

# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

200 E. Main St  
Lexington, KY 40507



## Docket

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1:00 PM

Council Chamber

**Social Services and Public Safety Committee**

## Committee Agenda

**0373-24**

Approval of March 5, 2024 Committee Summary

**Attachments:** [03-05-2024 SSPS Summary and Motions 04.01.24](#)

**0374-24**

Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance

**Attachments:** [Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance PP 04.02.24\\_HSS](#)

**0375-24**

Gun Violence Task Force Report-Out

**Attachments:** [GVTF PP edits 04.04.24](#)

**0376-24**

Items Referred to Committee

**Attachments:** [SSPS Referral Sheet 04.09.24](#)

## Adjournment



# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

## Master

200 E. Main St  
Lexington, KY 40507

**File Number: 0373-24**

**File ID:** 0373-24

**Type:** Committee Item

**Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Contract #:**

**In Control:** Social Services  
and Public Safety  
Committee

**File Created:** 04/03/2024

**File Name:** Approval of March 5, 2024 Committee Summary

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Approval of March 5, 2024 Committee Summary

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** 03-05-2024 SSPS Summary and Motions 04.01.24

**Enactment Number:**

**Deed #:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:**

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### Text of Legislative File 0373-24

Title

Approval of March 5, 2024 Committee Summary



## **Social Services and Public Safety Committee**

March 5, 2024

### **Summary and Motions**

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Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Committee Members Ellinger, J. Brown, Fogle, Monarrez, Gray, F. Brown, Baxter, Sevigny, and Plomin were in attendance. Council Members Sheehan, Lynch, and Wu were also present as non-voting members.

#### **I. Approval of January 23, 2024 Committee Meeting Summary**

Motion by Fogle to approve the January 23, 2024 Committee Summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. Community Paramedicine Program Update**

Captain Seth Lockard, with the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, began the presentation with a history of the Community Paramedicine Program. In 2018, they received a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant for opioid follow-up and they were able to hire their first social worker. In 2020, they received another BJA Grant for continued opioid follow-up and they hired a second social worker. He spoke about outside funding sources, which includes a variety of grants received.

Lockard reviewed how referrals are processed from intranet, email, and community members and the benefit the referrals and data analysis have been for the team. He mentioned that paramedicine work is locally defined and with 10 programs functioning Kentucky, each one is different. Each program is based on individual community needs and that is what makes the program unique. He shared data from 2023 and explained the team followed up with 735 unique individuals and 321 of those had sustained an overdose. There were over 1,800 individuals who experienced an overdose event in Lexington and over 850 packages of Narcan were distributed to the community.

Looking forward, they have allocated 2 additional firefighters for spring 2024. COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program) will hire two more Overdose Prevention Project Coordinators and one Peer Support Specialist. There is also a grant that was awarded in January that will be a collaboration between the Lexington Police Department. The funding is from Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services that will create a crisis response unit in our community and a Behavioral Health Specialist will assist with calls from first response units to provide the most appropriate response.

Wells and Lockard spoke about the success of the program. Speaking about proactiveness and if we are getting enough grants, Lockard said we get a lot of the ones we can apply for. Speaking about the actual cost to make the program run effectively, Wells said the community decides what level of protection they want, but the cost would be largely for salaries and space. When asked if the peer support specialist will be someone who can truly relate and make a difference, Lockard said that is the goal for this position. When asked what the big dream is for the program, Wells said the growth to continue to meet the needs. Wells spoke about the dramatic decrease in cases and said the team was overwhelmed with the number of needs in the community. Speaking about frequent flyers and if this is something that is being addressed, Lockard said they are still there, but the team is helping with that. We must continue to provide data and the overall impact to show the program is working. No Action was taken on this item.

