

**PUBLIC SAFETY, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

Members Present: Council Member Allison Hiltz, Chair  
Council Member Curtis Gardner, Vice Chair  
Council Member Angela Lawson, Member

Others Present: L. Lee, S. Wright, C. Hills, R. Ramond, C. Velopulos, L. Gochon, J. Williams, L. Lovedale, A. Cleveland, V. Wilson, C. Amsler, M. Longshore, H. Glidden, J. Lutkin, M. Moore, M. Chapman, D. Klugh, Jacob, S. Stowell, A. Robnett, M. Smith, S. McInerny

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**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January minutes approved and signed.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

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**CONSENT ITEMS**

None.

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**HOSPITAL BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION**

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Deputy City Manager Jason Batchelor introduced outside presenter, Catherine Velopulos of University of Colorado School of Medicine to the committee. Mrs. Velopulos introduced her team; Laurie Lovedale, Anna Cleveland, Johnnie Williams, and Lawrence Gochon to the committee. She explained there is a correlation between public health and public safety in regards to violence and the two should be properly linked to provide effective solutions. Public health and public safety look at population-based approaches that are not just based on the individual but also their family, their relationships, the community, and society at-large.

Statistics indicate an increase in major crime in Aurora, to include Adams County, which is where UHealth is located. The rates of death by assault for the State of Colorado have been approximately 3 to 4 per 10,000 and Aurora was consistent with the state stats for a long period of time. However, recent statistics show that over the last five years Aurora's statistics have increased to almost double the state average. Direct costs associated with violent crime include a loss of nearly \$1 million per patient for productivity to society. Medical costs per patient average \$10-30,000 while patients under medical care for long periods of time cost into the millions of dollars. It costs approximately \$88,000 to incarcerate one individual and \$17.25 million per murder in the criminal justice system. Indirect costs to society include loss of tourism and business, and expensive mental health and chronic health conditions.

The trauma center's role is to provide services at teachable moments and get people in the healthcare system for overall assistance to reduce recidivism. The program is predicated on the idea that if all of the issues are not addressed that lead to the cycle of violence, it will not be interrupted. Denver Health has outreach workers that can respond almost immediately when someone is injured and offer services for long-term

social work and case management. They would like to expand the program from Denver Health to UCHealth. Potential partners include Gang Rescue and Support Project (GRASP), Aurora Fire Rescue, Aurora Police Department, Aurora Mental Health Center, Aurora Housing Authority, and area faith-based organizations. Intentional trauma volume has increased by 15-25% every quarter for the past three years at UCHealth. A network of national programs exist including the local Alliance for Violence Intervention Programs and AIM is a key player already established by this group. The goal is to target highest risk individuals to prevent injury recidivism and future interaction with the criminal justice system.

The minimum to get the program started includes funding of \$180,000, 50% of which will be provided by UCHealth and there are opportunities for grants. The request is for Aurora to contribute \$93,172 each year for two years. During this time the program will prove feasibility, demonstrate community support, and evaluation of cost utility analyses. Reports would be provided to the city on a regular basis.

CM Gardner requested information about other cities' programs and their successes or things they have done differently. Mrs. Velopulos explained they recently in Milwaukee representatives that run their program. Their program is one of the longest running and very successful. San Francisco also has a very successful program that everything is modeled after. AIM is very successful as it is one of the model programs for the national network and they are supported by a Department of Justice grant. Part of the grant funding is being used to evaluate AIM and measure successes or identify lessons learned.

CM Hiltz asked if there are any reports available that can be sent to the committee. There is a lot that goes into evidence-based programing and she would be interested in seeing more about what the proposal is based on. Mrs. Velopulos confirmed she will provide the additional information requested that includes information from six other programs. CM Hiltz recommended that they also reach out to Interim Chief Wilson about the APD's Crisis Response Team. Mrs. Velopulos noted that those discussions have come up with staff.

CM Gardner asked how the money allocation would be determined. DCM Batchelor explained recommendations during the Spring supplemental would likely be one-time funds for the two years in the either APD's or AFR's General Fund.

