

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
October 13, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

RESOLUTION: 170609

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
3 morning, everyone.

4 I understand that state law
5 currently requires that the following
6 announcement be made at the beginning of
7 every remote public hearing as follows:
8 Due to the current public health
9 emergency, City Council Committees are
10 currently meeting remotely. We are
11 using Microsoft Teams to make these
12 remote hearings possible.

13 Instructions for how the public
14 may view and offer public testimony at
15 public hearings of Council Committees
16 are included in the public hearing
17 notices and are published in the Daily
18 News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
19 prior to the hearing and can also be
20 found on PHLCouncil.com.

21 Will the Clerk please call the
22 roll to take attendance. Members that
23 are in attendance will please indicate
24 that they are present when their names
25 are called. Also, please say a few

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1 brief words when responding so that your
2 image will be displayed on the screen
3 when you speak.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember Allan
5 Domb.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
7 Mr. Chair and colleagues. Looking
8 forward to the hearing. Thank you.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember Cindy
10 Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
12 morning, Mr. Chairman, colleagues and
13 the viewing public. Good morning,
14 everyone.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Curtis Jones, Jr.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
18 morning, Mr. Chairman, colleagues and
19 people that are going to present
20 testimony today.

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
25 Good morning, colleagues.

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1 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember
2 Jamie Gauthier.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
4 morning, Mr. Chair, colleagues and to
5 the public. Present.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
7 A quorum of the Committee is present and
8 this hearing is now called to order.
9 This is the public hearing of the
10 Special Committee on Gun Violence
11 regarding Resolution 170609.

12 Will the Clerk please read the
13 title of the resolution.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution 170609,
15 a resolution authorizing the creation of
16 a Special Committee on Gun Violence
17 Prevention to address Philadelphia's
18 enduring plague of gun violence by
19 facilitating coordination among
20 stakeholders in formulating a
21 comprehensive gun violence prevention
22 strategy.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Before we
24 begin to hear testimony from the
25 witnesses we have for today, everyone

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1 who has been invited to the meeting to
2 testify should be aware that this public
3 hearing is being recorded. Because the
4 hearing is public, participants and
5 viewers have no reasonable expectation
6 of privacy. By continuing to be in the
7 meeting, you are consenting to being
8 recorded.

9 Additionally, prior to
10 recognizing Members for the questions or
11 comments they have for witnesses, I will
12 note for the record at this time that we
13 use the chat feature available in
14 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
15 signify that they wish to be recognized.
16 In order to comply with the Sunshine
17 Act, the chat feature must only be used
18 for this purpose.

19 At this time, I want to thank
20 everyone for taking time out of your
21 schedule and participating in this very
22 important hearing. I am holding this
23 latest Special Committee on Gun Violence
24 Prevention Hearing to examine the City's
25 strategic plan to address gun violence,

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1 save our youth and reduce the murder
2 rate in the City of Philadelphia.

3 The level of gun violence we
4 experienced in Philadelphia in 2020 and
5 continue so far in 2021 is totally
6 unacceptable. I will continue to
7 highlight the issue of gun violence in
8 our City and to advocate for solutions
9 as long as this plague endures. The
10 hearing will examine the fatal and
11 nonfatal shootings that have happened so
12 far this year.

13 I also expect Councilmembers to
14 ask questions about the status of law
15 enforcement and gun violence prevention
16 efforts to stem the tide of gun violence
17 here in the City of Philadelphia thus
18 far this year. We're about the end of
19 the holiday season. Halloween,
20 Thanksgiving and Christmas are just
21 weeks away as well as other holidays.

22 At this moment in 2021, we know
23 at least 431-plus families who are
24 grieving. There are at least 431-plus
25 families who have a missing seat at the

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1 holiday table this upcoming holiday
2 season. So I feel that it's very
3 imperative and important that we all
4 review the senseless gun violence that's
5 been taking place here in the City of
6 Philadelphia, but most importantly what
7 are we going to do differently going
8 into the year 2022.

9 Although most of us will
10 remember that this past year-and-a-half
11 for the COVID-19 pandemic, and it still
12 continues, I will also remember that
13 last year was the bloodiest of 2000 in
14 the 21st century at 499 murders. At the
15 rate we are going today, we will surpass
16 this number as we embark upon the end of
17 December 2021.

18 As of yesterday, 431 people
19 have been victims of homicides here in
20 the City of Philadelphia. That's a
21 15-percent increase compared to the same
22 time last year. And as of October 10th,
23 1764 individuals have been shooting
24 victims here in the City of
25 Philadelphia, which is a 6.2 percent

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1 increase compared to the same time last
2 year. This cannot continue and must not
3 continue.

4 We are here today to try to
5 make some sense of Philadelphia's
6 surging gun violence over the past few
7 years. I believe it is important to get
8 constant updates from our Philadelphia
9 Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, our
10 Philadelphia District Attorney Larry
11 Krasner, the City of Philadelphia Office
12 of Violence Prevention and most
13 importantly, the citizens about this
14 issue.

15 We also invited the Courts who
16 did not respond to our invitation to
17 participate, which is also indicative of
18 why we need to address this issue with
19 an all-hands-on-deck approach. But most
20 importantly, all our City agencies
21 should be addressing this issue with a
22 sense of urgency, but most importantly a
23 sense of priority.

24 These Special Committee on Gun
25 Violence Prevention hearings are meant

1 to bring transparency and accountability
2 to the agencies responsible for public
3 safety here in the City of Philadelphia.

4 As a native son of Point Breeze who
5 still lives here raising my two
6 African-American boys, I have sleepless
7 nights due to senseless gun violence
8 that takes place day in and day out.

9 When shots ring out in South
10 Philadelphia and Southwest Philadelphia
11 but also across the City, I'm always
12 getting phone calls all day and night as
13 well as early in the morning asking what
14 are we going to do differently when it
15 comes to addressing the senseless gun
16 violence plaguing our City. Often I
17 hear the shots or the police and
18 ambulance sirens.

19 The people who are being
20 victimized are not just my constituents
21 but are fellow citizens here in the City
22 of Philadelphia. They are members of my
23 family, friends but most importantly, my
24 neighbors. After these shootings take
25 place, I walk the streets to check on

1 nearby residents, I attend funerals and
2 host prayer vigils. And most
3 importantly, I do everything I can do
4 possible to comfort the mothers, fathers
5 and children who have lost loved ones to
6 senseless gun violence. I share their
7 grief and I share their outrage.

8 During those sleepless nights,
9 I ask myself over and over again what
10 can we be doing more to address the
11 senseless gun violence here in the City
12 of Philadelphia. I have done countless
13 public safety walks, vigils and Peace
14 Not Guns rallies, hosted roundtable
15 discussions, town halls and formal
16 hearings like the one we're doing today
17 to bring the community together, but
18 most importantly, our City leaders to
19 address this issue.

20 I heard from advocates that are
21 victims and co-victims of gun violence
22 that want a stronger voice and more
23 support when it comes to addressing
24 losing the life of a loved one to
25 senseless gun violence. And by this

1 year ends, I am confident that Mayor Jim
2 Kenney will appoint a nominee to be a
3 leader of the newly created Office of
4 Victim Advocates, an office I helped
5 create and pass legislation last year by
6 changing our City Charter.

7 We need to make sure that those
8 who have lost loved ones to gun violence
9 have a voice and seat at the table. We
10 are recovering more so-called ghost guns
11 in the City of Philadelphia than ever.
12 These guns don't carry serial numbers,
13 don't require a background check and
14 can't be traced by investigators. Yet
15 federal law enforcement doesn't prohibit
16 them.

17 So I introduced legislation and
18 got ghost guns banned here in the City
19 of Philadelphia. The law is currently
20 being challenged in our court, but I'm
21 confident that our City will prevail. I
22 said this last year and I will say it
23 over and over again, everyone here in
24 the City of Philadelphia, citizens,
25 elected officials and law enforcement

1 officials and agencies must look at
2 ourselves in the mirror every day and
3 make sure that we're doing everything
4 possible to address the senseless gun
5 violence.

6 That includes our District
7 Attorney's Office, our Philadelphia
8 Police Department, our Mayor's Office,
9 the Office of Violence Prevention,
10 Managing Director's Office, our School
11 District, our Court system as I noted
12 earlier who was invited and who did not
13 respond to participate, but most
14 importantly the community.

15 Our homicide detectives cannot
16 solve a homicide if our citizens do not
17 step up and say something when they see
18 something, and most importantly, engage
19 in supporting our young people and say,
20 don't pick up guns in the first place.
21 Behind these homicide numbers are
22 real-life individuals.

