

Report on March 4, 2021 Roundtable on Homocides and Non-Fatal Shootings



Board of Police Commissioners

Overview

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, the Board of Police Commissioners hosted a Roundtable on Criminal Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings as part of its regular weekly meeting (see attachment).

The Board had planned to hold a Roundtable in 2020 to examine factors behind high numbers of homicides and attempted homicides and help the entire community engage in proactive measures against violent crime. Then, the COVID-19 outbreak occurred. The pandemic soon led to a global shutdown, cancelation or postponement of most activities, and vast changes in daily life for everyone.

Disappointingly, deadly violence escalated during the pandemic.

Detroit and other U.S cities saw a surge in gun violence from 2019 to 2020. The number of homicides rose almost 20% in Detroit, from 275 to 327. Non-fatal shootings, or attempted homicides, climbed over 50%, from 406 to 767.

The 2020 violent crime numbers underscored the urgency for proactive measures, and the Board decided to convene the Roundtable virtually.

Roundtable participants included Detroit Police Chief James Craig, Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Third Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny, Rev. Louis Forsythe of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Youth Leader Toson Knight, and Bishop Daryl Harris of CeaseFire, who served as moderator.

Key Points:

The Roundtable drew over 300 Zoom platform users. Among the key points gained from the March Roundtable, the Board and community learned:

- There is almost a yearlong backlog of criminal cases caused by closures related to COVID-19 public health orders and Constitutional requirements for due process, and many offenders are free pending their day in court.
- The new plan proposed to start the week of March 22, 2021 will begin action on court cases for persons charged with carrying a gun illegally.
- New criteria was implemented February 18, 2021 to prohibit COVID-19/administrative releases to inmates charged in serious violent crimes, including capital offenses, manslaughter, criminal sexual conduct, serious assaults, home invasions, felonies involving gunfire, domestic violence, and drag racing. While the new criteria for administrative jail releases helps keep those in violent cases locked up, jail records show that the 205 inmates released due to COVID-19 measures had only three commit new crimes, and those crimes were non-violent.

- The projection that victims will drop out of the 40% of current domestic abuse cases at a time when COVID-19 has isolated victims with abusers.
- A reminder of the 2018 study that found driving without a license was the offense for most jail inmates, which means most of the jail space was not available for those charged with violent crimes.
- Church and community programs remain open to youth who need recreation, mentoring, and other positive engagement during the pandemic.

The success of the Roundtable underscored the need for ongoing educational outreach to help steer and keep youth on successful life paths and for continuous improvements throughout the criminal justice system to address dangerous and violent offenders for better public safety outcomes.

During his State of the City address Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Mayor Mike Duggan referred to the plan announced at the Board’s Roundtable for reopening courts to act on gun-related cases with violent perpetrators.

Detroit has been and continues to be part of successful efforts to enhance public safety and prevent crime through local and national programs from CeaseFire to PSAs. Detroit’s results were cited in one of the most successful public service advertising campaigns in history, Take a Bite out of Crime featuring McGruff the Crime Dog (Attachment 2).

Created in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, National Crime Prevention Coalition, and the Ad Council, the PSAs reached youth and adults through multiple media platforms and educational activities. It might be possible that Detroit and other cities can work with President Joe Biden’s administration to ensure the development and funding for an effective modern public service campaign.

The public can view the March 4, 2021 BOPC meeting and Roundtable on demand through City TV at detroitmi.gov/bopc along with other the full meeting transcript, which includes the Roundtable discussion.

Board of Police Commissioners

Darryl Brown - District 1

Willie Bell (Chair) - District 4

William Davis - District 7

Annie Holt (Vice Chair) - At Large

Linda Bernard - District 2

Willie Burton - District 5

Jesus Hernandez - At Large

Martin Jones - At Large

Shirley Burch - District 3

Lisa Carter - District 6

Jim Holley - At Large

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ADMINISTRATION

1301 Third Street Suite 767 | Detroit, Michigan 48226

313-596-1830 | bopc@detroitmi.gov

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

900 Merrill Plaisance | Detroit, Michigan 48203

24-Hour Complaint Lines: 313-596-2499 | Fax 313-596-2482 | online form at detroitmi.gov/bopc

Attachment A: Flyer for BOPC Roundtable



Darryl D. Brown
District 1



Linda Bernard
District 2



Shirley A. Burch
District 3



Willie E. Bell
District 4



Willie E. Burton
District 5



Lisa Carter
District 6



William M. Davis
District 7



Jesus Hernandez
At-Large



Jim Holley
At-Large



Annie Holt
At-Large



Martin Jones
At-Large



Board of Police Commissioners

Join the BOPC for a Roundtable discussion on Criminal Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings

2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
261	275	327	753	767	1,173

at its regular weekly meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Speakers Include:



Detroit Police Chief
James Craig



Wayne County Sheriff
Raphael Washington



Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney
Kym Worthy




Third Circuit Court Chief Judge
Timothy Kenny

With representatives from clergy, education, academia, and programs for reducing domestic and gang/group violence

The number of criminal homicides and non-fatal shootings in 2019 were horrific for crime victims and our City even before the pandemic caused a surge in 2020. COVID-19 is still with us. Join the meeting on Zoom for the Roundtable to hear leaders talk about their respective roles to help stop violence.

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/397380647?pwd=S1kzVzU4RURFb2NBREJlY1kwVVNjdz09>

Attachment B: One of the top Public Service Campains ever cited Detroit results.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME™

The name's **McGruff**, the Crime Dog, and it's my job to teach folks how to prevent crime. I think it should be your job, too. Because when it comes to fighting crime, we're all in it together. You, me, the cops, your friends and neighbors—even the kids can help.

CREATIVE CRIME FIGHTING.

Maybe you've already got a hot-shot local program going. So here's your chance to support it with a gangbusting national campaign.

The material is free—the fun part comes when you add the creative elements that can make this campaign work especially for your town.

YOU GET WHAT YOU WORK FOR—RESULTS.

For instance, **Detroit, Michigan** formed Neighborhood Block Watches. Crime dropped 60% and property values doubled in those areas.

Hartford, Connecticut organized an Eyes and Ears Patrol. Burglary dropped 40%, robbery 28%.

Texarkana, Texas' Awareness of Crime Program reduced household burglaries by 44%.

Seattle, Washington's Commercial Business Watch Program reduced burglary, theft, and robbery by 30%. (Not so bad, huh?)

WHAT YOU CAN DO (OR HOW TO CATCH A THIEF).

Broadcast and print advertising is the most effective way we know to create awareness of crime prevention. We've prepared some very compelling advertising for TV, radio, print, etc. Please send for it (it's free!), and see that it's run as often as possible.

DON'T LET 'EM KNOCK YOUR BLOCK OFF!


You and your community can make this campaign really move! Start now—order materials to distribute or post in public places. And encourage community leaders to tell people what crime prevention can do for them.

NOW WE'RE GONNA LET YOU HAVE IT!

We've developed a very exciting communication program to let the public know about crime prevention. Air-ready, camera-ready and display-ready materials are available for the asking. So—ask!

In short, we're gonna give you and your community some very important public service announcements. USE 'EM!

U.S. Dept. Of Justice
Crime Prevention Coalition



3. **Take A Bite Out Of Crime** | The goal, when McGruff the Crime Dog started growling in 1979, was to encourage Americans lock their doors and persuade children to refrain from getting into cars with strangers. Today McGruff, created by the National Crime Prevention Council and the Ad Council, has a web site and PSAs about cyber bullying. [Watch](#) (Courtesy of Ad Council/Courtesy of Ad Council and the National Crime Prevention Council)