### III. Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition

Stephanie Theakston, Program Coordinator with Department of Social Services, provided the update on Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition which is established through ordinance. For decades domestic violence has been recognized as a national epidemic. She explained that domestic and sexual violence are intersecting issues. If we can reduce trauma at home, we can reduce mental health issues. She reviewed some programs associated with domestic violence such as Green Dot which is an evidence-based prevention program that trains active bystanders to stop violence before it occurs. There is also the housing stability program in which \$60,000 has assisted 247 adult and child survivors. She spoke about outreach and awareness and said October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She mentioned resources which include the survivor handbook, SUPPORT survivors, and decision tree and she spoke about the *It's Time* campaign. Moving forward, she said areas of focus are men, immigrants, faith communities, children, workplaces, and continue promoting existing content.

Speaking about VOCA funds and pointing out that \$800 seems low, Theakston said that's what can be provided, and it helps victims get out of their situation. It was noted that this is also helpful considering the veto the governor recently passed regarding the ban on source of income because VOCA hands out vouchers as well. When asked what they want from the Council, Theakston said messages of support in newsletters and things like that. She mentioned she would be happy to speak at neighborhood meetings or other engagements well.

When asked about supporting survivors in the workplace, Theakston said sometimes the workplace doesn't understand. If it is disclosed, it should be excused. Theakston pointed out some of the agencies we rely on are the Nest, Greenhouse 17, Law Enforcement, Courts, Ampersand, etc. When asked how we measure awareness campaigns in terms of success, Theakston said so far it is by engagement or number of people who participated or number of people who are aware. No action was taken on this item.

### IV. Items Referred to Committee

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Master

200 E. Main St  
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**File Number: 0374-24**

**File ID:** 0374-24

**Type:** Committee Item

**Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Contract #:**

**In Control:** Social Services  
and Public Safety  
Committee

**File Created:** 04/03/2024

**File Name:** Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance PP  
04.02.24\_HSS

**Enactment Number:**

**Deed #:**

**Hearing Date:**

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## History of Legislative File

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### Text of Legislative File 0374-24

Title  
Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance



# Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance

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Todd Blevins, Kentucky State Director, Humane Society of the United States

Social Services and Public Safety Committee

April 9, 2024

# Status Quo

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- Two Lexington pet stores currently sell dogs and cats in store
- Remaining dozen+ pet stores either do not sell dogs/cats or partner with shelters/rescues to promote adoptable pets
- Why does this matter?

# The Puppy/Kitten Mills to Pet Store Pipeline

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- Research shows that pet stores participate in this retail practice sourcing from large-scale commercial breeders (mills) that put profit over the well-being of their vulnerable animals
- There is no federal, state, or industry standard that identifies a “good” puppy mill or a “bad” one, nor a reasonable enforcement mechanism to ensure that Lexington-based retailers meet those standards
- The chain pet store (with a retail location in Lexington) is well-known nationwide to source from massive puppy mills – many with terrible welfare records

# Why is a Humane Pet Sales Ordinance Needed in Lexington?

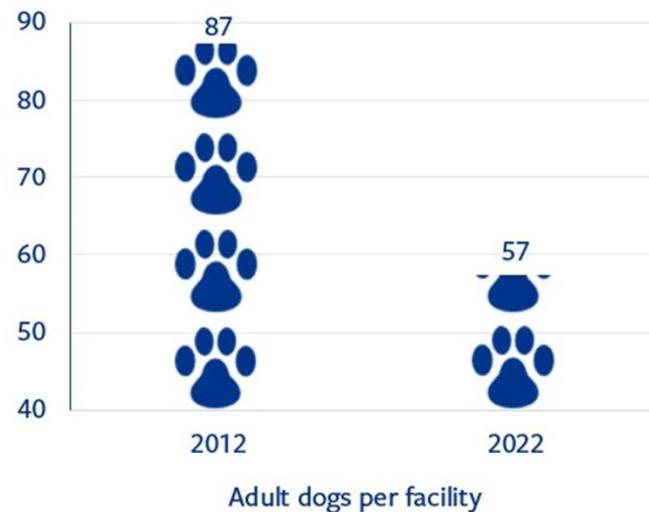
- This ordinance would:
  - Protect puppies from the puppy mill-pet store pipeline
  - Protect consumers from a wide range of problems, including predatory financing and purchasing chronically ill and/or injured puppies
  - Help ease the burden of the Lexington Humane Society, Lexington Fayette Animal Care and Control, and of Fayette County rescue groups by promoting the adoption of healthy, homeless dogs and cats
  - Send a clear message that puppy and kitten mills and their inhumane practices are not welcome in Lexington
- This ordinance would not ban the acquisition of dogs of any kind from responsible breeders, animal shelters, or rescue agencies
- 488 communities nationwide have passed similar legislation – including Kentucky's own Elizabethtown, Radcliff, and Louisville