23 And I want to wrap up before I
24 call the first panel by saying this:
25 Last year we experienced 500 homicides.

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1 This year we'll experience another 500
2 homicides which is basically the lost of
3 1,000 lives in a two-year period. We
4 lost 1,000 lives to gun violence in a
5 two-year period. They are actual people
6 and family members who are behind those
7 1,000 individuals who have lost their
8 lives.

9 And so, I don't host these
10 hearings as a way of political exercise.
11 I'm not up for election. This is about
12 keeping our post and our pressure on
13 addressing the senseless gun violence
14 that is here in the City of
15 Philadelphia.

16 So with that being said, I want
17 to ask the Clerk to please call the
18 first panel.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES:
20 Mr. Chairman?

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, sir,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: May I have a
24 moment to say something?

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

1 Absolutely.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: First of
3 all, thank you for staying laser-focused
4 on this issue and not allowing it to
5 fall back to the back page of the
6 newspaper or be forgotten. Thank you
7 for that. Someone said something to me,
8 Mr. Chairman, that I think I want to go
9 on the record and say.

10 Not knowing the pulse of the
11 streets, they said in a vacuum of
12 knowledge, well, the people that are
13 getting shot, murdered, somehow were in
14 the wrong place because they were doing
15 the wrong thing. And that could not be
16 further from the truth. Many people,
17 and I had to remind this gentleman, that
18 the rain falls on the just and unjust
19 alike. Bullets do not make a decision.

20 The 7-year-old young man on
21 Simpson Street that was sitting on a
22 porch playing with his toys didn't -- he
23 was at the right place doing the right
24 thing and was murdered. A young lady
25 who is a part of the Earth -- I don't

1 want to say her name -- Day Coalition,
2 they believe in environmental issues,
3 clean up lakes and parks, was shot in
4 the eye last week and was rushed to the
5 hospital. Fortunately, she is not one
6 of those 400 people that were murdered,
7 but the physical scar, the emotional
8 scar that she will bear from now on is
9 permanent.

10 So I say to people that somehow
11 believe that this is of our own doing
12 all the time, I say that they couldn't
13 be further wrong by thinking it and more
14 importantly, saying it and putting it
15 out there. So what we're doing is very
16 important, Mr. Chairman. And I thank
17 you for keeping the pressure up so that
18 we prioritize. Thank you again,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No, thank
21 you very much. And I implore you to
22 tell that individual when they make
23 those types of statements, it's just
24 outright dumb. Just ask those children
25 who have been shot here in the City of

1 Philadelphia who were in the right place
2 at the right time, right, was it their
3 fault that they got shot.

4 Look those mothers and fathers
5 in the face who have lost loved ones,
6 young ladies and young men irregardless
7 of their background, that it was their
8 fault that they got murdered. No one
9 has the right to take another person's
10 life at the end of the day. So I'm
11 going to stand on that.

12 I thank you for your hard work.
13 I thank you for your dedication with the
14 100 Shooting Review Committee, which you
15 will also be providing a hearing and a
16 report around this issue, because at the
17 end of the day we have to make sure that
18 we're addressing it comprehensively.
19 That's a violence prevention aspect.
20 That's a law enforcement aspect. And
21 most importantly, that's a community
22 engagement aspect.

23 So with that being said, I will
24 ask the Clerk to please call the first
25 panelist. If any other Councilmember

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1 would like to make a brief remark, you
2 can at this moment. If not, I'm going
3 to ask the Clerk to please call the
4 first panelist.

5 THE CLERK: On Panel No. 1, we
6 have Erica Atwood.

7 MS. ATWOOD: Good morning,
8 everyone. Good morning, Chair Johnson
9 and the members of the Special Committee
10 on Gun Violence. Give me one moment
11 while I get my tech set up.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
13 morning, Erica.

14 MS. ATWOOD: Good morning. Can
15 you all see the slide?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

17 MS. ATWOOD: Perfect. Teams is
18 not my friend this morning so I
19 apologize for the delay. All right.
20 Good morning, Chair Johnson and the
21 Special Committee on Gun Violence
22 Prevention. I'm Erica Atwood, Senior
23 Director for the Office of Policy and
24 Strategic Initiatives for Criminal
25 Justice and Public Safety for the City

1 of Philadelphia.

2 Today I'm accompanied by my
3 Co-Chairs for the Roadmap to Safer
4 Communities, Dr. Ruth Abaya and
5 Commissioner Danielle Outlaw. And I am
6 here to provide an update to the Roadmap
7 to Safer Communities, the Kenney
8 Administration's strategy to reduce
9 violence.

10 What is the Roadmap? Launched
11 in 2019, the Roadmap to Safer
12 Communities -- sorry, slides are frozen.
13 Launched in 2019, the Roadmap to Safer
14 Communities' core pillars are connected
15 and thriving youth young adults so that
16 all people and families have sustainable
17 and well-integrated support to reach
18 their potential free from gun violence,
19 stronger community engagement and
20 partnerships, community organizations
21 are resourced and connected to City
22 agencies, allowing them to maintain and
23 grow person-centered programming that
24 strengthens prevention and intervention
25 efforts.

1 Coordinated City services and
2 planning, relevant to the agencies work
3 collaboratively using police and health
4 data to develop policies and programs as
5 well as synchronized activities that
6 include community output and will lead
7 to sustainable solutions to reduce gun
8 violence. And last but definitely not
9 least, safer and healthier communities,
10 individuals, families and neighborhoods
11 are safe, healthy and productive members
12 of the community in which they live,
13 work and play.

14 Since I appeared before this
15 Committee, we have aligned the criminal
16 justice and public safety's clusters
17 quarterly goals to align with the core
18 objectives of Roadmap pillars.
19 Connected and Thriving Youth and Young
20 Adults: We seek to ensure that those at
21 the highest risk of gun violence between
22 the ages of 16 and 34 and their families
23 have a clear path to proven prevention
24 and intervention programs that increase
25 their connection to needed supports and

1 access positive opportunities, including
2 education, employment, and trusted
3 caring adults such as mentors.

4 We implemented technology that
5 will launch expedited release for
6 juvenile arrests and at the same time
7 establish deeper integration with larger
8 youth diversion strategy and increase
9 public facing re-entry services -- with
10 increased public facing re-entry
11 services, we will connect more youth and
12 young adults and families at a high risk
13 of violence to high-quality community-
14 based programs that promote health and
15 social wellness.

16 Deepening our bench of youth
17 leaders across the City through our Next
18 Generation Task Force, public events
19 created and also creating the role of
20 Director of Economic Mobility and
21 Workforce, establishing a credible
22 messenger fellowship and partnering with
23 Heartland Alliance to explore the
24 feasibility of replicating the READI
25 model here in Philadelphia will connect

1 more youth and young adults at a high
2 risk of violence to paid training and
3 employment opportunities.

4 Stronger Community Engagement
5 and Partnerships: Post-quarantine 2020,
6 we have been re-establishing connections
7 with town watch groups, community
8 organizations to plan community activity
9 that will address immediate community
10 concerns and re-engagement. We have
11 enhanced our operations for the Office
12 of Criminal Justice Community Advisory
13 Committee, keeping an eye on the
14 necessary reforms in our criminal
15 justice system as well as creating an
16 opportunity for feedback on overall
17 violence reduction strategy and City-
18 supported programs.

19 To reach our younger audiences,
20 we are boosting our presence and
21 engagement on social media hosting
22 Instagram Live, conversations, deploying
23 engagement teams at major events and
24 hiring our first social media
25 influencer, West Chester University from

1 Hunting Park, Claudia Scott.

2 Coordinated City Services and
3 Planning: To ensure the City's re-entry
4 efforts effectively target the most at
5 risk of violence and strengthening our
6 cost agency connections for re-entry
7 solutions, we are elevating coordinated
8 data across agency platforms like
9 prisons, CARES and the police to deepen
10 the analysis of recidivism to fortify
11 the onramps to positive opportunities
12 and activities.

13 We have launched both
14 evaluations for the Community Crisis
15 Intervention Program and our Group
16 Violence Intervention programs.
17 Collecting and evaluating outcomes, our
18 current City's supported violence
19 reduction programs, an overall violence
20 reduction strategy will help us properly
21 align resources and policies.

22 Additionally, we've relaunched
23 our multi-agency tactical meetings to
24 facilitate coordination among City
25 agencies and external stakeholders,

1 reduce shootings and homicides, which
2 I'll go into further detail later in my
3 testimony.

