



COMPREHENSIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD
SAFETY STRATEGY

2018 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



January 2019

Letter from Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

We launched the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy in November 2017 based on feedback from the Columbus community, insights from law enforcement professionals, and data-driven, proven practices from other cities.

This multi-pronged strategy reflects our shared belief that every resident in every neighborhood deserves to be safe. To achieve this goal, we began new initiatives to address crime differently, while continuing to invest in proven safety strategies.

In 2018, the number of homicides decreased significantly and violent crime continued to trend down. Recognizing we needed to engage the entire community to keep neighborhoods safe, our new strategy looked at policing differently with programs such as the Safe Streets bike patrol. We worked to create physical deterrents to crime through neighborhood revitalization, we increased youth outreach and employment efforts, and we began to address crime as a public health crisis.

Public safety is our single largest investment and remains our highest priority. In 2018, we added 100 additional police officers to our ranks, the most the City has hired in the last five years. We also increased the number of community-facing police undergoing Crisis Intervention Training, and this training is now required for every new police recruit.

Our investments in the Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy take a broad-based approach to safety by engaging law enforcement, all city departments, businesses, community and faith leaders, and residents.

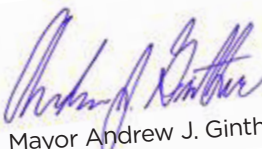
Our work includes community-based programs focused on crime prevention and intervention, including the Neighborhood Crisis Response, the Violent Crime Review Group and the CARE Coalition to address the trauma that families and neighborhoods experience because of violent crime.

Our 17-member Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission, chaired by Janet Jackson, has met a dozen times to identify, review and recommend best practices to ensure our Division of Police has the best training, policies and procedures to protect and serve our entire community. Their work will culminate with their recommendations to me this spring.

You will find more details of our work and priorities in the attached report on our activities over the past year. This strategy is not a one-year agenda, but a multi-year plan. We will continue to police differently and better align our health and safety initiatives to make life better for every resident in every neighborhood.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mayor Andrew J. Ginther





Safe Streets

Prevent. Protect. Connect.

The Safe Streets initiative re-engages the community, reduces violent crime and addresses a variety of issues that have been prioritized by the community. Uniformed bike officers focus on improving community-police relations, while addressing community concerns. Officers also serve as the first line of communication for residents needing city services and connecting other city departments to resolve non-law enforcement related problems to build stronger and safer communities. Safe Streets started in Linden in 2017, and was expanded to the Hilltop and South Side in 2018.

"The Linden Safe Streets Officers are locally assigned to our area instead of having to cover multiple precincts which means as a business owner and resident of North Linden, we can get to know those officers personally. When we see them on the street, it is very easy to stop and interact with them about the area and whatever is happening in the neighborhood. They also get to know us personally, and residents provide a pipeline of information between each other that we can then pass on to the officers. By knowing them personally, we know how to contact them with information to help them with their job and in return, it provides more protection for the citizens.

As a 40-year resident of North Linden, I LOVE having the Safe Streets Program."

- Vicki Johnson
40-year Linden resident and business owner

Safe Streets was expanded in 2018.

19% reduction in gun-related violent crime in Linden.

