

REDUCING & PREVENTING VIOLENT CRIME

While violent crime in cities has been steadily declining over the last 30 years, its impact on individuals, families, and institutions make it something cities must continue to work diligently to prevent. With intersecting root causes, there are many different tools cities can deploy to help prevent violence. This panel will highlight forward thinking approaches to reduce and prevent violent crime, especially in Black and Brown communities that face disproportionate impacts from them, such as using a public health approach in targeting violence, looking at root causes, and innovative targeted approaches to keep people from offending.

RESOURCES

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Pages excerpted from: “The History of Violence as a Public Health Issue,” Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2019.

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Stephen Lurie, “There’s No Such Thing as a Dangerous Neighborhood,” CityLab, February 25, 2019.

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Sarah Picard-Fritsche and Lenore Cerniglia, pages excerpted from: “Testing a Public Health Approach to Gun Violence,” Center for Court Innovation.

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Pages excerpted from: “Strategies to Prevent Urban Violence,” Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Boston, MA. September 2013.

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Arnold Chandler, pages excerpted from: “Interventions for Reducing Violence and its Consequences for Young Black Males in America,” Cities United.

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Pages excerpted from: “4 Proven Violence Reduction Strategies,” National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform and Cities United.

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Pages excerpted from: “A Strategic Resource for Mayors on Disrupting Community Violence and Preventing Homicides,” Cities United, August 2018.

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Giovanni Rocco and Amber Gaither, “Case Study: Young People Curbing Gun Violence in Columbia, SC,” Generation Progress, August 23, 2018.

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Jeffrey Collins, “South Carolina’s Largest City Focuses on Stopping Gun Violence,” US News, April 24, 2018.

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Ras Baraka, "Youth Homicides have dropped 40% in Newark, yet there is more work to do, mayor says," The Star-Ledger, April 4, 2019.

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Pages excerpted from: "A Blueprint for Peace," City of Milwaukee Health Department, Office of Violence Prevention, 2017.

SPEAKERS

MAYOR RAS BARAKA, CITY OF NEWARK, NJ

Mayor Ras J. Baraka's progressive approach to governing has shined a national spotlight on Newark for its success in building cooperation between residents and the police, reducing crime to its lowest level in 50 years, establishing the nation's strongest inclusionary zoning ordinance and civilian police review board, and prioritizing equitable growth. Under Mayor Baraka's leadership, Newark has been recognized as a technology center - a finalist in Amazon's search to locate a second world headquarters, as a city on the rise with more than \$4 billion in economic development underway, and as a place where the City and its major anchor institutions collaborate to place residents in local jobs, increase the number of Newarkers with college degrees and prepare school dropouts for successful careers.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Baraka was a long-time educator in the Newark Public Schools, his most recent assignment being principal of Central High School, a formerly failing school that he succeeded in turning around. His father, the late Amiri Baraka, was a legendary poet, playwright and civic activist. His mother, Amina Baraka, is herself a renowned poet. Mayor Baraka is a published poet as well.

MELRON KELLY, CITY OF COLUMBIA, SC

Deputy Chief Melron Kelly is a 20-year veteran and second-in-command at the Columbia, South Carolina Police Department. He proudly serves as the commander of the Operations and Administrative Bureaus, which includes the Recruiting Division, Patrol/Regional Divisions, Criminal Investigations Division, and the Public Information / Media Relations and Marketing Departments. He is a Riley Diversity Fellow, Serve and Connect Law Enforcement Partner, and member of the FBI National Academy's Class 270, and Omega si Phi Fraternity.

ANTHONY SMITH, CITIES UNITED

Anthony D. Smith is Executive Director for Cities United, a national mayor-led initiative focused on eliminating the violence in American cities related to African American men and boys. Before joining Cities United, Anthony led the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods for Mayor Fischer and the City of Louisville. Anthony is committed to creating positive outcomes for all youth, with a focus on young black men and boys. Throughout his professional career, Anthony has made it a priority to cultivate up and coming leaders.

Anthony was born and raised in Louisville, KY. He earned his BA from Northern Kentucky University. He is married to Devonya and has three boys - Kendrick, Haig and Chase.

