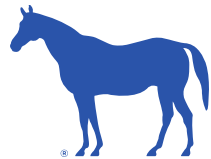


GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE WORKGROUP REPORT OUT

Kendra Thompson, Council Research Analyst

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

October 8, 2024



LEXINGTON

Gun Violence Task Force Participants

Task Force Members	Organization
Jennifer Reynolds	11 th District Councilmember, Chair
Tayna Fogle	1 st District Councilmember
Shayla Lynch	2 nd District Councilmember
Kendra Thompson	Research Analyst, Support Staff
Sara Moreles	Legislative Aide, Support Staff
April Ballentine	Survivor
Corey Dunn	Independent
Andre Wilson	Seize Your Given Opportunity
Tonya Lindsey	Sisters and Supporters Working Against Gun Violence
Alexis Nickols	UK Trauma Surgeon
Jon Larson	Criminal Defense Attorney
Freida Downey	Independent
Cheryl Birch	B.U.I.L.D.

Gun Violence Task Force Participants (continued)

Task Force Members	Organization
Whit Whitaker	President of NAACP of Lexington
Diane Cahill	Moms Demand Action
Mark Gay	Men of Action / Needing U to Survive
Melissa Moore – Murphy	Fayette District Court Judge
Lindsay Hughes Thurston	Fayette District Court Judge
Larry Johnson	Community Outreach Coordinator - ONE Lexington
Kenneth Payne	Crisis Response Coordinator - ONE Lexington
Devine Carama	Director - ONE Lexington
Kathy Witt	Fayette County Sheriff
Ricardo Franklin	Community Outreach Coordinator – Fayette County Sheriff’s Office
Angela Evans	Fayette County Attorney
Brian Maynard	Assistant Chief - Lexington Police Department
Jason Wells	Chief - Lexington Fire Department

Gun Violence Workgroup Participants

Workgroup Members	Organization
Jennifer Reynolds	11 th District Council Member, Chair
Tayna Fogle	1 st District Council Member
Shayla Lynch	2 nd District Council Member
Kendra Thompson	Research Analyst, Support Staff
Sara Moreles	Legislative Aide, Support Staff
Isabelle Ballard	Legislative Aide, Support Staff
Tonya Lindsey	Sisters and Supporters Working Against Gun Violence
Alexis Nickols	UK Trauma Surgeon
Freida Downey	Independent
Cheryl Birch	B.U.I.L.D.
Whit Whitaker	President of NAACP of Lexington
Andre Wilson	Seize Your Given Opportunity
Davita Gatewood	Independent
Bryan Maynard	Assistant Chief – Lexington Police Department

Community Pillars Recommendations

1. Recommend LFUCG to define gun violence as a public health crisis

Model and elevate to the status of the opioid crisis and domestic violence to activate social services in the community. CDC says gun violence is preventable, not inevitable. The Surgeon General declared a firearm crisis this year in the US.

- Have this overseen by various departments with initiatives on campaigns, workshops, and events highlighting topics like safe storage and educational opportunities on how to properly use and maintain personal firearms
- Look into the possibility of having regular runtime on television featuring stories on local gun violence impacted residents and PSAs
- The Lexington Fayette County Health Department is willing to help with this item and said there may be grants available to aide in programs or education
- The Health Department is reviewing all their programs and all divisions to see where they can prevent gun violence. Could maybe do PSAs on proper storage and locking of guns



Community Pillars Recommendations

- 2. Recommend LFUCG and the community support a month-long gun violence awareness emphasis in June (National Gun Violence Awareness Month) with events and services to provide support and acknowledge families affected by gun violence as well as support the annual Antonio Franklin Jr. VIP Peace Walk in April**

Specifics about what a gun violence awareness month would consist of:

- Using city resources to support community partners in their events about gun violence
- Partnering with city divisions like LPD to have educational and community relationship building events and workshops
- Providing gun safety education on locks and storage resources
- Having a calendar of gun violence awareness events featured on the city's website, highlighting community-led and district specific events

Community Pillars Recommendations

- 3. Recommend that LFUCG raise awareness as to what opportunities exist for community partners to utilize and provide programs in community and neighborhood centers**

Community centers would include:

- * Dunbar
- * Castlewood
- * Charles Young (used by Social Services)
- * Kenwick
- * Tates Creek
- * Black and Williams

Neighborhood Centers are in smaller parks like Meadowthorpe, Cardinal Valley, Winburn, etc.

Community Pillars Recommendations

3. Recommend that LFUCG raise awareness as to what opportunities exist for community partners to utilize and provide programs in community and neighborhood centers (Continued)

Recommend Parks and Recreation:

- Meet with Councilmembers to discuss in detail the process of community use and access
- Meet with neighborhood groups and anti-gun violence advocates
- Expand their partnerships with the goal of increase programming outdoors in parks
- Improve access to all neighborhood centers (centers in smaller parks) as well and work with neighborhood groups to encourage equitable use to all community partners



City Leaders Recommendations

- 1. Recommend that ONE Lexington, when responding to a gun violence incident in a Councilmember's district, provide the appropriate notification of incident, debrief, and follow-up with opportunities on how Council can get involved if appropriate and if they so choose (i.e. marches, walks, etc.)**
 - The notification would consist of informing of what's occurring, how they are planning to respond, and if the Councilmember can be involved
 - This would be occurring consistently and only when appropriate



City Leaders Recommendations

- 2. Recommend Council provide continued support for co-response teams and mobile crisis teams to allow for rapid response to acute behavioral health emergencies in the city which could reduce gun violence and continue support for additional behavioral health specialists to assist public safety like the Paramedicine program and having social workers. Lexington has done a great job in this area and this group would like to recommend support for further growth.**
- We recognize the positive growth of the Paramedicine team and recommend and support the expansion of the team even further moving forward with additional social workers in public safety and more outreach workers for the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention.

City Leaders Recommendations

3. **Recommend LFUCG expand their scope to address gun violence for all ages, not just ages 13-29**

All people who are exposed to, impacted by, survived, and/or have been affected by suicide, need to be considered for services when talking about gun violence regardless of age.

What does this look like?

- Expanding One Lexington or staff to address gun violence (see recommendation #5)
- Recommend a multi-departmental approach
- No age limit tied to gun violence; it affects everyone

City Leaders Recommendations

4. **Recommend LFUCG better communicate with the community about its work surrounding gun violence**
 - Greater transparency regarding the services the city offers to families impacted by gun violence
 - Advertise their resources using flyers with QR codes in community centers, schools, churches, etc.
 - LFUCG be more specific about the services provided to the community and on website
 - Greater financial transparency that will include an annual report about spending and evidentiary and antidotal data regarding program outcomes
 - Host a resource fair twice a year for impacted individuals of gun violence

City Leaders Recommendations

5. **Recommend that LFUCG create a new position in Social Services for a Gun Violence Program Coordinator who would work to coordinate with all divisions on gun violence for all ages. This person would help implement these recommendations, especially as a health crisis, and oversee programs. This position would be similar to our social services positions focused on domestic violence and the opioid crisis and would work on implementing campaigns, PSAs, and outreach**
 - Currently One Lexington and Social Services are at capacity
 - Requesting \$75,000 from FY 2026 budget for the position
 - Requesting \$75,000 from fund balance for their budget for the first year

Questions?



LEXINGTON