO SHOOTINGS**

- A. Strengthen and formalize partnerships between communities, the Providence Police Department and local nonprofit organizations to respond to shootings with the proper social supports for both victims and perpetrators

### **2. PROMOTE POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH**

- A. Support the launch and capacity building of the Providence Juvenile Hearing Board
- B. Strengthen summer job opportunities for teens in Providence
- C. Uplift the perspectives of youth in gun violence policy discussions

### **3. REDUCE ILLEGAL GUNS ON THE STREETS THROUGH OUTREACH STRATEGIES**

- A. Strengthen and communicate the Police Department's gun amnesty policy
- B. Prevent home gun theft through community education and engagement
- C. Promote anonymous tip line

Together, these recommendations reflect the key themes that have emerged from the Advisory Council's work. By using these as a roadmap moving forward, the Advisory Council will evaluate the implementation of these approaches and monitor their success through the continued review of gun violence trends in Providence.

## NATIONAL CONTEXT AND PROVIDENCE OVERVIEW

### NATIONAL CONTEXT

At the national level, gun violence has been identified as a public health issue by the American Public Health Association as a result of its devastating impact on our communities. Each year, roughly 12,000 people are killed in gun-related homicides<sup>i</sup>. This figure translates to approximately 3.5 gun homicides per 100,000 residents in the United States, a rate 25 times that of most developed nations<sup>ii</sup>. While the gun homicide rate has decreased dramatically from 7 homicides per 100,000 in 1993, gun violence rates in the United States are still far higher than those of other developed countries<sup>iii</sup>.

Violence associated with guns has had a disproportionate impact on America's youth. Among individuals between the ages of 15 and 24, gunshot wounds account for more deaths than any other cause of death with the exception of motor vehicle accidents. Additionally, gun crimes are one of the most common causes of incarceration amongst Americans under the age of 25. Though young people between the ages of 10 and 29 account for 35 percent of the national population, they were implicated in 65 percent of all gun charges in 2012<sup>iv</sup>.

Gun violence has also continually had a disparate impact on people of color, with young, black males falling victim to gun violence at a rate 4.5 times that of their white counterparts. While incidences of gun violence have been decreasing over the past two decades, guns continue to have a devastating impact on families and communities, particularly in America's cities<sup>v</sup>.

## PROVIDENCE OVERVIEW

Like most urban communities, Providence is forced to grapple with the impact of gun violence on its residents. Per the Rhode Island Superior Court, 64 percent of Rhode Island's gun-related criminal cases since 1995 have originated in Providence, indicating that the capital city is the State's most active municipality with regards to gun violence. Firearm deaths have repeatedly affected the lives of Providence residents in profound ways and as a result, the city has utilized a variety of strategies to reduce gun violence.

Figure 1: Shooting Victims by Year in the City of Providence



Over the past decade, the prevalence of gun violence in Providence increased from a low of 47 shootings in 2006 to a peak of 110 shootings in 2011. Figure 1 illustrates the shooting victims each year. The trend in part may be due to the economic climate and recession beginning toward the end of 2007. Since its peak in 2011, shootings have been steadily declining. In 2015, there were 81 shootings in Providence, a figure that represents a 12 percent decrease from 2014.

The Providence Police Department (PPD) has a number of structures in place that aim to combat guns and shootings. In 2014, the Providence Police Department created a Gun Control Unit to work collaboratively with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in order to track and seize firearms in the city. Housed under the Investigative Division of the Providence Police Department, the Gun Control Unit is on the forefront of the city's efforts to seize illegal guns. In this year to date, the Gun Control Unit has seized 174 guns and made 136 arrests associated with those seizures. The Gun Control Unit has a robust data collection infrastructure that allows

the Providence Police Department to make informed decisions and formulate a strategy for combatting gun violence.

PPD has also consistently demonstrated a commitment to implementing community policing strategies within the city. The Providence Police Advisory Board aims to integrate the perspectives of key community stakeholders into the operations of the public safety department and programs such as the Providence Police Explorer Program create a more collaborative culture between the city's youth and public safety officers. These structures have set a solid foundation for Providence's gun reduction strategy but increased resource capacity would allow for improvement and growth in future operations.

The following sections will outline data and analyses that have served as the basis of the Advisory Council's work and informed the Council's recommendations.

### **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GUN VIOLENCE**

There are a number of neighborhoods within the city that experience higher rates of gun violence, in particular: Upper South Providence, Lower South Providence, Elmwood, and the West End. Over the last 10 years, each of these neighborhoods experienced over 50 shootings. Additionally, Providence's Mount Hope, Downtown, Olneyville and Wanskuck neighborhoods each experienced between 26 and 50 shootings over the past 10 years. The neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of shootings are disproportionately impacted by poverty.