4 Safe and healthy neighborhoods:
5 The financial impact of COVID-19 on many
6 Philadelphians has been devastating,
7 especially for those impacted by the
8 criminal justice system. With the goal
9 of reducing structural violence in
10 high-risk neighborhoods, we facilitated
11 a COVID-19 repayment program.

12 At the close of the program in
13 the coming weeks, we will have made
14 payments to 1,000 people released from
15 detention in the Philadelphia Prison
16 System. We know we have to either
17 provide or be the conduit of services to
18 communities most vulnerable to gun
19 violence.

20 To that end, we are
21 coordinating and supporting community
22 resource events in target areas. In the
23 coming months, we will be working with
24 other departments across City agencies
25 to ensure that alignment of programs and

1 resources are reaching the most at risk
2 and are connected to outcomes we know
3 will alleviate the scourge of gun
4 violence.

5 While we have a huge
6 undertaking in one of the worst
7 historical eras in our country which can
8 seem daunting and all encompassing, we
9 are laser-focused on our place-based
10 strategy.

11 We are concentrating on the
12 nuance of neighborhoods and working in
13 partnership with our police district
14 captains and analysts to utilize
15 intelligence and data on shooting and
16 crime patterns in their district. This
17 partnership enables City departments to
18 respond in realtime and better deploy
19 resources and programming.

20 These actions in turn are
21 tracked as data points and monitored to
22 make sure environmental remediations and
23 social services are tailored to these
24 places and people with the greatest
25 needs. In this slide, our police

1 districts are overlaid on a heat map of
2 shootings that have occurred this year.

3 This information in conjunction
4 with known environmental issues, social
5 determinants of health are how the
6 districts were chosen. We have assessed
7 and leveraged our partnerships in
8 neighborhoods as well as mapped our
9 remediation efforts in communities that
10 are impacted. While coordinating our
11 internal efforts are critical to
12 reducing violence, we are also aligning
13 our financial investigations in
14 community organizations.

15 Later this week we will be
16 announcing our first of few community
17 expansion awards. This is on the heels
18 of announcing 41 new awards for our
19 Targeted Community Investment Grants.
20 Since 2019, we have invested 2.8 million
21 in community-based and community-led
22 organizations, which work in partnership
23 with our cluster to reduce the impact of
24 gun violence in our neighborhoods.

25 With these grants, we have an

1 opportunity to change the antiquated
2 methodology of inequitable grant-making,
3 meaningful investments with individuals
4 and organizations that have sustained
5 positive relationships with those at the
6 highest risk of being victims, witness
7 and perpetrators of gun violence.

8 In order to enhance the harmony
9 and hope on every block in our City, we
10 have to stay the course. Continue to
11 align our core strategy and connect back
12 to community in ways to keep moving
13 forward. Our partnership with this body
14 as well as our state and federal
15 partners has to persevere for the sake
16 of our children and future generations
17 of Philadelphia. Thank you for this
18 opportunity and I'm happy to answer any
19 questions at this time.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
21 very much, Erica, for your testimony.
22 Just a couple of questions --

23 MS. ATWOOD: Yes, sir.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- I want
25 to ask just to get started. One, thank

1 you for your service. Thank you for
2 being on the case when it comes to
3 addressing this issue comprehensively
4 not just from a law enforcement aspect,
5 but from a gun violence prevention
6 aspect as well. And so, I just have a
7 couple of questions I want to ask
8 regarding your testimony.

9 First, from your perspective,
10 what would you consider successful thus
11 far from an evaluation standpoint? In
12 your presentation, I saw a lot of goals
13 and objectives, right, and how you're
14 going to measure them. And so, give me
15 an idea thus far today what's most
16 effective, right, that y'all have been
17 working on that you probably want to do
18 more of moving forward. And what do you
19 consider key areas of success thus far
20 in terms of the Roadmap to a Safer
21 Philadelphia 2.0?

22 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah. So signs of
23 success or the kind of benchmarks that
24 we're looking at is kind of short-
25 term -- I mean, long-term we want

1 violence to go down, but short-term,
2 what are the indicators that we know.
3 Quantitatively, more young people who
4 are at a high risk and young adults at a
5 high risk engaged in something other
6 than street activity, that is an
7 indicator.

8 You and I are kind of from the
9 same generation, so the effect and the
10 relationships that we have with them are
11 kind of Old Head, Auntie type-of-deal.
12 So having more young people in positions
13 of leadership that are then engaging
14 with those who are at a high risk is a
15 sign of success for me. That is why
16 we're doing and so intentionally
17 promotional about the Next Gen Taskforce
18 and getting them out because we have
19 young people who are under the age of 40
20 who have been engaged in activity, that
21 some of them have served time, some of
22 them do have criminal backgrounds, but
23 they turned their life around and
24 they're now engaging, kind of each one,
25 touch one. So that's one, that

1 continued engagement.

2 That is why we're doing the
3 credible messenger fellowship and
4 starting that, so we can then deepen the
5 bench of those who are doing the work
6 and continue to elevate the sector that
7 is credible messengers, so it is broadly
8 considered a professional onramp and how
9 do we professionalize that sector and
10 support those who are doing that work.
11 For me, that's key, that's critical.

12 It is deepening and sustaining
13 our investments in community
14 organizations. I don't know who's going
15 to be sitting in this seat in 2024. But
16 if we've invested in community
17 organizations in a way from now until
18 then, they can then be more stabilized
19 and more secure so they can sustain
20 their work on the ground and we will do
21 the technical assistance for them to
22 build their capacity, so their back of
23 the house is just as sharp as their
24 front of the house and how they serve
25 our young people.

1 I think internally kind of
2 holding us as a City accountable, how we
3 are talking about aligning our
4 resources. The scarcity that COVID-19
5 has presented for us has forced us to
6 think a little differently and move some
7 things out of the way. And so, we all
8 come to the table. We all got to put
9 five on it. And if we're all putting a
10 little bit on it, then that means we
11 have more to go and more in these
12 neighborhoods. And holding ourselves
13 accountable that we are looking at those
14 who need us the most and we're measuring
15 impact and effort.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: When you
17 talk about resources, members of Council
18 advocated for a violence prevention
19 budget in the amount of 155 million on
20 the last budget. A lot of those areas
21 were categories that funding was cut and
22 then reinstated. Some funds were moved
23 around and then obviously we had a
24 significant funding, new money put to
25 the side for community-based

1 organizations.

2 Would you agree that when we
3 talk about investment on the front end
4 in addressing the issue of gun violence
5 prevention and giving young people an
6 opportunity, that this upcoming budget
7 process, 155 million, should at least be
8 the base moving forward?

9 MS. ATWOOD: I mean sure. I
10 could say that not understanding the
11 comprehensive issues that we are facing
12 in terms of what our revenues look like,
13 what our budget looks like, sure, we
14 would love another 155 million, plus
15 some, to continue to do this work.
16 However, we have to also lean hard onto
17 what is the state providing us, how are
18 they supporting us. Not to say they're
19 not, but I think that's a lean to how is
20 the federal government financially
21 supporting us in these efforts.

22 I don't want to put it all on
23 us, because again we've all got a stake
24 in this. So I think combined if we can
25 get resources that equal and elevate the

1 investments in violence prevention, we
2 would continue to work toward solutions.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: In terms
4 of micro grants, right, we've never
5 funded more than 15 percent of the
6 applicants, right. And I want to get an
7 idea in terms of moving forward, because
8 obviously 500 homicides is 500
9 homicides, which means we're going to
10 need to be investing significantly in
11 community-based organizations, just
12 similarly how you talked about the role
13 they play in terms of your testimony.

14 And so, I want to get an idea
15 in terms of moving forward how do we
16 exceed that historical 15 percent. But
17 also, give me an idea the types of
18 initiatives that you will be funding
19 with the larger community grants that
20 you're about to announce as well. And
21 how are you going to evaluate the
22 successes of those who have applied for
23 micro grants, but then also the targeted
24 expansion grants that you will be
25 announcing in the next few weeks?

1 MS. ATWOOD: Sure. So to get
2 to more -- I think micro grants are a
3 tool but not a solution. And so, I
4 would not want to put the solution
5 wholly on more investments in community
6 organizations. I think it has to be a
7 tool on our tool belt, so I'm not saying
8 that we can't or we shouldn't invest in
9 more organizations. But I will let you
10 know that maybe if we get to 20, 25
11 percent -- all of the applications are
12 not viable.