# The Puppy/Kitten Mill to Pet Store Pipeline

This legislation makes a difference: According to USDA records, the last decade has seen 32,000 fewer dogs in puppy mills.

The data suggests these ordinances are most responsible for this drop-off. In 2012, only 27 laws of this kind were on the books. By the end of 2023, 487 communities – along with 7 states – had enacted these sorts of laws.

32,000 fewer dogs are caged in puppy mills!



The average number of dogs per USDA-licensed puppy mill dropped from 87 to 57 between 2012 and 2022, as demand for puppy mill dogs has shrunk.

# Common Questions

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Q: Would puppy-selling pet stores like Petland have to close?

A: No. These stores would still be able to sell products and services, and continue partnering with shelters/rescues to promote adoptable animals.

Q: How long would puppy-selling pet stores have to come in compliance with the ordinance?

A: The ordinance would go into effect 30 days after its passage.

Q: What is the consequence for violation?

A: There would be a \$500 fine for each separate offense.

Q: Could I still get the pure-bred dog I want?

A: Lexington residents would still be able to obtain the pet of their choice by adopting from a local shelter/rescue or by seeking out a responsible breeder who sells directly to the public.

# Community Support

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## Community partners, allies in support of ordinance

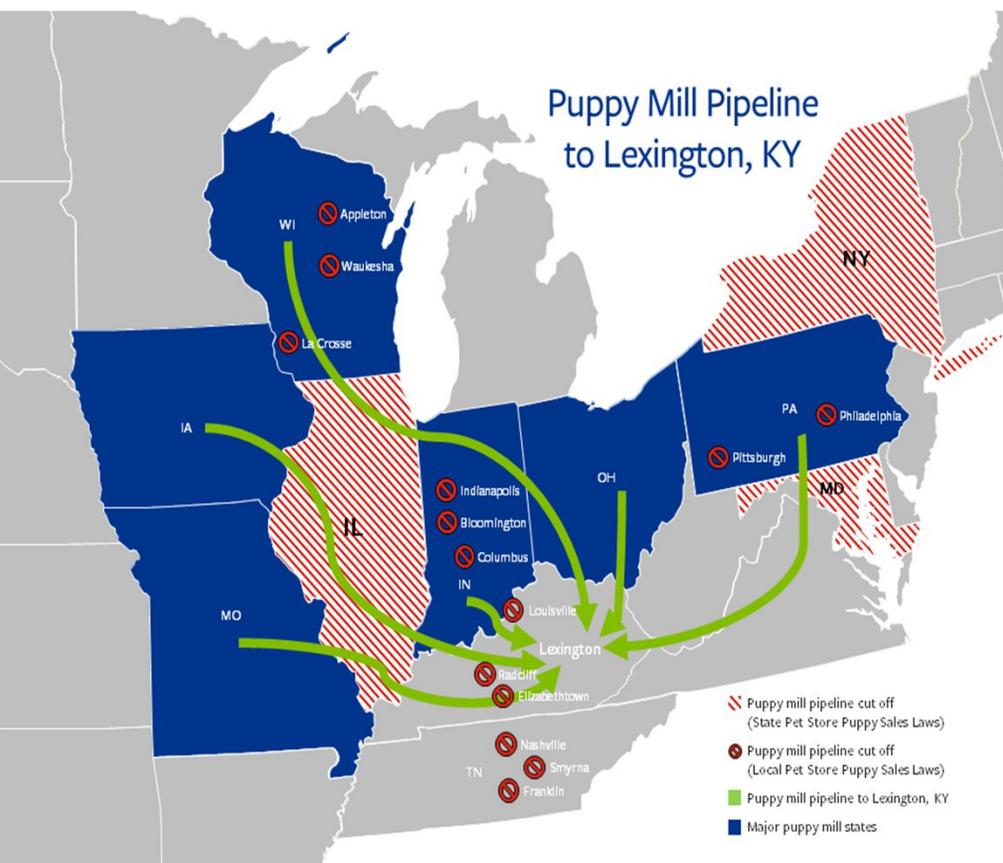
- Lexington Humane Society
- Local animal rescues
  - CivicLex partners with Saved by Fate
- Local animal advocates
- Local veterinarians
- Other pet stores
  - Pet Supplies Plus (locations in Elizabethtown, Lexington) testified in support of Elizabethtown ordinance
- Buyers of sick/deceased pet store puppies
- Other state and national advocacy groups represented by sign-on letter of support