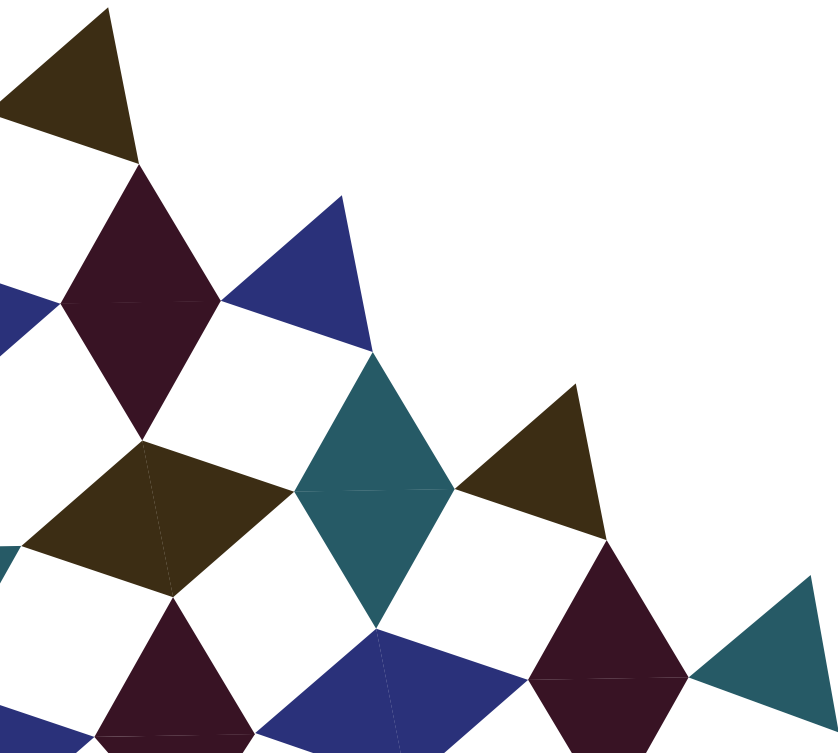


Figure 2: Person Shot in Providence by Neighborhood 2006 - 2015

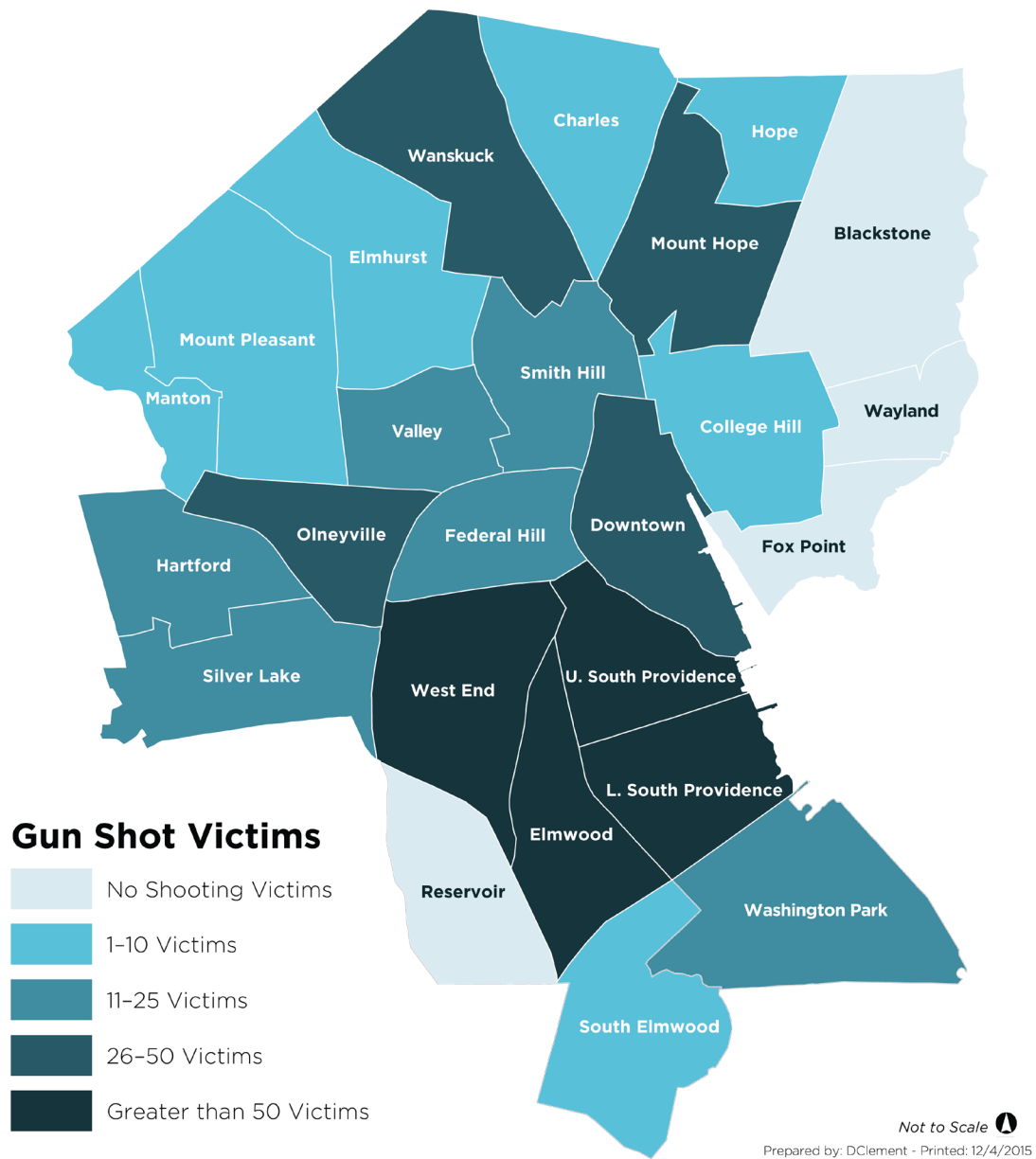
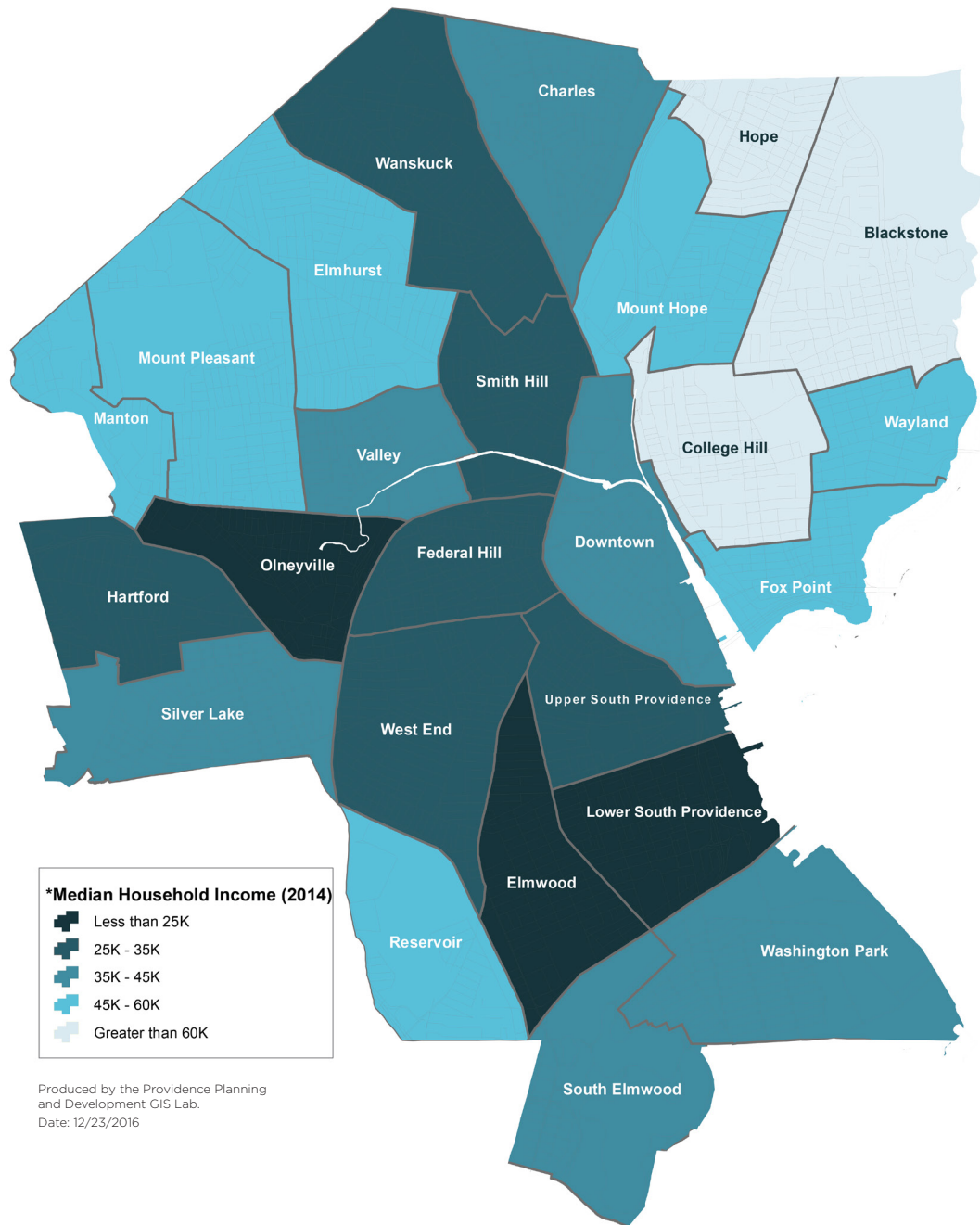