CM Lawson asked if there would be data from the beginning of the program to show the true measures of the two-year commitment. Mrs. Velopulos noted that much of the data has already been collected and it is important to her to collect formative data and summative data for evaluation. CM Lawson asked if the participants would be required to sign a consent form. Mrs. Velopulos confirmed the patients would consent to the program and noted they would go through the regulatory body for consent.

Staff added that recent displacement from Denver and the funding reduction to Aurora Gang Reduction Impact Program (A-GRIP) has made an impact to those still seeking services. They are working with community partners and the schools to continue to provide services to area students previously involved in A-GRIP. Approval of funding for this program would help revitalize A-GRIP and provide additional health care services. The outreach workers will be community-based and not strictly tied to the hospital to make connections with the victim's support system and follow through with them as well. DCM Batchelor noted that regional approach and the partnership is important to the community.

#### Outcome

Approved to move forward to a future Study Session.

#### Follow-up Action

Staff will provide reports requested by CM Hiltz.

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## **METRO GANG TASK FORCE**

### Summary of Issue and Discussion

Metro Division Chief Terry Brown and Lieutenant Mark Hildebrand presented this item to the committee. Metro Gang Task Force is now referred to as Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement Network (RAVEN) and their mission statement is to forensically identify and focus investigative, prosecutorial, and community resources to remove and disrupt violent criminals, gangs and drug traffickers that plague our neighborhoods. RAVEN was started after the FBI announced it would no longer be participating in the MGTF in March or April of 2018. The Aurora Police Department partnered with HSI for the remainder of 2018 and RAVEN was instituted on January 1, 2019. It is a multi-jurisdictional task force consisting of partners from local, state and federal agencies. There are currently 40 representatives on the task force. RAVEN uses the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and focuses on violent offenders. They file charges for prosecution using Violent Crime in Aid of Racketeering (VCAR) and the Colorado Organized Crimes Act (COCA). Funding comes from HIDTA, HSI, and Project Safe Neighborhood grant. Since January 2019, there have been 148 cases opened; 77 of those were state and 77 were federal. There were 122 arrests made; 14 for homicide and/or attempted homicide, 78 for gun related crimes, 25 for burglary aggravated assaults, warrants, or parole violations, 4 sex assaults, and 1 kidnapping. They recovered 89 handguns, 13 rifles, 9 machine gun/assault weapons, and they seized over \$20k in cash.

CM Hiltz asked if this task force was part of the #onelessgun initiative. Chief Wilson explained each unit reports guns seized, including RAVEN. CM Lawson asked how many officers are assigned to the Gang Unit. Lt. Hildebrand responded that there are six officers, three detectives, and one sergeant. CM Gardner asked what the percentage of proactive versus reactive work is done through RAVEN. Lt. Hildebrand noted that it was probably 50/50 and explained that the team would be reactive to the crimes that occur and begin proactive work to prevent the next shooting based on information garnered from the investigation. CM Hiltz asked what staff would like to make the program better and improve outcomes. Lt. Hildebrand explained that if there are 100 shootings, really only 20% get investigated and he would like to have better prioritization, use local agencies more effectively, and more personnel. Chief Wilson added that she's recently implemented a Violence Task Force that provides six additional personnel to assist with the Gang Unit, RAVEN, and Narcotics Unit. This task force investigates unlawful discharges that don't actually strike a human being in order to identify the people involved. CM Hiltz asked if staff is working with schools because of the challenges related to increase in crime, gang activity, and youth violence. Does the gang unit work with schools to identify those at risk and she wants to be sure everyone is working together rather than in silos. Sgt. Danno Singleton responded that there are prevention programs for kids and School Resource Officers relay information to other units. CM Hiltz noted that if the efforts are all police-driven it may not be as effective as a community effort. She wants information more publicly known about resources available and implemented for a collaborative approach. Lt. Hildebrand explained there is a Gang Resistance Education and Training for officers. The officers partner with schools for a 10-week course for students that instills skills and characteristics to help them be successful and be resistant to joining gangs. The Gang Unit also goes to schools and gives presentations regularly. CM Gardner noted there are a lot of things that can be done proactively. Six personnel doesn't seem like a lot for the size of the city population. Hiltz noted that it's difficult to measure prevention. Even with the addition of prevention programs for lower grades, the impact likely won't be seen for 5 or 6 years. She noted that there should be a balance of short-term gains and long-term strategy. CM Lawson asked if RAVEN works outside the Denver Metro area. Lt. Hildebrand explained that there are connections to other agencies and do assist if an investigation takes them out of the metro area.

### Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

None.

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**2019 CRIME STATS**

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Police Deputy Chief Harry Glidden provided the 2019 crime stats to the committee. Overall major violent crimes reported were down. Subcategories of violent crimes, such as homicides and robberies were up. Sex assaults, aggravated assaults, and overall shootings were down. Burglaries were down. Motor Vehicle Thefts, larcenies, and property crimes were up. Physical arrests made were 9,278, criminal summonses issued were 5,760, and overall arrests were 15,038. All down from the year prior. There were 23,420 municipal traffic tickets issued. Likely due to short staffing in the Traffic Unit. There were 32,767 total traffic tickets written. DUI's were down 17%. CM Lawson would like a breakdown of the DUIs. Division Chief Brown explained that one of the top DUI officers for the state promoted in 2019 that caused movement in and out of the DUI team. Deputy Chief Glidden noted that the Property Unit received 273 seized guns, processed 45,928 items, and disposed of 39,886 items. CM Lawson asked what kind of drugs were seized because she would like to know what kind of drugs are going through the city. DCM Batchelor noted that further analysis of the report will be done and provided to council. CM Gardner noted the increase in murders and asked if staff knew how many were gang related. Staff explained the numbers on hand weren't broken down yet, but further research can be done, and information will be provided. CM Hiltz asked if the increase in domestic violence can be tracked and added that she is also interested in data related to the increase in youth incidents with a gun compared to previous years. CM Hiltz will contact Council for their input on what they would like to see in the report as well. She noted that the end of year report indicated crime was up in SE Aurora but down overall. Staff will include a heat map of crime trends. DCM Batchelor noted that Chief Wilson has initiated some initiatives to address some of the trends indicated in the crime stats.

Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

Council will provide requests for reporting requests and staff will prepare and distribute the report.

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**FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Chief Fernando Gray introduced Captain Landon Lee, Deputy Chief Cain Hills and Commander Steve Wright. Capt. Lee advised that Ordinance 2017-08 was instituted to encourage citizens to participate in July 4<sup>th</sup> in a legal way concerning fireworks, thereby decreasing the impact of firework-related incidents, and provide additional revenue for the city to offset enforcement and mitigation costs. AFR responds to complaints to mitigate and provide enforcement. The total cost to the city for the four reported years was \$91,730.38 and the fees collected were \$81,784. Statistics indicate the number of complaints received are higher than responses for 2019, likely due to duplicate complaints reported. Staff would like to get the public's opinion about the legalization or ban of fireworks through community engagement. Staff is also requesting to change the date in section (b) 8 from June 13 to June 14 to correct a typographical error. Staff noted that there were two structure fires during this review period that were determined to be from illegal fireworks. CM Hiltz asked if the ordinance was actually effective because it seems like a lot of work when people do it anyway. It doesn't appear to be a good revenue generator and can be difficult to enforce. Chief

Gray noted that getting the pulse of the city is an important piece to going forward and noted the metrics provided relating to the cost was for AFR only and did not include the other agencies that also respond. Statistics indicate an increase in complaints that could be correlated to the additional options to report outside of calling 911. CM Lawson asked if the data provided incorporated year-round statistics because she receives firework complaints often. Staff advised that the data is only for the enforcement period of June 29 to July 5.

Outcome

The committee supports community input and depending on the results will decide how to move forward with the amendment.

Follow-up Action

Staff will conduct community outreach for input.

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**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Judge Day noted that a red flag request was improperly submitted to Municipal Court and explained that the State has exclusive jurisdiction over the Red Flag law. City Attorney Nancy Rodgers noted that she would share the pamphlets created by APD related to the Red Flag law with Council.

Chief Gray recognized Commander Robnett for completing the International Association of Fire Chief's Fire Service Executive Development Institute.

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**NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Next month's agenda will include presentations from Aurora for Youth, an IGA from AFR, and Arapahoe County Community Correctional Board Update. The March meeting was rescheduled to March 12, 2020 at 12pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

APPROVED:   
Allison Hiltz, Chair