13 All of the applications are not
14 culturally relevant or racially
15 relevant. I think y'all would hand my
16 behind to me if I funded some of these
17 applications that we see coming through.
18 So I want to be very clear that getting
19 to an 80 percentile is not a positive
20 thing. We want to make sure that our
21 investments are wise, they're smart and
22 they're ready for the investments and
23 ready for community.

24 I think if we can get to 20 or
25 25 percent, I think that would be great.

1 I also think that in terms of types of
2 organizations and types of investments,
3 as it relates to Community Expansion
4 Grants, we're going to see short-term
5 and long-term effects of that. And so,
6 I talked earlier about having credible
7 messengers engaged and providing safe
8 havens for youth and young adults,
9 making sure that the mentor programs
10 that we are investing have a trauma-
11 informed approach, making sure we're
12 doing more restorative justice to start
13 to mitigate and teach young people
14 skills and adults skills around kind of
15 standing down and mediating crisis and
16 solving it without a gun. But I would
17 be remiss if I didn't say we have to
18 continue to advocate unrelentlessly to
19 reduce the amount of guns in our City.

20 It is astronomical, and I'm
21 sure the Police Department is going to
22 go into what that recovery has done.
23 But we cannot hug our way out of this
24 problem when we have guns at the per
25 capita rate that we have in the City.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Did you
2 say hug our way, hug?

3 MS. ATWOOD: Hug, yes.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Hug our
5 way out of it?

6 MS. ATWOOD: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 MS. ATWOOD: And lastly in
9 terms of evaluation, we are evaluating
10 not only our Community Expansion Grant,
11 we're going to bring on our evaluator
12 not just for setting the framework for
13 evaluation for the Community Expansion
14 Grants and those grantees, we're also
15 going to have them set a framework of
16 evaluation for our Targeted Community
17 Investment Grants and make
18 recommendations to ensure that that
19 program is making the right investments,
20 the best investments and providing the
21 supports that individuals and community
22 organizations at the grassroots need.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
24 Also, you want to be transparent because
25 some of these conversations we've had in

1 a different group setting, but obviously
2 the purpose of this hearing is making
3 sure that we're being transparent and
4 accountable in terms of how we're doing
5 our work with the public.

6 Give us a brief update of the
7 status of hiring a technical assistance
8 agency to work with the nonprofit groups
9 to help them get to the next level, and
10 then also the evaluation agency that
11 we're going to bring in to evaluate the
12 programming that we're going to be
13 providing funding through the Targeted
14 Expansion Grants.

15 MS. ATWOOD: Sure. So for the
16 Community Expansion Grant RFPs for
17 evaluation and for technical assistance,
18 the RFPs have gone out. We've gotten a
19 number of responses for them. We have
20 asked for some follow-up information
21 from those prospective proposals. We
22 have just reviewed the responses from
23 the evaluator. We are asking for more
24 information from them. We will get that
25 information no later than next week.

1 And then pending those responses, we
2 will make a selection and proceed with
3 our technical assistance provider.

4 We are in the stage of
5 reviewing their responses to our
6 follow-up questions. We will then
7 either make a decision on those based on
8 those follow-up answers or ask for more
9 information. Again, we will have that
10 follow-up by next week and make a
11 decision. That will align with the
12 announcement of the grantees.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good. You
14 mentioned that the relaunch of the
15 multi-agency tactical meetings --

16 MS. ATWOOD: Yes, sir.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- how
18 often do y'all meet, what sort of
19 coordinated efforts result from those
20 meetings, and give me an idea of who's
21 at the table?

22 MS. ATWOOD: Sure. I can
23 follow up with a list of who's at the
24 table, but I'll just throw up a slide
25 for you all and talk a little bit more

1 in-depth about this. Give me two
2 seconds. And so, I kind of ran through
3 my slides and I apologize for that for
4 all of you.

5 This slide in particular that
6 you see that is up talks about our
7 tactical meeting outputs. And so, I've
8 mentioned this I believe in another
9 hearing, at least in some meetings,
10 where when I came into this role we
11 elevated the Roadmap to Safer
12 Communities from just the Office of
13 Violence Prevention to the cluster, so
14 now there are kind of four departments
15 who have shared outcomes directly under
16 my supervision that pour into this.

17 And so, what you see on the
18 left-hand side is our criminal justice
19 and public safety assets. These are
20 service providers, town watch groups,
21 community organizations, our Targeted
22 Community Investment grantees, advocacy
23 groups, contractors, academic
24 institutions, you name it, faith
25 communities, it's up here. These are

1 the folks that we work with in our
2 cluster.

3 And you see the red kind of
4 shaded areas are PinPoint areas, and the
5 lines are dividing up the police
6 districts. On the right-hand side, the
7 diamonds you see are our tactical
8 remediations. And so, we meet weekly
9 and we met with the 10 districts we were
10 focused on.

11 In meeting with those weekly,
12 we had the captains present. Each
13 district had two weeks. The first
14 meeting, the captain presents, gives us
15 a rundown of issues that are happening
16 in his department. So I'm running back
17 to this for you, these are the questions
18 that we ask the captains. And so, what
19 are the patterns, why do you think
20 they're happening, what are some of the
21 environmental issues that you see that
22 are occurring, who are you working with
23 outside the law enforcement in your
24 neighborhood and what other nonlaw
25 enforcement supports do you need. So we

1 run through this with every captain and
2 analyst and CRO, and they give us a
3 multi-page presentation.

4 And then we have in realtime
5 environmental departments, PHS, Streets,
6 L&I, CLIP will handle the remediations
7 that are physical. Streets in terms of
8 lighting or cameras if there's an issue.
9 Also, if there needs -- folks are asking
10 about employment, the Office of
11 Workforce and the Department of Commerce
12 is there. If folks need behavioral
13 health supports, DBH is there.

14 On average, there are about 30
15 participants in our tactical meeting on
16 a weekly basis really needling down to
17 respond to the questions that we've
18 asked the captains.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is
20 Probation and Parole a part of those
21 tactical meetings?

22 MS. ATWOOD: Not to my
23 recollection, but DHS Juvenile Justice
24 who is a conduit between us and
25 Probation and Parole are.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm trying
2 to understand, like, that's a key
3 component, Probation and Parole,
4 Juvenile Probation as well. Since most
5 of our young shooters are getting
6 younger and younger, I think they would
7 be at the table as part of the
8 discussion, not going through a liaison
9 which would be their boss which would be
10 Cynthia Figueroa, but literally they
11 work with the young men and young ladies
12 at the Youth Study Center, I call it the
13 Youth Study Center. Just trying to get
14 an idea --

15 MS. ATWOOD: So I will say,
16 Councilmember, for Probation and Parole,
17 they're a multiple table set. And so,
18 tactical may not be the most appropriate
19 table for Probation and Parole. They
20 are a part of shooting reviews. I am a
21 part of the table that they sit around,
22 juvenile justice population and reforms
23 and reports. We work together on our
24 expedited release in juvenile
25 assessment. So they're at a table.

1 They're just not at this --

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- at this
3 table.

4 MS. ATWOOD: -- table.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Help me
6 out. And what's this table for again?

7 MS. ATWOOD: This table is
8 really about working with police
9 captains around remediating
10 environmental and social service issues
11 that exist in their neighborhoods --

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's kind
13 of like a quality-of-life tactical
14 meeting?

15 MS. ATWOOD: Yes.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
17 Understood. Not zero-like focus on gun
18 violence, public-safety specific?

19 MS. ATWOOD: Yes.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
21 Just wanted to get some clarity on that.
22 You mentioned the READI model, which I'm
23 very, very excited about. Give me an
24 idea of the status of the READI model.
25 For most people who do not know about

1 the READI model, can you elaborate on
2 it. And when do you see it up and
3 running here in the City of
4 Philadelphia?

5 MS. ATWOOD: So we have
6 begun -- so READI model is a system that
7 works with those who are at the highest
8 risk of being shooters and being shot.
9 It is a model that combines cognitive
10 behavioral health therapy, workforce
11 development and mentoring to work with
12 adults that have been identified as
13 potential shooters. It's an intensive
14 program that -- it's not a program in a
15 traditional sense because it relies on
16 the collaboration of partners, so it is
17 a system more than a program that forces
18 coordination between behavioral health
19 partners, workforce partners, employees,
20 City agencies and behavioral health
21 partners to really wrap around supports
22 of a population of those in the City who
23 are deemed the most kind of dangerous or
24 the most in danger.