Figure 3: Median Household Income (2014) by Neighborhood

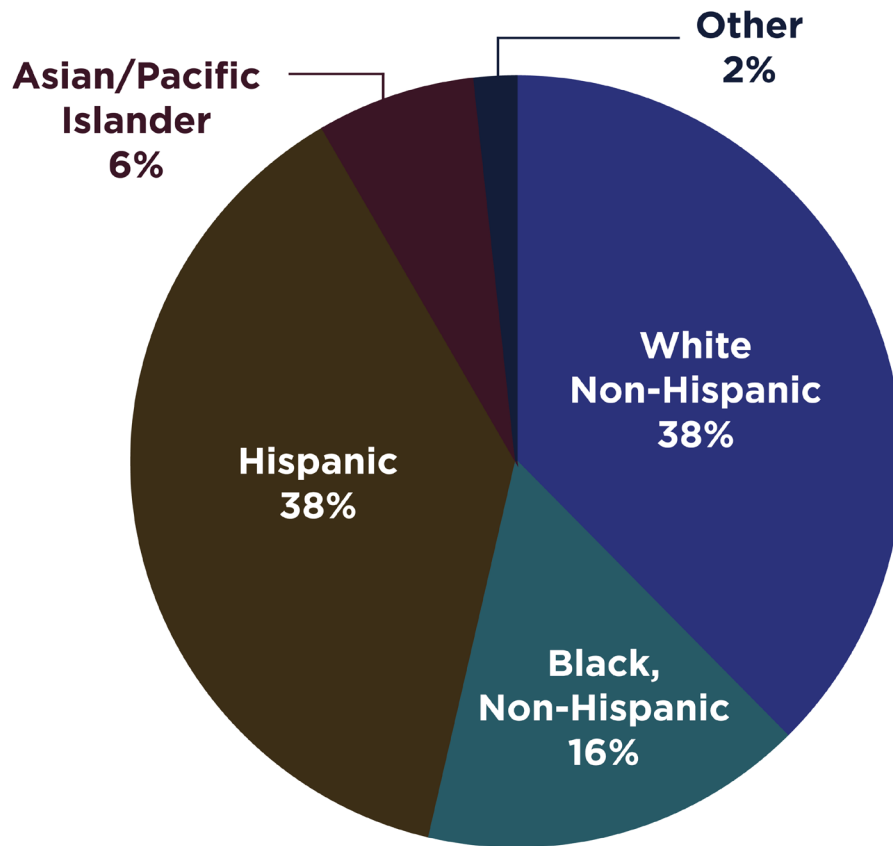


Produced by the Providence Planning and Development GIS Lab.  
Date: 12/23/2016

## RACIAL DISTRIBUTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

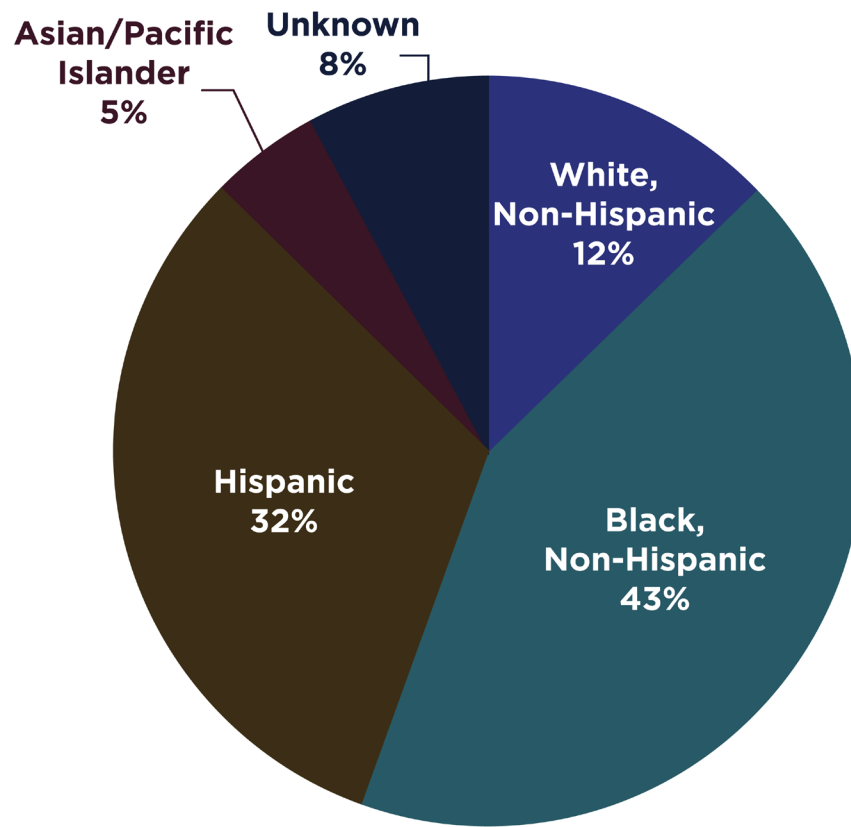
Perhaps more significant than the City's shooting rate and gun homicide rate is an understanding of the distribution of the impact of gun violence across city demographics. Providence's population is comprised of 37.6 percent white, non-Hispanic residents, 16 percent black residents and 38 percent Hispanic residents. However, as these figures are compared to shooting data from 2016, there are some clear racial disparities in the impact of shootings across demographics. Similar to national data, people of color in the City of Providence are far more likely to fall victim of a shooting than white residents. This is indicative of inequalities that exist across the City, regarding resources and income, geographic segregation, and other factors. The City must grapple with these realities in order to create a safer and more equitable Providence.

Figure 4: Racial Distribution of Population in Providence



The "Other" category consists of Native Americans as well as census responses such as multiracial, mixed, and interracial.

Figure 5: Racial Distribution of Shooting Victims in Providence, 2016



This data is based upon hospital intake forms of shooting victims in Providence. The “Unknown” category denotes individuals for whom a response was not given.

## YOUTH AND GUN VIOLENCE

In Providence, as is the case throughout the United States, individuals under the age of 30 are affected by gun violence at a rate far higher than individuals above this age threshold. At the national level, 54 percent of the nation's homicide victims were under the age of 30 despite constituting merely 35 percent of the population<sup>vii</sup>. In the City of Providence since the beginning of 2006, 79 percent of shooting victims are below the age of 30 and 48 percent of all shooting victims in the city are between the ages of 18 and 24. Additionally, there have been 45 juvenile arrests under the state's possession of firearms statutes, translating to 6.4 juvenile arrests per year.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), administered by the Providence Public School Department, is a national public health survey that offers insights into youth risk behavior including access and engagement with guns. In 2012, results indicated that 6.9 percent of Providence high school students had carried a gun in the past thirty days in comparison with 5.3 percent of students nationwide. Furthermore, 9.3 percent of Providence high school students had carried a weapon on school property during the same period, compared to 4.1 percent of high school students nationally. These were particularly high among boys surveyed.

Shooting data suggests that young adults in Providence are impacted by gun violence at a rate far higher than above the age of 30. Since 2010, 65 percent of individuals charged with gun-related crimes have been 25 years old or younger.

