Working Group 2

Draft Recommendations re Reinventing Public Safety:

Violence Prevention and Community Responses

1. Grant funding and technical assistance should be provided to support communities in developing violence prevention programs. Funding options include, but are not limited to, federal funds under the Victims of Crime Act; state appropriated funds; grant funds through the Governor’s Crime Commission; and local government funds. Violence prevention programs include community- and hospital-based programs that approach violence as a public health problem and provide solutions including mediation, mentoring, job training, and counseling.

* Staff note: The readings for the Working Group’s last meeting illustrated the variety of violence prevention programs. Some are run by hospitals, others by nonprofit grassroots organizations, others by agencies of local government. (For example, [Richmond, California](https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/271/Office-of-Neighborhood-Safety), has an “Office of Neighborhood Safety” that “responsible for building partnerships and strategies that produce sustained reductions in firearm assaults and related retaliations and deaths in Richmond.”)
* Temperature-taking survey results: Mean response was 4.33. Comments included: (1) adding job training [note, job training is already included in the recommendation], (2) adding a reference to specific programs such as Cure Violence, and (3) regularly evaluating programs and discontinuing support for ineffective programs.

1. ~~Communities should form neighborhood watches and neighborhood patrols comprised of unarmed but trained people who seek to prevent violence before it starts.~~

* Staff note: Community patrol and violence prevention efforts are very diverse. Some are largely independent of law enforcement. For example, in [Minneapolis](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/citizen-patrols-make-statement-in-minneapolis/2020/06/06/cc1844d4-a78c-11ea-b473-04905b1af82b_story.html), community patrols arose as a potential alternative to police presence after George Floyd was killed. Other efforts work in active partnership with law enforcement. For example, in [Omaha](http://www.omaha-occp.org/) the Coalition of Citizen Patrols works closely with the police department and sheriff’s office to patrol 35 defined areas. One notable community violence prevention effort is the [Cure Violence](https://cvg.org/) model, which uses trained violence interrupters – often former gang members themselves – to mediate conflicts and prevent retaliation. It may be necessary to narrow this concept further to understand support.
* Temperature-taking survey results: Mean response was 1.4. Comments were negative and generally suggested that this recommendation would be counterproductive.
* Note re changes: The results of the temperature-taking survey suggest that this recommendation should be abandoned.

1. Local communities should form Community Safety and Wellness Task Forces that are charged with examining the public safety and wellness needs of the communities, educating residents on existing safety and wellness resources, and providing recommendations for additional programs to enhance public safety and wellness that rely on community-based prevention, intervention, and re-entry services as alternatives to criminal justice involvement. An example of this is Durham’s newly enacted Community Safety and Wellness Task Force.

* Temperature-taking survey results: Mean response was 4.4. Comments suggested that more discussion is needed.