25 Where we are in that process,

1 one, Philadelphia will be the first city
2 that this model has been potentially
3 replicated in. We are in assessment of
4 the field status right now. Heartland
5 Alliance will be here next month. You
6 all will be receiving an invitation.
7 You all being City COuncil will be
8 receiving an invitation from my office
9 in short order to participate in a
10 briefing by Heartland Alliance who is
11 coming here to Philadelphia in the
12 beginning of November, and they will be
13 presenting kind of the status updates.
14 They will be getting feedback from our
15 critical partners in elected positions,
16 in stakeholders, in the workforce
17 sector, behavioral health sector as well
18 as those who are directly impacted.

19 In terms of launch, the
20 feasibility study and the building of
21 the model -- the standing of the field
22 and the building of the model based on
23 the culture and the nuances of
24 Philadelphia will take through the end
25 of this year. We will probably have the

1 model set up and started and begin to
2 start to recruit and build out that
3 framework in the spring of 2022.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
5 before I allow some of my colleagues to
6 ask some questions, the last one -- and
7 I know we as a group, meaning my
8 colleagues and I, within the 155
9 million, we were advocating for
10 significant funding for the Department
11 of Commerce. Specifically, I remember
12 Council President Darrell Clarke
13 mentioned in a hearing that he wanted to
14 make sure that Commerce Director Michael
15 Rashid has more of an active role in
16 working with us around this issue around
17 gun violence. So we know that this
18 year's budget of 6 million was
19 distributed to the Department of
20 Commerce for anti-violence initiatives,
21 so I know y'all have been doing some
22 work in that area.

23 So just give us a brief status
24 update on how that 6 million will be
25 used under Commerce emerging gun

1 violence prevention. We talked about
2 making sure that -- we know here it's
3 high poverty. When you look at your
4 heat maps, that's just crime, that's gun
5 violence. It's a part of the equation,
6 right. So from a prevention standpoint,
7 just give us an update on how we want to
8 utilize economic development through the
9 Commerce Department and funding to
10 combat gun violence.

11 MS. ATWOOD: So the first step
12 in kind of really assessing our
13 partnership in that role, and we can
14 follow up with kind of a full
15 comprehensive plan from the Commerce
16 Department. But Step 1 is assessing the
17 field. And I don't say that to kind of
18 use jargon, but we are hiring a Director
19 of Economic Mobility and Workforce
20 Development. And I thought kind of hard
21 to use that kind of terminology around
22 economic mobility --

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Why is
24 that?

25 MS. ATWOOD: So economic

1 mobility is really about how you can
2 move in a financial way without being
3 displaced in a physical way. How do we
4 give credence and credibility to your
5 hustle skills and entrepreneurship for a
6 population of those who are at risk of
7 violence. And we take it very seriously
8 so we can provide workforce training and
9 build onramps to positive and
10 purpose-driven careers.

11 We can find opportunities in
12 training for ways that we can turn kind
13 of your hustle mentality into
14 entrepreneurship. We can support you if
15 you have training, being able to provide
16 opportunities for you to utilize that
17 training and connect you with partners,
18 employment partners. And so, Step 1 is
19 identifying the archetypes of those who
20 need us the most.

21 Step 2 is figuring out where
22 the opportunities lie and jobs lie. And
23 then Step 3 is how do we build those
24 onramps to those and stop kind of
25 forcing people to find the yellow brick

1 road, how do we actually make it very
2 obvious and clear this is the way and
3 this is the path, and we've not done
4 that historically.

5 And I will use myself as an
6 example. I live right around the 5000
7 block of Baltimore Avenue and I've lived
8 in this neighborhood for 20 years. I am
9 a renter. When I moved into that
10 neighborhood, my rent in my apartment
11 was \$515. I live four blocks away from
12 the first apartment I moved into, and my
13 rent is three times that. I have only
14 been able to stay in my neighborhood
15 because I have the economic mobility and
16 my career track has gone up. So I've
17 worked in hospitality 20 years and now
18 I'm in City leadership.

19 So now, if my cousins who live
20 further southwest from me had the same
21 economic mobility that I do regardless
22 of their education, privilege and job
23 opportunity, what would it look like if
24 they were a carpenter or a floor layer
25 and were able to continue to move and

1 not be displaced, what social cohesion
2 would we have in our neighborhoods if we
3 had economic mobility as opposed to
4 displacement.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
6 I want to wrap up on this one part. I
7 know I said I was going to turn it over
8 to my colleagues. Just one last
9 question real quick: In terms of I call
10 them BHAGs, Big Hairy Audacious Goals,
11 right --

12 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- what
14 would be -- I think I asked this
15 question earlier, but I probably wasn't
16 as clear as I wanted to be. What are
17 the top four targets that the
18 Administration is focusing on through
19 your office as it relates to reducing
20 gun violence and violence prevention?

21 And I guess I'm going to give
22 you an example. By 2014, right, we want
23 to have 1,000 young people hired. We
24 want to engage 1,000 young people with
25 trauma-informed care. We want to engage

1 1,000 young people with credible
2 messenger fellowships. Can you kind of
3 crystallize that part of your
4 presentation from a targeting
5 standpoint? Because usually when
6 there's a target, right, the mission is
7 focused on reaching that number from an
8 engagement standpoint. I just want to
9 get an idea is there any thinking around
10 that type of process?

11 MS. ATWOOD: There is. And the
12 challenge -- I hear what you're saying
13 and I want to be able to give you a
14 clear and definitive answer. But my
15 concern often with our reliance on
16 quantitative numbers is we
17 measure effort and not impact. And I'm
18 really nervous about saying, yeah, we
19 should be able to reduce violence by 35
20 percent in five years. That is a big
21 ass goal and I would love to have it.

22 However, I also want to be
23 careful because the nature and the
24 culture of violence has changed. And
25 so, I can set goals and say it would be

1 great to say, yes, we've got 1,000 young
2 people who have been through our
3 credible messenger fellowship over the
4 next seven years. Yes, I would
5 absolutely love to do. I think that is
6 a reasonable goal.

7 But the nature of violence just
8 in two years and what the violence is
9 has changed, so I can't say what
10 violence is going to look like and what
11 the causation of violence is going to
12 look like in two years. It may change
13 from it being arguments and beefs to it
14 being drug sales. And so, I want to --

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: But
16 doesn't statistics show that -- I mean,
17 and this is why we talk about the
18 violence prevention approach, that what
19 is high poverty, right, like --

20 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- you
22 know, the basis of a lot of why we see
23 our young people and our families living
24 in neighborhoods of crime and violence
25 is just based upon the neighborhoods

1 experiencing poverty, right, rather
2 that's redlining --

3 MS. ATWOOD: Absolutely.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: --- rather
5 it's the inequality of our education
6 system, right. And I guess I'm flipping
7 it not from the perspective of the goal
8 is to reduce the gun violence, right,
9 but really measuring aggressively how
10 the young people we want to touch with
11 the investments of resources, right, to
12 help them change the quality of lives.
13 I guess that's the direction I'm looking
14 at it in.

15 MS. ATWOOD: Okay. And so,
16 while we say that my portfolio in this
17 work is around prevention, yes, to some
18 degree it is. But in the grand scope
19 and historical scope, what we do is
20 intervention. And until -- and I say
21 that and I know there are probably some
22 folks twitching right now, and I say
23 that because we have to get at the root
24 causes of this.

25 I don't handle the root causes.

1 The root causes are lack of quality
2 education, lack of economic stability,
3 lack of access to behavioral and
4 physical health, quality health services
5 and lack of social connectivity in
6 neighborhoods. My departments and my
7 folks and even how we connect to other
8 departments, we can help that. But
9 until we make investments to reduce
10 poverty to elevate all levels of
11 education to make sure that folks have
12 quality, culturally-responsive
13 behavioral health supports in their
14 neighborhoods that they trust and
15 utilize, quality health, education and
16 supports, including sexual health for
17 young people and then social
18 connectivity back in our neighborhoods
19 ensuring that we're connected to our
20 neighbors and rebuild our village,
21 you're going to keep having this
22 conversation and perpetuity every five
23 to seven years.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
25 I definitely understand that. And

1 obviously, it's not all on just your
2 particular department. Again, it's just
3 an all-hands-on-deck approach.
4 Comprehensively, we have to approach it.
5 It's always in my mind just from a City
6 standpoint, right, we talk about
7 investments. That's been the great buzz
8 word we've been talking about over the
9 last year.