Figure 6: Age Distribution of Shooting Victims from 2006–2016

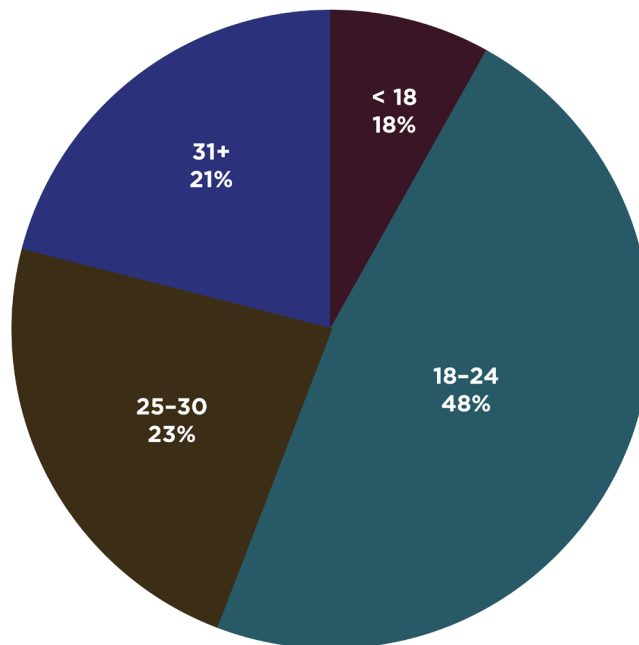
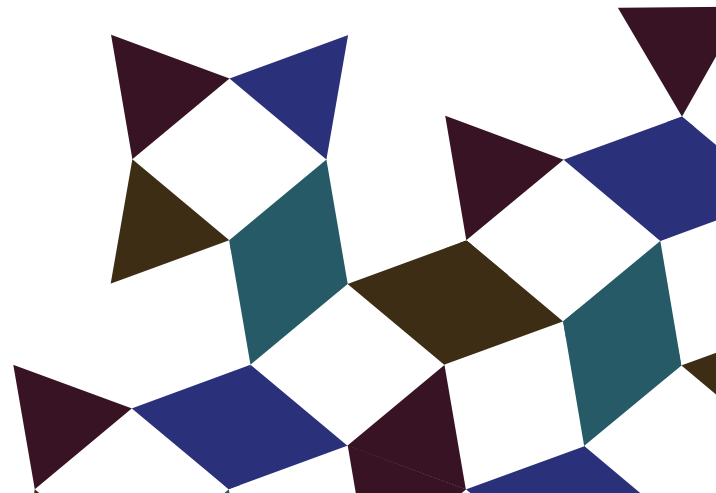
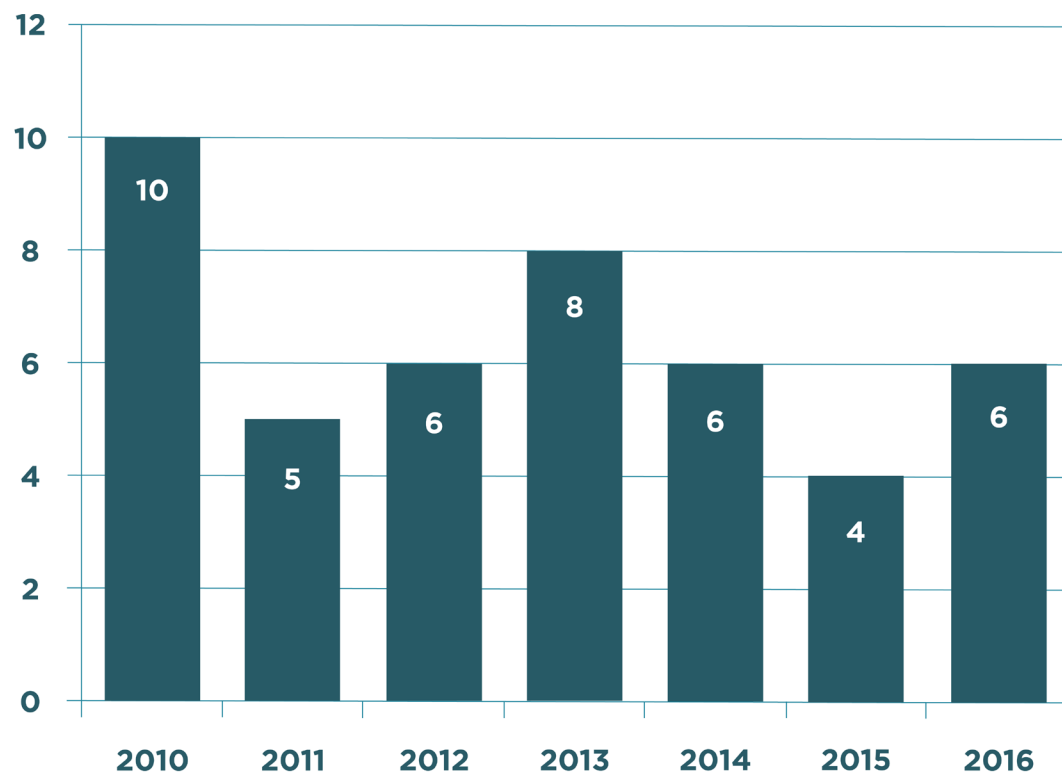


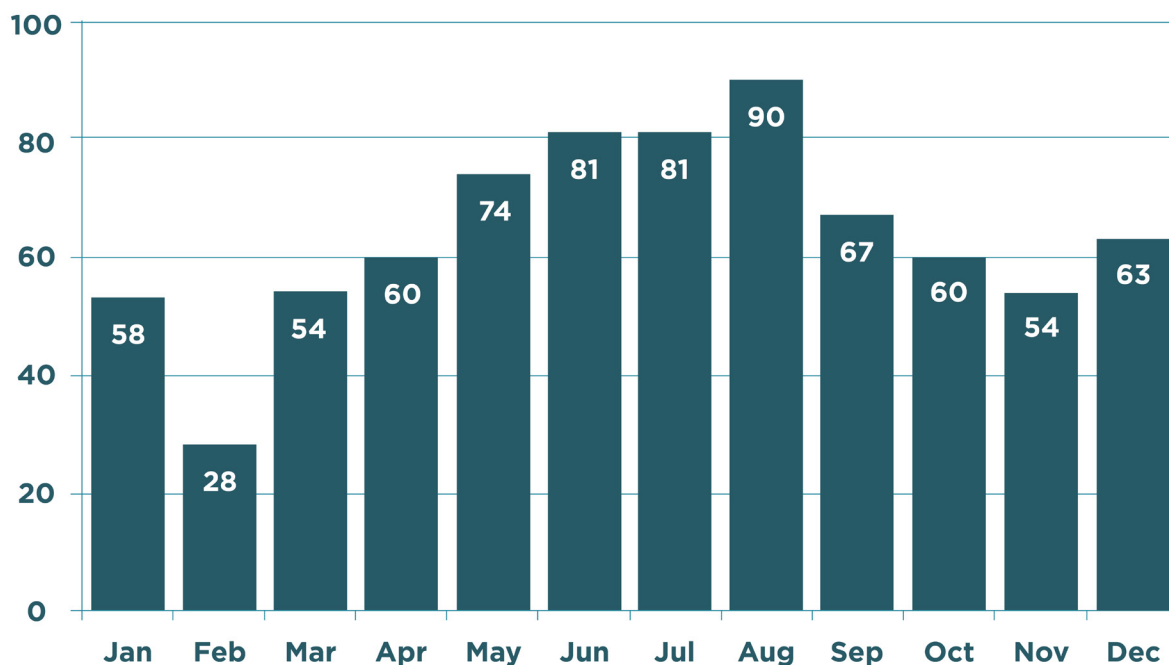
Figure 7: Juvenile Gun Violations in Providence by Year



## SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

In the City of Providence, the highest volume of gun crimes occurs during the months of June, July and August. During the summer months over the past ten years, there have been 81 shootings during the month of June, 81 shootings during the month of July and 90 shootings during the month of August. This translates to an average of 8.4 shootings per summer month. There have been 513 shootings over a 10 year period during winter, spring and fall months, or 5.7 per month over this period. In comparison during summer months, there are 1.5 times as many shootings as there are during non-summer months. The Advisory Council has identified summer months as a key issue in the effort to decrease gun violence in the City of Providence and will structure future efforts around the targeted reduction of summer gun violence.