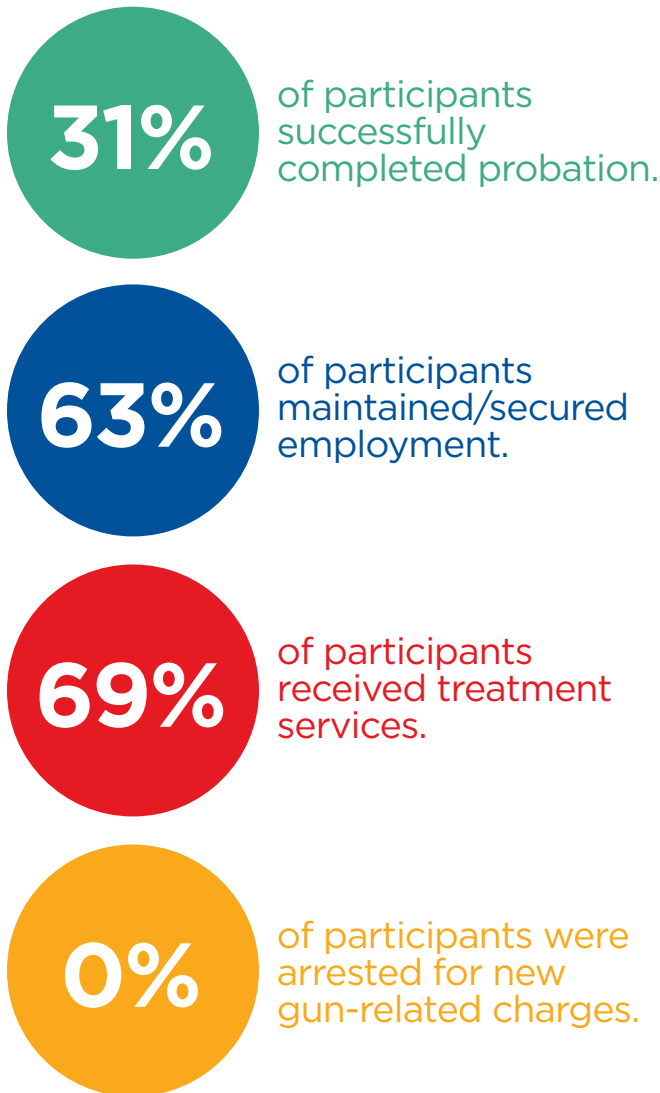
31% decrease in property crime in Linden.

24% decrease in property crime in the Hilltop.



Safe Neighborhoods

The Department of Public Safety is partnering with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to “Stop the Violence” through a new Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, focusing on violent offenders who are on probation and at risk to re-offend. Participants are exposed to diverse perspectives from family members of those killed by gun violence, clergy, medical professionals, a criminal defense attorney, and county and federal prosecutors to understand the physical and emotional damage caused by violent crime and the consequences, including life in prison or death. Participants are offered significant social services and workforce development assistance to gain employment and provide an alternate path from a life of crime and violence. Many Columbus faith leaders and social and restorative justice advocates advocate for this type of focused deterrence program.



Safe Neighborhood Initiative Partners:

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Doug Patrick, Alvis 180 Degree Impact
.....
Fred Benton, Esquire
.....
Marian Stuckey, Columbus Public Health & CARE Coalition
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Dr. David Keseg, Columbus Division of Fire
.....
David DeVillers, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio
.....
Lori Francescon, Chief Probation Officer, Court of Common Pleas
.....
Pastor Frederick LaMarr, Family Missionary Baptist Church
.....
Joe Gibson, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Columbus City Attorney's Office
.....
Joey Green, Columbus Urban League
.....
Johnna Sawyers, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
.....
Liz Jordan, SouthEast Mental Health
.....
Felicia A. Saunders, Community Safety Advocate
.....
Shawn S. Stevenson, Community Safety Advocate

.....

“ Stop the violence so that another life is not lost. This initiative is part of our neighborhood plan to take a stand - a strong stand against violence. ”

- Pastor Frederick LaMarr, Family Missionary Baptist Church

APPS

Applications for Purpose, Pride and Success

The Applications for Purpose, Pride and Success (APPS) program works to reduce crime and violence in the lives of Columbus youth and young adults (ages 14-23) through proven prevention and intervention strategies. The program offers safe and constructive alternatives to violence and mentoring through enrichment activities at four Recreation and Parks community recreation centers.

Workforce Development

In summer 2018, the **APPS program hired 114 young people** between the ages of 14-23 from areas with a disproportionate number of barriers to success to participate in nine weekly training sessions on topics such as cultural diversity, CPR/first aid and financial literacy, while working in different City departments.

- Participants acquired **new skills** and gained **on-the-job-training** and **workforce experience**.
- Job coaches performed weekly work site visits to provide **support and guidance**.
- **100% of participants improved** their work force readiness knowledge and behaviors.

"They are now **better prepared to obtain employment**, having completed resumes and mock interviews," said Mario Martin, APPS Program Director. "There were two consistent themes from our young people we surveyed; one was the **appreciation of the relationships they built** with city staff, and two was the **desire to work more hours** next summer."

Community Center Without Walls

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department began the new Community Center Without Walls to take community-building recreation programs to the residents of the Wedgwood neighborhood.