# Why pass this ordinance now?

While more and more surrounding communities ban this harmful practice, the narrowing pipeline feeds into Lexington, harming our families and businesses. Today.

Is Lexington-Fayette going to be the only other puppy store market in the nation that endorses this business practice?

Will the failure to pass this ordinance attract more retailers that supply their stock with puppy mill puppies? We repeatedly see the pattern with these actors: Where they go, problems follow.



# Questions?

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# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

## Master

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**File Number: 0375-24**

**File ID:** 0375-24

**Type:** Committee Item

**Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Contract #:**

**In Control:** Social Services  
and Public Safety  
Committee

**File Created:** 04/03/2024

**File Name:** Gun Violence Task Force Report-Out

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Gun Violence Task Force Report-Out

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** GVTF PP edits 04.04.24

**Enactment Number:**

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### Text of Legislative File 0375-24

Title

Gun Violence Task Force Report-Out

# GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE REPORT OUT

Jennifer Reynolds, 11<sup>th</sup> District Council Member  
Social Services and Public Safety Committee  
April 9, 2024



**LEXINGTON**

## Overview

- Task Force Established October 11, 2022 and started meeting August 17, 2023.
- To provide recommendations to Council and the Administration on ways to prevent, mitigate, and address gun violence in Lexington.
- Asked by the public to explain what the city is doing to address gun violence head on.

## Participants

Task Force Members	Organization
Jennifer Reynolds	11 <sup>th</sup> District Councilmember, Chair
Tayna Fogle	1 <sup>st</sup> District Councilmember
Shayla Lynch	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Rolanda Woolfork	Independent
Jon Larson	Criminal Defense Attorney
Freida Downey	Independent
Cheryl Birch	B.U.I.L.D.

## 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

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## Task Force Groups

- Started meeting in (2) separate groups once a month from August 2023 – March 2024.
- Community Pillars Group was comprised of community partners. The City Leaders Group was comprised of government officials and public safety.
  - The Community Pillars Group sought to answer, from a constituent’s perspective, what else local government could be doing to address gun violence.
  - The City Leaders Group sought to answer how we, as a local government, can further intervene and prevent gun violence in Lexington.
- The groups met separately to look at things from different angles:
  - City leadership and community leadership
  - The groups met separately for 4 months and together for 3 months

## Task Force Work

- Productive conversations led us to recommendations in addition to how LFUCG is already addressing gun violence in the community.
- It became evident that the community wants us to talk about gun violence and not shy away from it.
- After meeting, we came up with two short lists of recommendations that were agreed upon by all members.



## **Community Pillars Recommendations**

- 1. Recommend LFUCG to define gun violence as a public health crisis.**
  - This emphasis will include but not be limited to, funding, marketing, research, implementation, and data collection to support these programs, identify risk factors, use evaluation to help frame policies for LFUCG and LFUCG will ensure these policies. Model and elevate to the status of the opioid crisis, to activate social services in the community.
  
