

The following is a condensed summary of the law enforcement plan that Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson submitted to Governor Mike Pence on July 23, 2013.

GARY, INDIANA FOR LIFE

In 2013, there has been an unprecedented spike in violent crime in the city of Gary, Indiana. As of today, there have been 31 homicides in the city of Gary compared with 21 homicides in 2012. It is our position that any number is too large, but we have been alarmed by the more than 50% increase. This surge has occurred in the face of increased cooperation between law enforcement and a number of community-based efforts to address this concern. Our administration has determined that it is essential for us to coordinate and intensify these efforts and have developed a plan.

The areas that will be addressed include:

WORK WITH OJP DIAGNOSTIC CENTER AND LOCAL ANTI-VIOLENCE INITIATIVE (GARY FOR LIFE)

OJP Diagnostic Center

The City of Gary is engaged with the Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center. The mission of the Center is to identify the criminal justice needs of a community and assist the community in accessing and coordinating federal, state and local resources. From a review of preliminary research, the parties have decided to target the Tarrytown and Tolleston communities in Gary for the initial work of the Center. Justice Department officials will travel to Gary August 1 and 2, 2013 to meet with community stakeholders and devise the initial plan that will focus on these communities. The plan will be implemented under the leadership of Gary Police Chief Wade Ingram and his staff.

Gary Anti-Violence Initiative

In March 2013, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson convened the first meeting of the Anti-Violence / Crime Prevention Task Force. This task force grew out of the realization that Gary's crime statistics are grave and only a multi-faceted approach

will have a long term impact on crime and violence in the community. The task force involves representatives from law enforcement, education, workforce development, the faith community, block clubs, the corporate community, public and mental health, and the media. This group works to develop a comprehensive approach to the eradication of crime. The task force is divided into subcommittees that develop distinct projects consistent with its overall mission. The task force is patterned after the successful NOLA for Life initiative in New Orleans, LA and will receive technical assistance from the OJP Diagnostic Center.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officers on the Street

There will be an increased presence of law enforcement on the streets through the hiring of more officers and further implementation of Community Policing programs. In the short term, we are looking to augment the number of police on the street through our monthly saturation patrols in cooperation with neighboring departments and the assistance of Indiana State Police.

Task Force Coordination

There are three task forces that operate in the city of Gary. They include the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Task (HIDTA- hidta.org); the Lake County Gang Response Investigative Team (GRIT); and the Lake County Drug Task Force. The Gary Police Department has assigned officers to each of these initiatives and all entities have conducted investigations in the city of Gary. These partnerships will continue.

Investigative Resources

To enhance our investigative efforts, Lake County Sherriff John Buncich has assigned a homicide detective to the Gary Police Department. We have also engaged Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter and United States Attorney for the Northern District David Capp in an unprecedented way. The work with Mr. Carter and his staff will center on how we prosecute gun charges and the placement of an intake deputy at the Gary Police Department to expedite the

charging process. The work with Mr. Capp will center on the prosecution of gun cases, the use of the federal RICO statute and the use of federal resources referenced above. We have also pursued Project Safe Neighborhood Funding in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Youth Council

Earlier this year, the city of Gary developed a Youth Council through our Youth Services Bureau. This council gives young people a voice in government and allows them to organize activity and galvanize the positive energy of other young people. In April 2013, members of this group organized an Anti-Violence March and Rally that drew more than 300 young people and adults. On July 27, 2013, there will be a youth-led rally at Indiana University Northwest followed by a week-long Youth Empowerment Conference.

The Youth Council will also be involved in two other projects that are contemplated to prevent or address violence. Gary's youth will take a leadership role in the effort to remove a recent increase in graffiti on buildings in the city. Additionally, young people will take the lead in developing a Homicide Watch web page for the city of Gary. This page would provide detailed information on crime victims and efforts to apprehend the person(s) responsible for their death. This allows the community to personalize the deaths that have occurred and will hopefully provide a level of comfort to the families of victims by helping them to understand that their loved ones have not been forgotten.

Truancy and Drug Courts

The Second Chance Drug Treatment Court began in the city of Gary, Indiana in September 1996. The court requires individuals who are charged with criminal offenses and who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs to engage in treatment, community service, educational and job training in an effort to address the underlying issues that drive their criminal behavior. Since the inception of the

Second Chance Program, nearly one thousand participants have successfully completed the court program with a recidivism rate of only 35%. This is significantly less than the recidivism rate associated with individuals charged with criminal offenses who are adjudicated through the traditional court system.

Gary City Judge Deidre Monroe and her staff have determined that it is necessary to expand the drug treatment court to address the challenges of the chronically mental ill population and to meet the special needs of the veteran population with criminal offenses. The expansion of the Second Chance Program would prevent additional criminal activity that results from the activity of those offenders who do not access treatment, psychiatric counseling or other supportive services.

Block Clubs/Neighborhood Watch

The engagement of concerned citizens is essential to the success of law enforcement and crime prevention. It is important for citizens to cooperate with criminal investigations and provide accurate information so that responsible individuals can be held accountable. Additionally, blocks clubs and neighborhood watch programs create an atmosphere where neighbors prevent crime through their attentiveness and cooperation. Citizen neighborhood efforts are the most important components of community policing efforts.

Abandoned Property and Blight Clean Up

Our administration understands the relationship between blight and crime. Criminals often use abandoned structures to hide stolen goods or engage in illegal activity. We are currently working with graduate students from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy to survey every parcel in the city of Gary and assess the status of all stock on that land. To date, approximately 25% of the city has been surveyed with a completion date of September 30, 2013. The information gathered to date has allowed us to ensure that open structures are boarded up and hazardous structures are prioritized and torn down. We also clean up dump sites and high weeds.

Employment and Education

While criminal involvement is never justified, some individuals make a correlation between their efforts to support their families and their criminal activity. The city administration is working in a number of arenas to remove this excuse. First, since 2012, we have been working with new and existing businesses to employ Gary residents. This work has been done through WorkOne and other training providers to open doors for local residents. We have also worked with our compliance department to ensure that public works projects comply with local ordinances in employing local residents.

The city administration has developed an excellent working relationship with all providers of K-12 education in Gary. There are three distinct ways that our support minimizes criminal activity. First, the Truancy Court works closely with schools. Additionally, our police department coordinates closely with school security officers throughout the city to ensure the safety of all students and to address problems when they occur. Finally, we are working with the schools and after-school program providers to extend the school day for children who need additional support. The YWCA of Northwest Indiana and the Boys and Girls Club are represented on the Anti-Violence / Crime Prevention Task Force.

Media Campaign

Media is crucial to our anti-violence efforts. We are initiating a campaign to highlight the cost of violence to the victims and perpetrators. The campaign will discuss the loss of the victims' life through death or serious injury, and it will highlight the loss of the perpetrator's life through incarceration. This will be communicated through social media, billboards, print, posters, television and radio. Young citizens will also be involved in the design of these messages.

CONCLUSION

As the plan outlined above is implemented, the parties will augment and enhance these efforts. The ultimate goal is to see a marked reduction in criminal activity, best evidenced by a reduction in homicides and violent crimes. The city administration is working on major projects in economic development and public works while developing partnerships in education and employment training. These projects are designed to preserve the quality of life and that preservation starts with having an impact on criminal activity throughout Gary, Indiana.