



Charlotte City Council  
Safe Communities Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 1, 2020

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**COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS**

- I. Cure Violence Update – Informational

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

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**Committee Members Present:** Larken Egleston (Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Victoria Watlington

**Staff Resources:** Victoria Johnson, Assistant City Manager

**Meeting Duration:** 12:09 p.m. – 1:16 p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Agenda
2. Violence Interruption: Cure Violence Assessment PowerPoint

**DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

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The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m., by Chairperson Larken Egleston.

**Cure Violence Update**

Sarah Hazel, Assistant to the City Manager II, City Manager’s Office, provided information on the objectives and process of the Cure Violence assessment. Ms. Hazel refreshed the Committee members on the work they completed a year ago to create a comprehensive framework to address violence. She noted that the framework has guided much of the work that has been done by staff under the Safe Charlotte framework, which was included in the report Council recently adopted. The County has also adopted the framework to support the work they are doing, a collaboration between the City, County and other agencies.

Interrupt Violence was a key component of the framework adopted. Based on conversations and analysis by CMPD, Center for Data Analytics, and the Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) at John Hopkins, that looked at violence data and where violence had been persistent over time, staff developed recommendations around violence as a public health issue. One of those recommendations was to explore violence interruption as an evidenced based program. Cure Violence aligns with the City strategy on violence in three major ways: 1) Intergovernmental Collaboration, 2) Violence Interruption, and 3) Using Data and Evidence. The Cure Violence Global Model evaluates:

- Government and relevant agencies’ capacity and will to implement a Cure Violence Program.

- Existence of data to measure results of the program and understand who is most likely to be involved in violence.
- Ensure the program can be monitored over time.

Additionally, the model ascertains whether there are individuals in the community who can act as credible interrupters to detect and interrupt violence and provide alternatives. The model also requires host organizations in the form of non-profits or community groups, who could hire the interrupters and implement the program.

The assessment was divided into several phases, including informational meetings, one-on-one meetings with key partners, and in-person assessments in the target areas of Beatties Ford Road and Lasalle Street. Follow up meetings were held within the last month with potential organizations and individuals who can support the recruitment of interrupters.

Brent Decker, Chief Program Officer, Cure Violence, presented information on the findings of the Cure Violence assessment. Mr. Decker confirmed that Charlotte has a high capacity and will to implement the Cure Violence program. He stated that the information received from CMPD and data from the Community Violence Data dashboard (received across agencies, organizations and governmental agencies) exceeded the Cure Violence data requirement. They recognized that Charlotte has a lot of organizations implementing community violence intervention work in the target area. He mentioned that the City may need to look at fiscal management support for these organizations, which is common across the country. The community-based partner would serve as the lead because of the day to day interaction required in the community. The initial program recommendation is 5 – 6 staff with a \$394,000 budget for one year. They did not see any individuals from the Beatties Ford Road community who fit the profile to serve as interrupters but thought it is likely that the individuals exist in that community.

Sarah Hazel reported that next steps would be to share the results with City Council at the Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Action Review meeting. If Council consents to moving forward, a contract for \$80k would be established with Cure Violence to provide technical assistance. For this program scale, this type of budget would be expected in year 2 if the outcomes meet the city's goals. However, year 1 would be the heaviest and most costly. Cure Violence would also assist with the development of an RFP Process for a community-based organization to run the program. The traditional City RFP process would be used for a \$390K project. Based on the RFP outcome, it may be necessary to designate a fiscal agent support. Once all steps have been completed, implementation would begin.

#### *Charlotte Safety Summit*

Lacey Williams, Upward Mobility Manager, Office of Equity, Mobility, & Immigrant Integration, reported that based on community requests for involvement, a Community Safety Summit was held via Zoom. There were 2 opportunities for more than 100 non-profit leaders, community members and elected officials to convene to focus on defining community safety and gaps in services. The key takeaways were: 1) the community serving organizations feel disconnected from each other, 2) financial, skill development, training and evaluation tools are needed as resources, and 3) intergenerational work (relationship building between young and older age groups) and infrastructure work is needed. An Asset Mapping tool is in place to create an interactive map/director that will identify gaps and allow community serving organizations to collaborate. The participants will reconvene to check status and work towards a year-long community strategy initiative.

Assistant City Manager Victoria Johnson announced that the Safe Communities Committee will continue to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday monthly at noon. Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> will be rescheduled as needed due to the General Election, and there will be no July or August meeting due to Council's summer meeting schedule.

**Motion and Vote:**

Council Member Watlington made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ajmera, to recommend that Council not move forward with a contract with Cure Violence on December 14<sup>th</sup>; and to wait on information regarding additional support to assist local organizations in building capacity to prepare a sound RFP. The motion passed unanimously.

Feedback from the Committee and other Elected Officials present:

1. Make sure that this is a locally led effort and that the money be invested locally.
2. Clearly identify organizational gaps and delay the RFP if there are no organizations that meet the criteria.

Additional information was requested on the following items:

1. Provide a response to Council Member Renee Johnson's email regarding suggested organizations and explain how they compare to the Cure Violence proposal. *(Before Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>)*
2. Identify the additional information needed in order to consider the local organizations as primary contractors, not in addition to Cure Violence?
3. Provide a count of proposals that were received from local organizations to be the primary contract. *(Before Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>)*
4. Make available a list of the organizations that have met with Cure Violence. *(Before Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>)*
5. State the plan to provide technical assistance to local organizations to increase their capacity to prepare a sound RFP.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.