- 2. Recommend LFUCG and community to support a three-month long gun violence awareness movement with events and services to provide support and acknowledge affected families. Starting with the annual Antonio Franklin Jr. VIP Peace Walk in April, through the end of June (National Gun Violence Awareness Month). Additionally, locally recognize the month of June as Gun Violence Awareness month.**

## Community Pillars Recommendations

### 3. Recommend expansion of access and services at all community centers in the city.

- Expansion of access will include flexible evening and weekend access by community organizations to offer programming to prevent violence in surrounding communities.

These would include:

- a. Dunbar
- b. Castlewood
- c. Tates Creek
- d. Kenwick
- e. Also, William Wells Brown, Charles Young, and Black and Williams



## Community Pillars Suggestions

- Collaborate with community, neighbors, and all levels of government and medical/health providers
- Create a policy and provide funding for renovation of abandoned buildings and lots. – Tabled: to be continued in on-going gun violence workgroup
- Create more jobs and more activities for minors, “Hard to stop if there’s nothing to do”
- Provide second chance opportunities to the families affected, re-entry into social society
- Start working with youth as early as elementary age to address gun violence
- Some have a fear of Police in community. Put energy into Police accountability and working on compassion, building relationships, and trust with community members and Public Safety
- Reallocation funds from city services (e.g. crime scenes)
- Need for gun control
- Special Requirements:
  - Have insurance on guns
  - Training for gun owners
  - Have a gun safe
- Recognize responsible gun owners
- Address irresponsible gun owners, whose gun was stolen / used to commit a crime
- Lack of safe gun ownership training and education
- Guns left in vehicles
- Correlation of alcohol and substance abuse with untreated mental health issues leading to gun violence
- Need more mental health services



## **Community Pillars Suggestions**

- Need more treatment and services for youth who are experiencing mental or living instability.
- Need more severe consequences for those youth that commit crimes with a gun.
- Discussed requiring accountability from parents who has a child that committed a crime with a gun or irresponsibly owned a gun in their possession - there needs to be an educational piece so parents are aware and can be held accountable (some disagreement here).
- Lack of responsible parents or parental figure in a child's life and many grandparents raising children.
- It was stated that currently 500 children are homeless in Fayette County.
- Issue of "it takes an act to get an advocate." Propose more preventive services for those struggling with an unsafe or unstable living condition before a tragic event happens.
- Youth Job Fairs
- Offering services and treatment for youth that have committed crimes with guns, as opposed to simply serving jail time.
- Working more in depth with the schools to create services and more youth programming.
- Need more mentoring programs.
- It was suggested to have a meeting with Louisville's stakeholders that have out these policies/ programs in action after the task force members have more research and meetings.

## **City Leaders Recommendations**

- 1. Recommend ONE Lexington provide a flowchart to show how Council can get involved and share information with their constituents about gun violence. ONE Lexington will inform the Council of their neighborhood engagement events.**
- 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 (this could reduce gun violence). Providing support for additional behavioral health specialists to assist public safety like the Paramedicine program.**
- 3. Recommend establishment of a grant for victim services for the needs of families impacted by gun violence through social services. (One Lexington has a request in MPB)**

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## **City Leaders Recommendations**

- 4. Recommend LFUCG expand their scope to address gun violence for all ages, not just ages 13-29.**
- 5. Recommend support of funding for extensive counseling for youth and families impacted by gun violence.**
- 6. Recommend support funding in budget for youth group trauma informed care sessions for youth impacted by gun violence.**
- 7. Recommend LFUCG communicate more fully with the community about their work and services dealing with gun violence and have transparency and accountability about their budget.**

## City Leaders Suggestions

- Recommend that Council advocate for continued conversation with Parks and Recreation to identify ways to allow people with lived experience to provide mentorships and volunteer in Lexington-Fayette County Public Schools.
- Encourage residents to be responsible gun owners by locking vehicles and taking firearms inside.
- Share the statistics of firearms being stolen and air those on network television.
- Look at unconventional ways to get the message out (i.e. campaign mode for PSAs, Crime Stoppers, a catchy message, DARE, etc.)
- Focus on both experiences at the table when mentoring. Folks who have lived experiences and folks who were able to deter from making bad decisions.
- The city government providing services vs the city funding entities/ facilities that are already providing these services.
- There is a need for a more robust response to gun violence.