10 When we have a targeted zero-
11 like focus, right, on how we're going to
12 utilize those investments rather if
13 that's using the heat map and looking at
14 those highest zip codes that I saw in a
15 part of your presentation and say, okay,
16 we're going to up our resources and
17 flood these areas, right. Because when
18 you flood the areas with the resources
19 of the investment, at least for me
20 that's how you're combating those social
21 ills, right, rather it's making sure
22 Behavioral Health Services are there
23 which hasn't traditionally been there.
24 But when we increase the budget for the
25 Department of Behavioral Health, then as

1 a result, that funding should flow to
2 those key areas where people are in
3 need.

4 We've always done a significant
5 job in supporting the School District,
6 right, and they will be here at our
7 follow-up hearing on November 3rd just
8 for the record for everybody that's
9 listening. There will be a continuation
10 for this particular hearing, but
11 nevertheless, just looking at it from
12 that aspect of marshalling resources
13 specifically with a targeted goal around
14 our young people. It's not going to
15 take one area. It's going to take a
16 variety of different areas, but that's
17 just something that I just wanted to put
18 out there.

19 As always, Erica, thank you for
20 your feedback. Thank you always for
21 your input, staying on the case.

22 And with that being said, I
23 have some members who want to ask some
24 questions. So I'm going to ask for
25 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier to go ahead

1 and take the floor.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
3 you, Mr. Chair.

4 And good morning, Senior
5 Director Atwood. I was very excited to
6 see that we're taking more of a place-
7 based approach to this work, and I was
8 also excited to see the format for the
9 tactical meetings that kind of looks to
10 focus in on hotspots with both police
11 resources and nonpolice resources.

12 So following up on Councilman
13 Johnson's last line of remarks, can you
14 give us some concrete examples of
15 specific areas that have been hotspots?
16 I'm thinking about areas of 30th and
17 Aspen where we've had multiple shootings
18 over the last year. Can you give us at
19 least two examples of a specific block
20 or geography where we've really dug in
21 and we've invested not only police
22 forces but the other resources of our
23 City, whether that be vacant lots, home
24 remediation, economic resources over a
25 sustained period of time to alleviate

1 violence?

2 MS. ATWOOD: I'm trying to --
3 there's 10 districts in my head and 10
4 opportunities to talk through this. So
5 I want to caution against kind of
6 sustain because we started the tactical
7 meetings at the top of the spring. And
8 so, we've not been doing this for --
9 under my leadership, we've not been
10 doing it for a year yet. And so, we
11 want to get to sustained, but we're not
12 at sustained.

13 However, I will say I can
14 follow up with some very specific
15 examples. I'm drawing a blank right now
16 just in terms of remediation. One
17 example I can possibly give you is it
18 goes kind of back to Councilman
19 Johnson's point around engaging justice
20 involved. We worked with a block that
21 had experienced a shooting. We had a
22 group of young people who were working
23 off fines and fees. We did kind of a
24 neighborhood circle with them and had
25 them help clean up the block with the

1 neighbors.

2 So that did two things. One,
3 it showed that the neighbors of that
4 block knew that folks cared about them
5 and they were there for support. Two,
6 it gave the young people an opportunity
7 to engage with caring adults in a way
8 that they were extremely responsive
9 to -- often times when young people are
10 mandated to do community service, it is
11 some form of child labor, but how do we
12 get them -- I say that jokingly, but how
13 do we get them engaged in positive
14 activity at the same time as they are
15 working off their community service.
16 That is one way. But I can definitely
17 follow up with more concrete examples,
18 so I just don't have them off the top of
19 my head.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Sorry.
21 Where was the example that you just
22 mentioned?

23 MS. ATWOOD: In the 22nd Police
24 District.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.

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1 But we're unable to talk about it --

2 MS. ATWOOD: I just don't have
3 it off the top of my head.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Oh,
5 okay. I think --

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can I have
7 a point of --

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Go
9 ahead.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Jamie, can
11 I have a point of information?

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
13 Absolutely.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Erica, is
15 there a score card for the tactical
16 meetings? Like in other words --

17 MS. ATWOOD: There's a report.
18 We have a tracking system. I just don't
19 have it right in front of me.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Can
21 you provide -- just give the Committee
22 an update of the score card that says
23 this is the results of the tactical
24 meetings in terms of a measurable
25 standpoint so we can get a crystallized

1 view of, okay, here's what the issues
2 are, here's how the issues are being
3 addressed from an impact standpoint?

4 MS. ATWOOD: Yes. We have a
5 report on kind of what the ask has been,
6 what has been done about that, how long
7 it took to get it done and have we
8 touched back, do we need to touch back.
9 Once we meet with a police district,
10 that is not the only time that we talk
11 to them. We do check back with them.
12 They're fairly consistent.

13 I want to say we had the 19th
14 District present in May or June, and at
15 least every other week we're talking to
16 one of their community relations
17 officers just supporting them in
18 remediations that they need or support
19 they need in the neighborhood, and they
20 either contact directly me or our
21 program specialist.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I defer
23 back to Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I am
25 happy to accept the information

1 afterwards. I will say because I know
2 this is deep intensive work, I'm
3 troubled that we wouldn't be able to
4 give a few examples during this hearing.
5 I think it's important not just for us
6 to have private conversations, but
7 private conversations that happen
8 between Council and your office are
9 important, but it's also important for
10 the public to understand how we're
11 marshalling these resources in concrete
12 ways to keep them safe and to make this
13 issue better.

14 So thank you, Mr. Chair. That
15 was the only question I had at this
16 time.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: (Muted).

18 MS. ATWOOD: You're on mute,
19 Councilmember.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
21 want to say for the record we have been
22 joined by Councilwoman Maria Quinones-
23 Sanchez, Councilman Isaiah Thomas and
24 Councilwoman Kendra Brooks.

25 I had a question I wanted to

1 follow up on, Erica, regarding I saw on
2 the assets for the tactical unit, the
3 organization of Town Watch, right.

4 MS. ATWOOD: Yes.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
6 want to put an advocacy moment out there
7 for them only because every time there's
8 a homicide in the neighborhood and I'm
9 out there doing a response and talking
10 to the neighbors, they show up, right.
11 I think it's a different model that we
12 have now than we did.

13 I think Town Watch went into
14 two phases. It was the traditional Town
15 Watch where you put on the bright yellow
16 jacket and walked down the street, and
17 then under another Administration it was
18 the MBO model of Town Watch where, okay,
19 we're going to take off the Town Watch
20 jackets and start sending people to the
21 community to engage from a quality-
22 of-life standpoint, right.

23 And then also I guess this day
24 in age, right, I do a lot of work with
25 PAAN, but I have to give a shout-out to

1 Anthony Murphy only for the simple fact
2 that every time I need back-up for
3 support and I'm going to be out there in
4 the street, they show up, no problem,
5 talking to the residents addressing
6 their issues, but also addressing the
7 gun violence perspective as well from an
8 intervention standpoint.

9 So even when you said earlier
10 on we do intervention not also just
11 prevention, I agree with you because the
12 intervention is what also stops the
13 homicides if you can't get in front of
14 it. And a lot of times it's tough to
15 get in front of it because of just the
16 nature of what we're dealing with, but
17 the intervention can also stop the next
18 homicide from happening.

19 And I saw in terms of the
20 tactical meetings that Town Watch plays
21 as a role in that, which I think
22 hopefully in some capacity we can really
23 integrate them to kind of be a support
24 system with the work that PAAN is doing
25 which brings me to the next question,

1 and we'll bring PAAN in for our next
2 hearing to give you ample amount of
3 time, but I just want to get an idea of
4 where are we at in terms of expanding
5 the work of PAAN?

6 I know there's supposed to be
7 an evaluation of the work that they have
8 done. There's also supposed to be an
9 evaluation of all the programs under the
10 Office of Violence. That was prior to
11 you that request was put out there. And
12 so, I don't know if Vanessa is on the
13 call or not to give us an update. But
14 if not, I'll just circle back on the
15 November 3rd hearing. But this was
16 prior to you coming that there was
17 supposed to be an evaluation of all the
18 programs of the City of Philadelphia
19 Office of Violence Prevention.