Figure 8: Shootings by Month of Year in Providence



## RECOMMENDATION AND KEY FINDINGS

The Mayor's Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence puts forth the following recommendations to the Mayor with high priority action items and researched best practices. The overall goal of the recommendations is to reduce the number of shootings that occur within the city of Providence. Each of these recommendations requires close collaboration with community stakeholders and ongoing commitment from the Advisory Council to work towards achieving these goals in tandem with the Administration and the Public Safety Department.

### 1. SYSTEMIZE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPONSE TO SHOOTINGS

The first recommendation to reduce shootings in Providence is to systemize collaboration between Providence Police Department and community organizations in response to shootings. By strengthening collaborative efforts between PPD and local organizations, the City can push a holistic approach to its gun violence reduction strategy by building a network of support for those who are involved in shootings.

#### **A. Strengthen and formalize partnerships between communities, the Providence Police Department, and local non-profit organizations to respond to shootings with the proper social supports for both victims and perpetrators**

Some of the most valuable resources that the City of Providence has in its effort to counteract gun violence are its non-profit organizations that respond to violence and provide the necessary social supports. The Providence Police Department has a number of partnerships with organizations that work towards this end. For instance, the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence has been nationally recognized for its streetworker model and has worked in partnership with the Police Department for 15 years. The Institute's streetworkers are critical resources to defuse conflicts on the street, to build relationships with individuals implicated in gang and gun violence, and to advocate for victims of shootings and their families. Other organizations such as Family Service of Rhode Island are also essential partners to the Police Department in responding to victims and helping to counsel children and families experiencing trauma in the wake of violence.

In order to fully leverage all available resources and deploy organizations in the most effective way possible, the Advisory Council recommends that the Police Department set up a formalized structure to debrief with key local stakeholders after shootings occur. This collaborative effort between the Police Department and community stakeholders will serve to create a more coordinated response to gun violence as it occurs within the city. This process would allow for more effective referrals, stronger integration of information, and a more effective use of resources to prevent escalation after a shooting and to adequately serve those who need support.

### Action Steps

- ✠ Providence Police Department to determine strategic partners that can provide the most well-rounded services and actions in response to shootings
- ✠ Create a formalized meeting structure between the Providence Police Department and partners after weekly command staff meetings, with clear agreements regarding roles and responsibility
- ✠ Formally establish a lead coordinator within the Providence Police Department to convene and lead meetings
- ✠ Monitor and evaluate the success of referrals and actions as part of these meetings, along with general trend data regarding shootings

## 2. PROMOTE POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH

Young adults are the most frequent perpetrators and victims of gun violence both nationally and within the City of Providence. These efforts will serve to both provide institutional supports to the young adults that are most commonly impacted by gun violence and to integrate their experiences into future decision-making processes. In this section, we define young adults as individuals under the age of 25 and juveniles as individuals under the age of 18.

### A. Support the launch and capacity building of the Providence juvenile hearing board

The Mayor's Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence recommends that the City support efforts to revitalize diversion opportunities for Providence's youth. Juvenile hearing boards provide youth arrested for misdemeanors (such as shoplifting, vandalism, simple assault, disorderly conduct, DUI) and status offenses (such as truancy) an opportunity to be diverted from the courts. In lieu of being subjected to traditional court proceedings, juveniles may sit before a hearing board that determines appropriate sanctions such as community service, restitution and counseling.

In Providence, legislation for a juvenile hearing board has existed since 1992 but the program is currently not operational. In 2016, City Council passed an amended version of the ordinance developed with the advocacy of community stakeholders and the Providence Police Department. The new ordinance creates a stronger structure with a greater number of hearing board appointees and a coordinator position to manage the administrative work. Rhode Island for Community and Justice has lead efforts to begin training volunteers who are interested in serving on the board. City Council must appoint members to the board in order for it to begin operations.

National research tells us that diverting youth into non-legal disciplinary systems is an effective means of impacting their future behavior. Studies measuring the recidivism rates of teens that participated in diversion programs similar to the



juvenile hearing board suggest that on average, diverted teens are 10 percent less likely to reoffend<sup>viii</sup>. Diversion serves a preventative measure in the fight against gun violence, as it provides at-risk teens with an opportunity to seek help and change their behavior before they get involved in more serious criminal activities.

### **Action Steps**

- ✦ Work with City Council to appoint members to the newly formed Providence Juvenile Hearing Board so that it may begin diverting juveniles from the courts
- ✦ Encourage linkages of the board to stakeholders and institutions
- ✦ Integrate Providence Public School Department into the operations of the juvenile hearing board in order to hold individual students accountable and keep them on the right track
- ✦ Amend ordinance to create a waiver process through which non-Providence residents could be appointed to the hearing board
- ✦ Broaden recruitment efforts for juvenile hearing board members
- ✦ Help to identify a coordinator position for the hearing board by engaging members of the nonprofit community within the city

### **B. Strengthen summer job opportunities for youth**

Recognizing the significant role that employment plays in youth development, the Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence recommends that the City create more summer job opportunities for youth within the community.

In other contexts, providing summer jobs to urban youth has been identified as an effective means of diverting youth away from gun violence, particularly in cities such as Chicago and Philadelphia. The impact of summer employment opportunities for at-risk teens is threefold. First, given that summer employment requires that teens be at work for a certain amount of time per week, those participating in summer employment programs have less time to become involved with criminal activity. Secondly, teens that are employed by these programs are not compelled to acquire money through criminal activity. Lastly, research studies have indicated that summer employment has also been tied to social and emotional growth amongst participants, which results in long term decreases in violent criminal behavior<sup>ix</sup>.

The City of Providence currently operates two summer employment programs for youth, administered by Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and the Providence Department of Parks and Recreation, which hire between 400-500 youth between the ages of 14-24 each summer. Implementation of summer jobs into the City's violence mitigation strategy would require a coordinated effort across the public, private and nonprofit sectors in order to expand the program to reach more young people, bolster training and development opportunities within these placements, and more effectively target youth who would most benefit.

## Actions Steps

- ✦ Take stock of summer job opportunities through city programs and partner organizations
- ✦ Develop a communications plan for marketing summer employment opportunities to youth
- ✦ Work closely with PPSD to promote summer job opportunities to youth and year-round employment opportunities
- ✦ Ensure summer jobs programs administered by the City include training that prepares teens for the workforce more broadly and empowers them with new skills

## C. Uplift the perspectives of youth in gun violence policy discussions

In order to address the issue of gun violence in the City of Providence in a more efficacious manner, it is imperative that the perspectives and narratives of those that have been affected by gun violence be elevated and integrated into our decision-making processes. This process, creating a sense of procedural fairness, presents an opportunity to implement gun violence initiatives that drive impact towards the needs of the most pertinent stakeholders. This methodology has been successful across a number of contexts in generating a shared sense of responsibility over issues and producing collaborative and creative problem solving.

Many organizations working with youth, as well as law enforcement, have indicated that they believe some of Providence's teens and young adults feel a need to carry weapons for protection, because they fear for their safety or for that of their family or friends. In order to spur a change in the ways that young adults perceive weapons and create a stronger sense of safety, the City, PPD and their partners must strengthen partnerships with young adults. The disconnection between the young adults most impacted by guns and the individuals that are actively working to reduce gun violence serves as a major hurdle in the city's effort to engage youth who are most in need.