Recreation and Parks staff became more involved in Wedgwood Middle School to build relationships with the new American Somali community, connected them to opportunities and programs, and provided transportation to a nearby community center for programming and a safe place to play.

Columbus Community Center After School and Out of School Programming for 2,000 Children in Wedgwood:

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 Soccer League	 Foosball
.....
 Pool	 Basketball
.....
 Air Hockey	 Group Games

Neighborhood Violence Intervention (NVI)

Through street-level violence interruption and conflict mediation by trained Violence Intervention workers and neighborhood based services, the APPS Neighborhood Violence Intervention (NVI) program builds relationships with high-risk youth -- or known violent offenders -- to guide them away from violence toward positive alternatives. Through pooled intelligence with law enforcement and community partners, the APPS NVI team works to identify the highest-risk youth in the most violent neighborhood gangs, and mentors young people widely recognized to be driving violence in the APPS designated neighborhoods.

Defused **67** potentially violent incidents.

Had **42** interventions after gang-related incidents and remained in contact with those at risk to help prevent further incidents.

Enrolled **148** young people, ages 14 to 23, in its case management system.

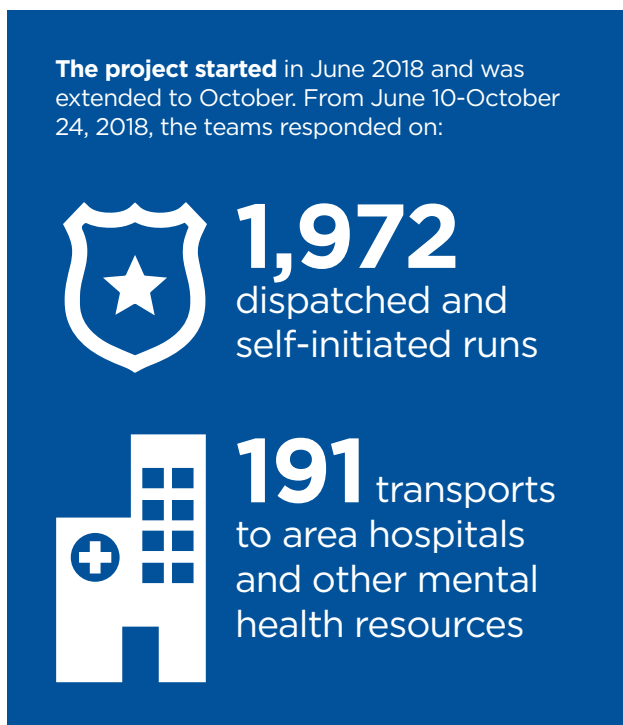


Cap City Nights

APPS hosted six free Cap City Nights festivals to foster safe and healthy community relationships by bringing together neighborhood residents, worshippers, service providers and business owners. The festivals encouraged relationship building among families and neighbors, strengthening community ties and empowering the community to work together to reduce violence while creating a platform of trust to produce positive change.

Crisis Intervention

The Columbus Division of Police partnered with Netcare to pair a mental health worker with a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer. Two of these teams worked in our neighborhoods every day from 2 p.m. to midnight, responding to mental health emergency calls. The teams provide referral for help at the scene, helping people in crisis while freeing up officers to help other Columbus residents.



18,041 Mental health related calls for service from Jan. 2017 to Feb. 2018

48 % of mental health runs with CIT response (Jan. 2016 to Feb. 2018)

56 Officers trained in CIT in 2017

95 Officers trained in CIT in 2018

100 % of new recruits who received CIT training

38 % of total forward-facing officers trained in CIT by the end of 2018 (426)

56% Projected minimum % of forward-facing officers to be trained by 2020

10 Number of CIT classes in 2018

6 Number of classes scheduled for 2019



As a result of our continued partnership with Faith in Public Life Ohio, the Columbus Division of Police believed in the importance of and signed on to the International Association of Chiefs of Police's One Mind Campaign to improve police response to persons affected by mental illness. Our commitment to this campaign has supported our ability to ensure public safety, build trust and provide accountability. CPD was recognized as being fully compliant with the One Mind Campaign during 2018.

Neighborhood Crisis Response

Led by the Department of Neighborhoods, the Neighborhood Crisis Response team coordinates resources and responses from multiple departments, working together to create physical deterrents to crime. In addition, neighborhood liaisons, area commissioners and residents engage to solve nuisance code issues.