20 And then also, an evaluation of
21 the work that PAAN has done. PAAN is
22 the crisis intervention team, so people
23 kind of want to know with all these
24 homicides going on and shootings, some
25 statistical data on what's being done,

1 how many people been engaged, how many
2 people got jobs, how many fights have
3 been stopped. Can you give us an idea
4 of the status of --

5 MS. ATWOOD: Sure. So I can
6 speak to where we are with the Community
7 Crisis Intervention Program evaluation.
8 We contracted with a group called ARI.
9 I forget what the acronym stands for.
10 However, they are in the first phases of
11 that evaluation. That evaluation is
12 actually a two-year process. We're
13 about three months into that process.
14 And with regard to -- and we should see
15 some early indicators of that. We are
16 assessing kind of internally our
17 structure of our Community Crisis
18 Intervention Program at the same time as
19 we're getting the evaluation.

20 And so, we want to make sure
21 that we have the staffing that we need,
22 they get the support that they need and
23 we are reaching the neighborhoods that
24 need us the most. And so, in tandem
25 we're looking at structure and

1 evaluation. And Vanessa is here to
2 answer any questions of the overarching
3 questions of the evaluations.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: In terms
5 of PAAN, have we expanded the footprint
6 of workers since our last hearing?

7 MS. ATWOOD: Yeah, we are in
8 the process of hiring and staffing up to
9 full capacity. It takes a special type
10 of person to be a crisis worker. And
11 like all kinds of open positions now,
12 we're meeting some challenges to finding
13 the right people, but we are working
14 diligently with PAAN in partnership with
15 George and his team to fill those
16 positions. And we are making headway.
17 It's not at the level or the speed that
18 we would like, but we are doing some
19 hires and we are getting the numbers we
20 need.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
22 then last before I hear from Vanessa,
23 currently PAAN doesn't have a contract
24 with the School District of
25 Philadelphia. In years past, they did

1 have a contract with the School District
2 of Philadelphia. Meaning, that allowed
3 them to go into the schools, work with
4 the school security, work with the
5 teachers, work with the principals to
6 address issues of conflict before they
7 arrive into a neighborhood beef, turf
8 wars which result in shootings. Have we
9 explored revisiting that model of
10 partnering with the District?

11 MS. ATWOOD: So while they
12 don't have a direct contract with the
13 School District of Philadelphia, we do
14 work and respond with schools that are
15 at a high risk of gun violence. I will
16 utilize Gratz as an example contrary
17 to -- never mind. So with Gratz --
18 we've met with Mastery three times over
19 the course of the spring and summer.
20 We've specifically met with Gratz two of
21 those three times.

22 We have been coordinating not
23 only our Community Crisis Intervention
24 workers in and around the grass
25 neighborhood in preventative and

1 response to issues in Nicetown-Tioga.
2 We've also had Town Watch be responsive
3 to safe corridors and keeping an eye out
4 on what's happening in that
5 neighborhood.

6 Additionally, we have provided
7 them with a list of our trusted kind of
8 partners. And so, some of our grantees,
9 other kind of trusted partners in the
10 community that do work around at-risk
11 youth, we provided them with an
12 opportunity to engage with those
13 entities and they have, and they did
14 through the summer. So those are the
15 types of ways that we partner. So while
16 there may not be a formalized contract,
17 that does not preclude us from engaging
18 with the list of schools that
19 particularly are at a high risk.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good, and
21 I want to thank you for that. I know
22 Gratz and Mastery, obviously charter
23 schools, and I know the District will be
24 coming to give their presentation on
25 November 3rd. But I do remember during

1 the last hearing that I had in working
2 in partnership with Councilwoman Helen
3 Gym, when we had the hearings, we were
4 kind of given the impression that the
5 District has their own way of addressing
6 the issue of gun violence and the folks
7 at Mastery and charter schools have
8 their own way of addressing it.

9 So it feels good to hear you
10 say that, well, we have been engaging.
11 Because I know Mastery had to shut down
12 for two days for grief counseling for
13 the teachers as well as the children,
14 four shootings, one homicide in the
15 first two weeks of school. So, one, I
16 want to thank you and your team for
17 staying on top of that, which is
18 critically important.

19 I remember seeing an article
20 from an individual from Gratz saying,
21 you know, we need more support from City
22 leadership, so it's good to hear that
23 they have been engaged. And I have been
24 in contact with Scott Gordon as well to
25 try to figure out how we can also be

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1 supportive as a city.

2 Vanessa.

3 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Yes, sir.

4 Good morning.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good

6 morning. How are you?

7 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: I'm okay.

8 Thank you. How are you?

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Pretty

10 good. The question was regarding the

11 evaluation. Obviously, an organization

12 such as PAAN, I also know that when you

13 first came on with the Office of

14 Violence Prevention -- before you, it

15 was Shondell, but we put a request in

16 for the evaluation of all City-related

17 programs around violence prevention, and

18 I just want to get an idea of what's the

19 status of it, where is it.

20 And even with PAAN, how come an

21 evaluation takes two years? I just want

22 to kind of get an idea of the process

23 that it would take to evaluate an

24 organization, one organization over a

25 two-year period, to see if they're

1 effective or not.

2 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY:

3 Understood.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Or where
5 they are effective.

6 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: So to
7 begin with the overall evaluation, as
8 you know when I came in, there had been
9 a lot of back and forth and some
10 erroneous numbers and other things
11 reported, so kind of tried to start from
12 ground zero clearing that up. There was
13 a report that was given, a corrective
14 report, by myself and my team at that
15 time to Council correcting everything
16 from the dollar amounts.

17 It's fairly complicated in that
18 most of the violence prevention funding
19 that was taking place at that time was
20 not coming through the Office of
21 Violence Prevention, so we did not have
22 direct oversight over those programs or
23 evaluations. I would say the lion share
24 of the programming was coming through
25 the Department of Human Services, where

1 some evaluations are done. The issue
2 becomes whether it is an evaluation of
3 more of a child welfare standpoint as
4 opposed to a violence prevention
5 standpoint.

6 And so, when you talk about
7 effectiveness, they could be effective
8 in the child welfare arena and not
9 necessarily be as effective in the
10 violence prevention arena. But I won't
11 lie when I say there's been a lot of
12 complications and other things in terms
13 of trying to get that done.

14 The last I can recall before I
15 stepped out of that role and into this
16 new one is that work was being done with
17 the Department of Human Services. We
18 were coming up with sort of standardized
19 metrics. You have to be able to allow
20 the providers to be on notice of what is
21 actually being measured from them, and
22 also working with them around the
23 collection of the appropriate data and
24 other stuff. Because in many instances,
25 it was not being done. And in fairness,

1 they had not been told to be able to
2 maintain and see. I would have to
3 discuss with them and see where we are
4 kind of at that point around those
5 particular programs in general.

6 Now, sort of the bigger
7 violence prevention programs are the
8 Community Crisis Intervention Program or
9 CCIP as Erica just explained, and then
10 the other bigger one that comes under
11 the Office of Violence Prevention is our
12 relatively newly formed Group Violence
13 Intervention program, GVI. Those are
14 directly under the Office of Violence
15 Prevention.

16 The GVI program, we have now
17 contracted with the University of
18 Pennsylvania Department of Criminology
19 to conduct the evaluation. GVI has only
20 been launched in one year. It started
21 in August of 2020. They are in the
22 midst of doing focus groups and a bunch
23 of other things so that they can
24 hopefully in some coming months, but in
25 fairness it will probably be a little

1 bit down the way from what they're
2 telling us to be able to come up with a
3 really comprehensive evaluation.

4 We have gotten some sort of
5 preliminary feedback that we've tried to
6 pull together based on the data analysis
7 that -- he has since left very recently,
8 but our data analysis and others have
9 done around being able to see progress
10 as to whether we believe GVI is
11 effective, collecting data around the
12 social services aspect, how many of the
13 candidates are actually taking us up on
14 the offer on social services to change
15 their lives, whether or not we believe
16 it's been impactful in terms of
17 recidivism and/or whether or not we
18 believe it's been impactful in terms of
19 the number of folks who may have been
20 shot or not given that we are a target
21 in sort of your highest level folks at
22 risk of either shooting or killing and
23 being killed in that kind of Group
24 Violence Intervention program there.

25 I think you asked me one more

1 question about PAAN, their evaluation,
2 am I correct around evaluation of PAAN
3 how long did it take. There was a
4 cursory evaluation done of PAAN using
5 Temple University that did come back.
6 It did highlight some issues, I will
7 say.

8 Based on some of the issues
9 that were highlighted there, what we did
10 was try and bring in Cure Violence from
11 Chicago, the original Cure Violence
12 model, to have them do a look-see and
13 bring in some additional training and
14 other things. That work has still moved
15 forward and is sort of rolling into both
16 the current CCIP evaluation, but it also
17 helped to make some decisions around
18 some changes and/or other structural
19 changes.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What kind
21 of issues and what kind of changes, if
22 you don't mind me asking? I'm here to
23 be supportive.