# Questions?





# Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

## Master

200 E. Main St  
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**File Number: 0376-24**

**File ID:** 0376-24

**Type:** Committee Item

**Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Contract #:**

**In Control:** Social Services  
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Committee

**File Created:** 04/03/2024

**File Name:** Items Referred to Committee

**Final Action:**

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**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** SSPS Referral Sheet 04.09.24

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### Text of Legislative File 0376-24

Title

Items Referred to Committee

ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Social Services and Public Safety

Referral Item	Current Sponsor	Date Referred	Last Presentation	Status	Legistar File ID
1 Expand the Adult Mental Health Court with an Aftercare Program	T. Fogle	July 9, 2020	August 11, 2020		<a href="#">0763-20</a>
2 Crime Reduction Technology	W. Baxter	September 21, 2021	May 2, 2023		<a href="#">1065-22</a>
3 Assessment and Enforcement of Noise Ordinance	H. LeGris	July 5, 2022	August 22, 2023		<a href="#">0840-23</a>
4 Review of Golf Cart Policies	L. Sheehan	October 11, 2022			
5 Eviction Diversion & Right to Counsel - Tenants' Bill of Rights	D. Wu	January 24, 2023			
6 Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement (looking at ordinances, data, complaints, enforcement, technology, etc.)	D. Gray	June 29, 2023			
7 Examine prohibiting the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores	J. Reynolds	November 28, 2023		April 9, 2024	<a href="#">0374-24</a>
8 Coordinated Victim Response Plan	L. Sheehan	May 2, 2023			
9 Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition	J. Reynolds	February 27, 2024	March 5, 2024		<a href="#">0239-24</a>
10 Crime Victime Paid Leave Policy	L. Sheehan	March 5, 2024			
Annual/Periodic Updates					
11 Substance Abuse Intervention Update	L. Sheehan	January 12, 2022	March 14, 2023		<a href="#">0302-23</a>
12 Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention Annual Report	L. Sheehan	June 7, 2022	August 22, 2023		<a href="#">0901-22</a>
13 Annual NAMI - Fayette Mental Health Court Update	D. Gray	February 20, 2018	November 14, 2023		<a href="#">0360-22</a>
14 Annual LFUCG Affordable Housing Fund, Initiatives and Projects Update	D. Gray	August 10, 2021	November 14, 2023		<a href="#">1026-21</a>
15 Annual Juvenile Treatment Court Update	D. Gray	July 9, 2020	October 10, 2023		<a href="#">1164-21</a>
16 Annual Update on Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Department of Public Safety	D. Sevigny	September 22, 2020	June 13, 2023		<a href="#">0450-21</a>
17 Annual Update on Community Paramedicine Program	J. Reynolds	July 6, 2021	March 5, 2024		<a href="#">0300-23</a>
18 Annual Review of Code Enforcement	J. Reynolds	October 8, 2019	June 13, 2023		<a href="#">0814-22</a>
19 ONE Lexington Programs Update	J. Reynolds	September 25, 2020	January 24, 2023		<a href="#">0080-23</a>
20 Emergency Financial Assistance program: monitor funding to determine community needs as other funding sources diminish	S. Lynch	May 30, 2023	January 23, 2024		
Subcommittees					
21 Gun Violence Task Force	J. Reynolds	October 11, 2022		April 9, 2024	<a href="#">0375-24</a>

Updated 03.05.24, KIT