\$ Investing in Safe Neighborhoods for Residents

\$5,000 to clean and clear alleyways of trash and waste

\$750,000 to install pedestrian lighting and sidewalks
(The design phase began in December 2018.)

\$83.5 million for planning, design and implementation of comprehensive solutions that both mitigate sanitary sewer overflows and strengthen our neighborhoods.

Clean Neighborhoods

The City addresses illegal dumping in neighborhoods through prevention, enforcement and education. This effort includes additional ground crews and new equipment to assist in alley cleanups, expanded neighborhood safety cameras in select alleys, additional trail cameras, and the Keep Columbus Beautiful End Littering Initiative.



Neighborhood Safety Committees

The Department of Neighborhoods works with City departments and neighborhood residents to establish neighborhood intervention strategies to help make them safer. Neighborhood Safety Committees are comprised of Community Liaison Officers, City Attorney's Office representatives, block watch volunteers, Neighborhood Liaisons and community leaders. Department of Neighborhoods staff also attended several area commission meetings and engaged with neighborhood liaisons to coordinate with them on safety issues within their assigned neighborhood.



By the Numbers:

3 Number of inaugural Neighborhood Safety Committee meetings in 2018

4 Number of Neighborhood Safety Committee meetings planned for 2019



Violent Crime Review Group

Led by Columbus Public Health, the Violent Crime Review Group connects and brings together eight City of Columbus departments in a coordinated effort to increase communications and share data that will help us develop neighborhood specific strategies to reduce violence. The Violent Crime Review Group is working to lower homicide rates through a focused, multi-departmental review of and rapid response to violent crimes.

Neighborhoods & Launch Dates

- 1 Linden**
May 1, 2018
- 2 Hilltop**
September 3, 2018
- 3 South Side**
October 4, 2018

The Violent Crime Review Group includes representatives from:

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Office of the Mayor
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Columbus Public Health
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Columbus Police Department
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Department of Neighborhoods
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Public Safety
.....
Recreation and Parks
.....
Columbus CARE Coalition
.....
Department of Development



Rapid Homicide Notification System notifies VCRG member agencies when a homicide occurs in the pilot neighborhoods to determine and provide an appropriate level of response within 48 hours to impacted residents and neighborhoods.

 **19** homicide responses

 **11** square miles assessed for lighting, sidewalks, 311 calls and trash

 **368** homes visited by social workers in door-to-door outreach

 **43** lights repaired

 **10** next of kin contacted for grief counseling

 **361** properties identified as vacant, boarded up or sites of interest

Crime Review Process

regularly and systematically examines homicide cases in the pilot neighborhoods, with the goal of making neighborhood-specific crime intervention strategies and recommendations to reduce the number of homicides.



Columbus CARE Coalition

Community, Action, Resiliency, Empowerment


Lifelong Effects of Violence

"My teenage daughter was murdered in our home by her boyfriend. For the next six months, I was unable to work, drive or socialize with anyone. My therapist prescribed medication, which I didn't like, so I didn't take it. I've slowly worked my way back into society and suffer from PTSD. Every day is a struggle. I will never get over the loss of my daughter."


- C. Celeste LaCour-Belyn
CARE Coalition Community Member



The CARE Coalition has been providing direct outreach to residents impacted by gun violence and other traumatic experiences to help connect them to services and build resiliency in neighborhoods. By the numbers from 2017-2018:

 **3,189 doors** knocked on to offer support and build relationships

 **10 trauma and listening sessions** held to engage residents

 **4 mental wellness events** coordinated to support healthy coping skills, provide education on resilience factors and foster community togetherness

 **1 community remembrance vigil** held for 75 families impacted by violence

 **64 community events** participated in to distribute trauma resource guide

Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission

The Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission is identifying, reviewing and recommending best practices to ensure the Columbus Division of Police has the best training, policies and procedures to protect and serve our entire community. Community policing, problem-oriented policing, and associated best practices identified by national public safety and social justice experts are informing the Safety Commission's work, which will culminate in recommendations to Mayor Ginter.

To accompany the work of the Safety Commission, Matrix Consulting Group is conducting an independent operational review of the Columbus Police Department. Through in-depth division data collection, extensive interviews with law enforcement personnel, a comparison of the division to national best practices, and input from resident surveys and focus groups, Matrix will provide an analysis focused on staffing, policies, community engagement, training and transparency.