To bridge this gap, in its first year the Advisory Council organized a convening for youth advocates and teens that have been affected by gun violence to discuss their perspectives on how youth could impact gun violence in their communities. The meeting brought together youth implicated with firearms and youth activists who are working to combat these types of challenges in their communities. This process was aimed at empowering youth to voice concerns associated to gun violence, share narratives and brainstorm solutions.

The Mayor's Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence urges the City to continue to uplift youth voices by organizing roundtable discussions and integrating the perspectives of our city's youth into policy decisions.

### Action Steps

- ✘ Continue to engage young adults that have been impacted by gun violence to ensure that they feel empowered to integrate their experiences into the city's policies and programs surrounding gun violence
- ✘ Engage youth advocates to participate in this Advisory Council moving forward

## 3. REDUCE ILLEGAL GUNS ON THE STREETS THROUGH OUTREACH STRATEGIES

The final stream of effort for reducing gun violence in the City of Providence is to reduce the supply of illegal guns on our city streets. Reducing the availability of illegal guns and changing the culture of fear about reporting guns must be a part of our efforts to reduce shootings. These recommendations will serve to reduce the prevalence of home gun theft as well as provide opportunities for turning in unwanted guns and reporting gun violence anonymously.

### A. Strengthen and communicate the Police Department's gun amnesty policy

During meetings of the Advisory Council, members learned from law enforcement that there was not a uniform policy in place for individuals to turn in unwanted firearms to the Police Department, though there have been gun buy-back programs in the past. As a result of these conversations, the Police Department has decided to develop a "no questions asked" policy for individuals that would like to turn in firearms, with strict guidelines to be followed to ensure that guns are disposed of responsibly and safely. Best practices in limiting access to illegal firearms tell us that the fear of prosecution is a major barrier that prevents individuals from coming forward with unwanted guns. Anecdotal evidence among the group suggests that it is not uncommon for parents to find a child's gun and have to make the decision of how to proceed without making them culpable. Through this amnesty policy, there is a safe avenue to dispose of guns without any questions. Though some may critique an amnesty policy, the Police Department is confident that one less gun on the street is a successful outcome for the community.

### Action Steps

- ✘ Formalize and enact amnesty policy for individuals to dispose of an unwanted gun to the Providence Police Department
- ✘ Catalyze collaboration between the communications staff from the City, the Police Department and local service providers in publicizing the policy
- ✘ Closely monitor the program and the numbers and types of guns being turned in
- ✘ Consider ways to enhance the city's amnesty policy in the future through potential ongoing buy-back programs that incentivize participation

## **B. Prevent home gun theft through community education and engagement**

The City should continue its efforts to educate and engage residents, particularly legal gun owners, with the purpose of preventing home gun theft. Many guns that are used in violent crimes are legally purchased guns that have been stolen from their original owners. In 2015, of the 175 guns that were recovered by the Providence Police Department in relation to criminal activity, roughly 31 guns were stolen from legal gun owners. In response to these statistics, the Providence Police Department's Gun Control Unit recommended that the City implement an education and community engagement strategy surrounding the tracking and safe storage of firearms.

In conjunction with the Attorney General's office, the City of Providence has sent a letter to all legal gun owners advising them on how to safely store and document their firearms in case of loss and theft (Appendix D). Within this letter is a description of gun owners' responsibilities with regards to the tracking their firearm identification numbers as well as a description of the process of reporting a gun as stolen. Additionally, this letter informs gun owners that there are free gunlocks from the Providence Police available for pick up to whoever is interested.

### **Action Steps**

- ✘ Continue to engage gun owners and educate them on their rights and responsibilities
- ✘ Bolster efforts to make gun owners aware that there are free gun locks available to them through the Providence Police Department
- ✘ Consider ways to expand gun lock program so that they can be available at a number of locations within the city
- ✘ When providing gun owners with gun locks, utilize point of dissemination as a means of further exposing gun owners to other best practices around safe storage
- ✘ Consider partnering with local gun vendors so that this information may be disseminated at the point of sale

## **C. Promote anonymous tip line**

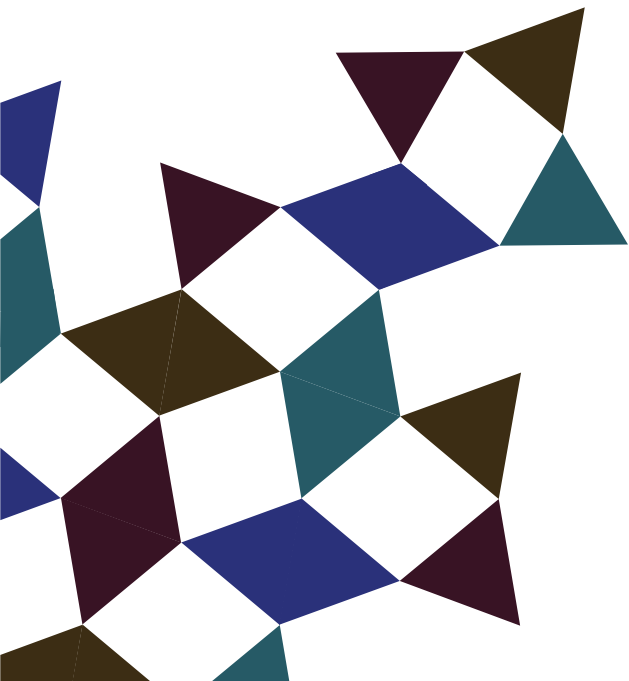
As a result of feedback received during our youth convening on gun violence, the Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence recommends that the city undertake a campaign to promote its anonymous gun tip line. Teens repeatedly voiced the opinion that the chief barrier to reporting gun violence is the lack of anonymity in providing police with information. Often, young people that might be inclined to report a potential act of violence are dissuaded from doing so because of the stigmatization of "snitches" amongst teens. Within this context, an anonymous tip line for reporting gun violence would provide an outlet for people to report illegal guns without the fear of potential backlash from their peers.

The practice of developing an anonymous tip line or text line for reporting potential illegal acts has been proven effective as a means of identifying threats and

proactively working to stifle them. The effectiveness of these programs is largely dependent on robust education of children and young adults on the ways that anonymous reporting could save lives<sup>x</sup>. Providence's gun tip line (1-844-NO-2-GUNS) has been operational for two years but in order to bolster its effectiveness, it must be promoted through a public awareness campaign.