Areas of Focus:



De-escalation, crisis intervention and bias training



Use of force policies



Early intervention and officer wellness programs



Diversity recruitment and retention



Commissioners:

Janet Jackson, Chair
Brooke Burns
Emily Buster
LaShaun Carter
Tammy Fournier-Alsaada
Dr. Chenelle Jones
Dr. Vlad Kogan
Matthew McCrystal
Ellen Moore Griffin

Andrea Morbitzer
Pastor Jason Ridley
Traci Shaw
Erin Synk
Oleatha Waugh
Mary Wehrle
Tiffany White
Dr. Reginald Wilkinson

Neighborhoods Represented on the Commission:

Beechwood
Berwick
Clintonville
Discovery District
Franklin Park
Franklinton
Hilltop
Linden
Merion Village

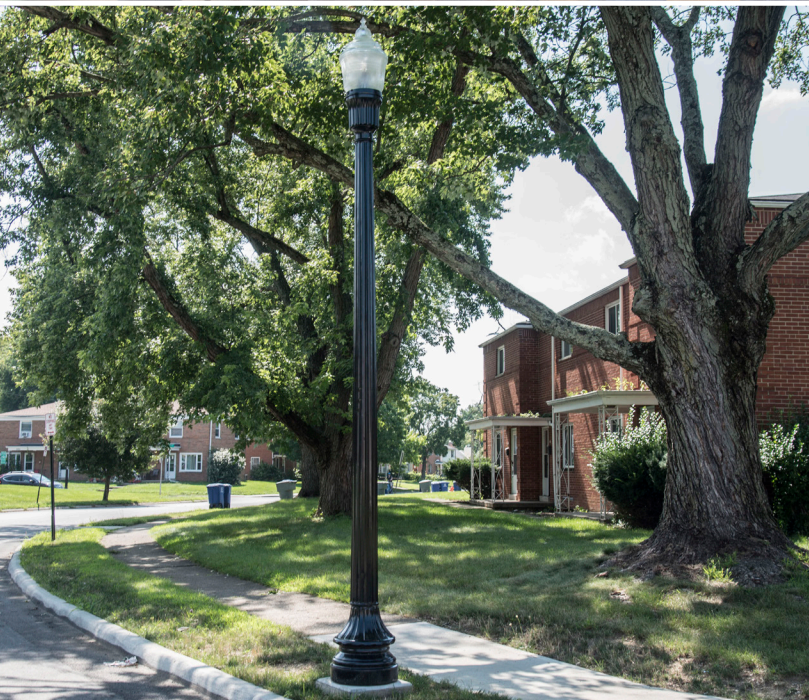
Near East Side
North Linden
Northeast
Northwest
Olde Town East
Oriole Heights
Short North
Weinland Park

"My service on the Columbus Community Safety Advisory Commission has **given me an opportunity to voice the concerns of the youth and families we serve every day** at the Columbus Urban League, particularly concerns of African American men. The wide array of subject matter experts allows for a circumspect analysis of the work of the Columbus Police Department. Assembly of such a diverse group, **all working toward creating a fair and equitable community for all**, has taught me that the people of Columbus want the same things but sometimes disagree on methods. The courage of our City leadership, law enforcement and community members in their willingness to undergo this level of scrutiny must be commended. However, **there is a long road ahead** as we work to create a community where the most marginalized and affluent can harmoniously **access available resources and opportunities to maximize their potential and fulfill their dreams.**"

- Oleatha Waugh, Commission Member

"I was eager to participate both so I could serve as a **bridge between the police department and the community**, and for the opportunity to bring an outsider's perspective to **help improve the work** the department is already doing. Overall, it's been an incredible experience. I have **gained tremendous insight into and respect** for the work that our police department (from the patrol officers all the way through the command staff) are doing, as well as for ideas for directions the City could go to do even better. I'm particularly eager to continue to think about ways to **improve the recruitment process to increase the diversity in the ranks**, to implement better evaluation methods to evaluate the effectiveness of specific enforcement strategies, and to improve data analytics capabilities within the division."

- Vlad Kogan, Commission Member







THE CITY OF **COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

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