### Action Steps

- ✦ Generate a coordinated communications strategy regarding the promotion of the gun violence tip line
- ✦ Integrate tip line into the city's 311 app for city services
- ✦ Consider strategy for implementing an anonymous text line or third party partnership to provide insulation between the anonymous reporter and the police department
- ✦ Incorporate a youth education aspect to the tip line so that young adults understand how reporting suspected criminal activity could help people in their community
- ✦ Track call volume and outcomes in order to evaluate efficacy of the program



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A:

Executive Order Commissioning Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence

### APPENDIX B:

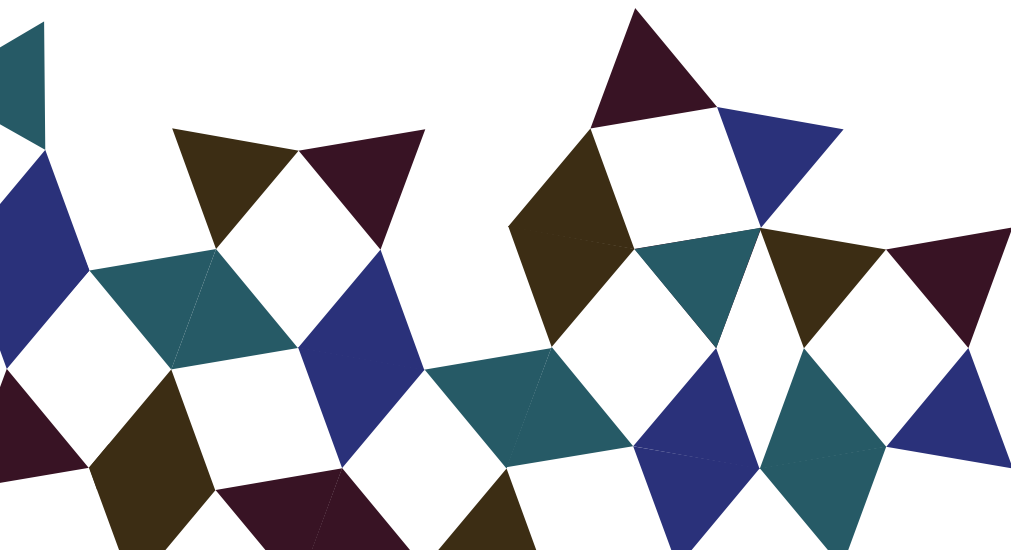
Overview of Advisory Council Meetings

### APPENDIX C:

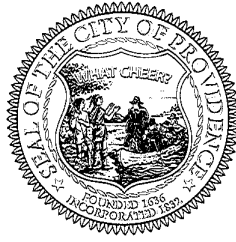
2016 New England Regional Gun Summit Press Release

### APPENDIX D:

Letter to Legal Gun Owners



## APPENDIX A: EXECUTIVE ORDER COMMISSIONING ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE



Executive Order 2015-1  
November 3, 2015

### Establishing the Mayor's Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence

WHEREAS, the City of Providence is committed to empowering strong, safe neighborhoods and improving the quality of life for those who live, work and visit the City; and

WHEREAS, gun violence has been identified as a public health issue by the American Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, gun violence cost the United States \$174 billion in 2010 or an average of \$645 per gun, and the 'societal cost' per firearm assault injury has been estimated to be \$5.1 million for each fatality and \$433,000 for each hospital-admitted patient according to the American Public Health Association; and

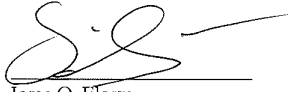
WHEREAS, the Children's Defense Fund has found that gun violence is shown to disproportionately affect minority populations with Black and Hispanic children and teens being, respectively, 4.7 times and 3.3 times more likely to be injured from guns than White children and teens; and

WHEREAS, in an average month, 52 women are shot to death by their intimate partners in the United States, and more than half of all women killed by their intimate partners in the United States are killed with guns according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence is a majority-minority city that is committed to providing the safest, strongest and most diverse community and committed to providing healthy opportunities and options for its youth;

NOW THEREFORE, do I, Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of the City of Providence, order the following, effective immediately:

1. The Mayor's Advisory Council to Reduce Gun Violence is hereby created.
2. The Council shall include eleven (11) members appointed by the Mayor. Members of the Council shall serve a term of one (1) year, or until their successors are appointed.
3. The Council shall meet not less than quarterly.
4. The goals and duties of the Council shall include the following:
  - a. To serve as an advisory body to the Mayor and the administration on matters related to reducing gun violence in Providence;
  - b. To review best practices in gun violence reduction;
  - c. To help identify funding opportunities for strategies to reduce gun violence;
  - d. To support and promote programs to reduce gun violence;
  - e. To study changes in laws, regulations, and policies;
  - f. To promote intergovernmental cooperation and strategic partnerships to reduce gun violence; and
  - g. To produce an annual report with findings and recommendations for each of the goals and duties of the Council as set forth herein.
5. Staff of the Providence Public Safety Department, the Providence Police Department, and the Mayor's Office of Policy shall provide administrative support to the Council.
6. This Executive Order shall remain in full force and effect until it is repealed.

  
Jorge O. Elorza  
Mayor

Dated: November 3, 2015

## APPENDIX B: OVERVIEW OF ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Overview of Meetings

December 3, 2015

First meeting of Advisory Council began with welcoming remarks from Mayor Elorza and introductions of the appointed members. Commissioner Paré presented on Providence Police Department shooting data from 2006 to present day. Chief Clements presented on the gun crime strategies that the department has implemented. Chair Sol Rodriguez then lead a discussion of topics to explore at future meetings. Media was present for the first half of the meeting.

January 13, 2016

The Advisory Council split into two groups for discussion of materials that they reviewed prior to the meeting. The first group reviewed policy and legislative strategies regarding domestic violence, assault weapons, straw purchasing, penalties for gun crimes, and toy guns, among other issues. The second group considered several reports on local law enforcement strategies and community intervention models. This included anti-violence work in the community, public awareness campaigns, and work with gun retailers. Each group crafted preliminary recommendations.

March 13, 2016

Mayor Elorza invited Advisory Council members to attend the New England Regional Gun Violence Summit to be hosted in Providence in April 2016. Commissioner Paré presented a new map of neighborhood data on shooting victims and homicides and a letter to gun owners in the city to encourage best practices for responsible storage, to offer free gun locks, and to introduce amnesty policy for turning in unwanted guns at police stations. Sergeant Ken Vinacco presented on responsible gun ownership and gun safety. Ani Haroian, Neighborhood Liaison for the City of Providence, presented the redevelopment of the Neighborhood Crime Watch program. Victor Morente, Deputy Director of Communications for the City of Providence, discussed the media capacity of the Mayor's Office with the group based on their interest in PSAs.

May 25, 2016

Nicole Pollock, Chief of Staff in Mayor Elorza's Office, lead a facilitated conversation to prioritize key desired outcomes around gun violence in the city. The group brainstormed key outcomes such as decreased shootings among youth and decreased access and use of community guns, and subsequently formulated recommendations for initiatives to achieve these desired outcomes. The members present also filled out a resource assessment to take stock of capacity among the Advisory Council to support recommended initiatives.

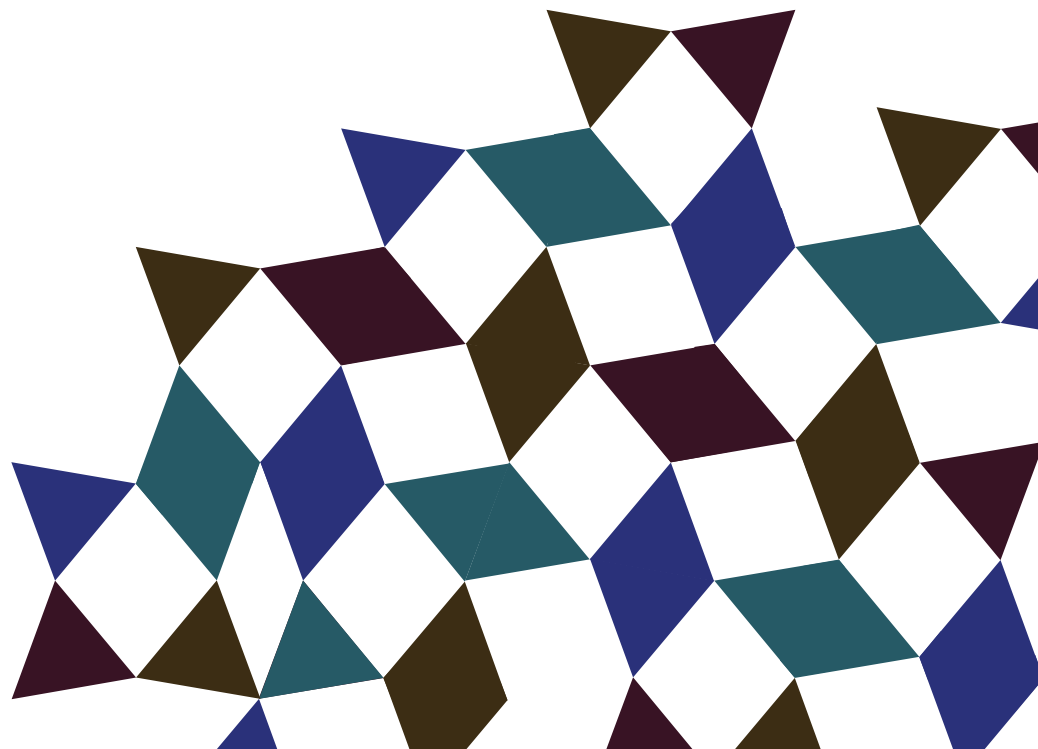


August 5, 2016

Subcommittee of the Council convened to discuss possibility of a video project geared towards youth. Subsequently organized a youth panel with youth from respective organizations to gauge youth ideas around what kinds of campaigns would make a difference in their communities.

October 10, 2016

The Advisory Council met to discuss the release of a report that would outline the council's findings during its first year of operation. Participants reviewed an outline and proposed edits to the reports structure as well as considered which data points would be most significant in developing a narrative of gun violence in the city. During this convening, members presented their frameworks for how the report would inform future policies and programs and how it could serve to formalize partnerships between stakeholders.



## APPENDIX C: 2016 NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GUN SUMMIT PRESS RELEASE

### Mayor Elorza and Mayor Walsh Hosted New England Regional Gun Violence Summit in Providence

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

PROVIDENCE, RI —Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh joined mayors and law enforcement officials from across New England for the New England Regional Gun Violence Summit in Providence to share strategies to reduce the trafficking of illegal firearms and to reduce gun violence.

“Illegal guns and gun violence devastate families and communities.

Today, in Providence we are bringing leaders and resources from throughout the region together to discuss ways to reduce the trafficking of illegal guns and the violence that follows them,” said Mayor Elorza. “I thank Mayor Walsh for co-hosting this conference and all of our partners in law enforcement for their diligent and continued work on this very important issue.”

Speakers at the summit included Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) New England Field Division Special Agent in Charge Daniel Kumor, United States Attorney Peter F. Neronha, District of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin. Topics ranged from information sharing, local, state and regional advocacy and law enforcement best practices aimed at stemming the diversion of firearms into the hands of criminals and prohibited purchasers.

During the summit, Mayor Walsh announced funding from The Boston Foundation for the non-profit Arms With Ethics to work with Boston in order to lead a multi-city pilot program in the New England Region which will include both Boston and Providence.

“We know that illegal guns come into Boston from surrounding jurisdictions, which is why we have taken an aggressive regional approach with all of our partners in New England,” said Mayor Walsh. “I thank Mayor Elorza for convening today’s summit, and I was pleased to announce that with support from the Boston Foundation, we will be able to partner with Arms with Ethics to further strengthen our efforts to reduce gun violence.”

Through this project, Arms With Ethics will work with mayors and police leaders in selected cities, in addition to Boston and Providence, to develop customized law enforcement-led projects focused on preventing the illegal flow and illegal use of guns. The goal of these pilot projects is to translate the regional information-sharing and collaboration generated by the New England Regional Gun Summit into immediate, concrete action. The pilot designs will be replicable, with the intention that once they are established and proven in the selected sites, the solutions will be expanded to other interested cities participating in the New England Gun Violence Summit.

“The issues contributing to gun violence are bigger than any one community or any one city. The New England Gun Violence Summit provides a powerful platform to bring together local leadership and resources to offer law enforcement-focused solutions that can impact gun violence both regionally and nationally,” said Casey Woods, Executive Director of Arms With Ethics. “Arms With Ethics is proud to be part of this bold, common-sense effort, and we thank Mayor Walsh, Commissioner Evans, and The Boston Foundation for their support and leadership on this project.”

“The Boston Foundation is pleased to support this innovative approach to reducing gun violence and appreciate the leadership of Mayor Walsh in bringing the proposal to our attention,” said President and CEO Paul Grogan. “As Greater Boston’s community foundation, we work to ensure

that our communities are vibrant and our residents are healthy and thriving. Gun violence threatens the progress we've made as a community, and we need to find solutions that are regional and collaborative in nature."

### **About the New England Regional Gun Violence Summit**

Since 2014, cities across New England have worked collaboratively to share strategies to reduce gun violence and reduce trafficking of illegal firearms. This regional partnership focuses on collaboration and open dialogue about the reality of gun violence in New England cities. To date, significant actions have been taken by cities across the region, a result of the direct connections made between cities and law enforcement agencies with field experts and community partners. This includes outreach to responsible gun owners; several cities in the region have also reached out to engage responsible gun owners on firearm storage and safety, offering guidance regarding reporting requirements for lost and stolen firearms, and in some cities, even providing free firearm locks. This regional approach to gun violence reduction and illegal firearms trafficking reduction has its strength in municipalities creating and implementing strategies that have both immediate and long-term direct impacts on residents at the community level.

**APPENDIX D: LETTER TO LEGAL GUN OWNERS**

Dear Legal Gun Owner:

We request your continued assistance in our effort to reduce illegal gun crime in the City of Providence. Police serve an important role in reducing gun crime, but more can be done with your help. This letter includes tips and tools for you to help ensure that guns are stored safely and kept out of the hands of children and criminals.

The enclosed Personal Firearms Record from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will help you to easily keep track of the model, characteristics, and serial number of firearms. State law requires individuals who own a firearm to report the loss or theft of their firearm to local law enforcement within 24 hours of the discovery, punishable by fine. Include these details from your records in your report of lost or stolen firearms to the Providence Police Department.

To assist you in better securing guns, the Providence Police Department offers free gunlocks at the Providence Public Safety Complex (325 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903) and all neighborhood substations on the enclosed list. The enclosed safety tips provide advice for keeping guns safely in your home.

Additionally, the Providence Police Department has just launched a gun amnesty program designed to take illegal guns off our streets. The program allows individuals to anonymously dispose of firearms with no questions asked" when they follow the program's guidelines. If you need to dispose of a firearm, you can do so safely and anonymously at the Providence Public Safety Complex located at 325 Washington Street. For more information, please call the Providence Police Department at (401) 243-6097 or email [gunamnesty@providenceri.com](mailto:gunamnesty@providenceri.com)

Lastly, the Providence Police Department offers an anonymous tip line, 1-844-NO-2-GUNS (1-844-662-4867), to report any suspicious gun activity.

As partners in keeping our neighborhoods safe, we appreciate your commitment to fulfilling your obligations as a gun owner, and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping guns in the hands of only those legally authorized to carry them.

Together we can prevent gun violence in the City of Providence.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Kilmartin

Attorney General

Jorge O. Elorza

Mayor of Providence

Steven M. Paré

Commissioner of Public Safety

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