24 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY:
25 Absolutely. I'll be honest, I think the

1 credible messengers, the outreach
2 workers at PAAN work extremely hard. It
3 is a very difficult job, and they're out
4 on the street with no weapons at all
5 times of the night in many neighborhoods
6 or areas that folks with weapons might
7 be afraid to go in to be honest with
8 you, right. So that's the one thing.

9 Some of the things that were
10 highlighted -- and I say that with the
11 utmost respect for those workers. But
12 some of what was highlighted was more
13 about -- some of it was administrative
14 stuff around sort of the recordkeeping
15 or whatever. Often, and I will say this
16 to you having come out of a social
17 services background and child welfare
18 role as well, your best workers at being
19 the ones who really are impactful and
20 can get through in terms of being the
21 ones to talk to folks on the street are
22 not necessarily your best at the
23 recordkeeping kind of piece of it. So
24 some of that --

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I

1 understand.

2 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: -- was
3 around recordkeeping and data collection
4 and even whether or not the agency had
5 all of the things in place that they
6 needed in terms of a comprehensive
7 system, so really trying to work around
8 that and try to kind of concentrate on
9 that, thinking about making sure that
10 the folks that were selected for the
11 positions were the best folks. Because
12 when you say credible messenger, it
13 really has to be somebody that has that
14 certain level of credibility and
15 influence, but can also explain to
16 people what else is out there, and in
17 some respects a system with services.

18 I know one of the things that I
19 think was done was that there was sort
20 of a doubling-down in some areas. What
21 we did was the social services piece
22 that was working at PAAN, they sort of
23 put more in to make sure that we had the
24 right connects and stuff in place for
25 these individuals. So a lot of it was

1 about sort of data and kind of the
2 recordkeeping piece and just making sure
3 that we had the right folks there, but
4 also felt like we wanted to have some
5 additional training for them, and that's
6 where we brought in Cure Violence. And
7 they did actually look at everything
8 from the administrative and kind of the
9 management pieces of it and making some
10 recommendations.

11 They're also working on
12 actually training our credible
13 messengers. And they go through an
14 extensive program when they come to PAAN
15 that PAAN puts together. But being able
16 to have this sort of nationally
17 recognized organization also be able to
18 lend a hand is something that we wanted
19 because we thought it would help address
20 some things.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good.

22 Good. Okay. I want to thank you.

23 I want to thank Erica as well
24 for her patience. Erica, one last
25 question. What's the re-entry payment

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1 program? I think that's interesting.

2 Y'all paying people \$1,000?

3 MS. ATWOOD: We're paying 1,000
4 people \$500, a one-time payment of \$500.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: 500 --

6 MS. ATWOOD: So it's 1,000
7 people, \$500 one-time payment. If
8 you've been released from the
9 Philadelphia Prison System since March
10 of 2020, you are eligible to qualify
11 through our Office of Re-entry
12 Partnerships.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Can
14 you make sure we get that information,
15 please. Okay.

16 I don't have any other
17 questions. If there are no questions
18 from other members of the Committee,
19 Erica, thank you for your time. Thank
20 you for your dedication. Thank you for
21 your hard work, Vanessa as well, and
22 look forward to continuously trying to
23 address this senseless issue of gun
24 violence in the City of Philadelphia.
25 Thank you very much.

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1 MS. ATWOOD: Thank you for the
2 opportunity. I appreciate your work.

3 MS. GARRETT-HARLEY: Thank you.
4 I appreciate --

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
6 welcome. Can the Clerk please call the
7 next witness.

8 THE CLERK: Ruth Abaya.

9 DR. ABAYA: Good morning. Let
10 me pull my presentation up.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Welcome
12 back. Congratulations.

13 DR. ABAYA: Thank you. Thank
14 you so much.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
16 welcome.

17 DR. ABAYA: All right. Is
18 everyone able to see the presentation?

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

20 DR. ABAYA: Awesome. Thank you
21 so much. So good morning. Thank you,
22 Chairman. Thanks to the Special
23 Committee on Gun Violence for allowing
24 me to speak this morning and for your
25 advocacy and commitment on behalf of

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1 Philadelphians as we work together to
2 create lasting solutions to gun
3 violence.

4 My name is Ruth Abaya. I'm the
5 Injury Prevention Program Manager at the
6 Health Department here at Philadelphia,
7 and I came to this work from my role as
8 a pediatrician emergency physician,
9 where I saw far too many children not
10 only directly affected by gun violence,
11 but traumatized by the profound effects
12 of violence in their families and
13 communities.

14 So I'm pleased to provide the
15 Committee with an update on our work and
16 some thoughts on important future
17 directions for our program. So as you
18 know, the Injury Prevention Program is
19 housed within the Division of Chronic
20 Disease and Injury Prevention. We're
21 comprised of three team members
22 currently, so myself, our injury
23 prevention epidemiologist and our
24 analyst.

25 We have a number of core

1 values. Chief among them are that
2 everyone should have a chance to be free
3 from injury and violence, that violence
4 is a public health problem amenable to
5 the tools of public health, and that
6 violence affects more than the
7 individual. It affects the community
8 and can be most effectively addressed by
9 focusing on not just individual-level
10 factors, but community-level factors and
11 structural violence as well. Defining
12 structural violence is the ways in which
13 social structure is harming
14 disadvantaged people.

15 So we have a number of areas of
16 active work, but wanted to bring your
17 attention to those that are highlighted
18 here to provide updates and also to
19 discuss new directions. The Homicide
20 Review Team and Injury Prevention
21 Dashboard are key pieces of our work
22 within the landscape of the Roadmap to
23 Safer Communities, and the
24 hospital-based response collaborative
25 which is a new initiative that we're

1 committed to bringing to fruition.

2 So I'm going to start by
3 discussing the Homicide Review Team. So
4 this is a body that's comprised of
5 agencies both within and outside of City
6 government. There are about 18 agencies
7 and organizations and attendants, and
8 the group of participants has grown
9 since the beginning of this work.

10 So this is just an overview
11 summary that we generated of our
12 findings from Year 1, so the end of
13 2020. And it describes what the review
14 team is and what it does, which is a
15 group that performs in-depth case
16 reviews of victims of fire and homicide
17 as well as it also demonstrates our most
18 notable findings, which I'm going to
19 highlight here.

20 So those key findings that are
21 worth highlighting, though has to be
22 said that one year of cases is a small
23 number of individuals, having said that
24 all of them have made contact with local
25 health care systems, and the vast

1 majority had made contact with law
2 enforcement or DHS. And this is
3 information that is just a starting
4 point. Next steps include thinking
5 through the nature of these points of
6 contact and how they might actually
7 serve as opportunities for prevention
8 and intervention.

9 The contact within health care
10 is particularly interesting to us and
11 serves as a launching point in thinking
12 through this idea of the HVIP
13 Collaborative that I'll discuss shortly.
14 One of the most notable findings, though
15 again less than 20 individuals, a small
16 number in that first year of in-depth
17 case reviews, is that over half had
18 received treatment for violent injury in
19 particular, and that over half of them
20 were specifically previously injured by
21 a gun. So this is something that
22 obviously raised multiple red flags, and
23 again emphasizes a need for response for
24 those who were traumatically injured or
25 violently injured in that key moment of

1 engagement.

2 So this table demonstrates as
3 an example from early on of how we
4 decided to define our action items. So
5 these are examples of action items that
6 we identified. For example, one action
7 item that is worth drawing attention to
8 is the potential for a HVIP or hospital-
9 based model to work in novel settings.

10 And so, what was identified in
11 discussing one of our cases is that when
12 people are seen in the hospital-based
13 setting, there's at least a model in
14 existence which we certainly can grow
15 and expand upon to recruit them into
16 comprehensive case management in the
17 outpatient setting. But if someone is
18 released from incarceration, there's not
19 a similar model.

20 There are certainly services
21 available through the City for those
22 individuals, but it's not in the same
23 model. There's no particular reason why
24 the HVIP model couldn't be used in
25 post-incarceration settings, school-

1 based settings, et cetera. And so,
2 these are some of the ideas that we hope
3 to build upon and that we need to think
4 carefully about enacting and following
5 up on in future work.

6 So what are our ambitions for
7 this particular endeavor moving forward,
8 we would love to dedicate personnel to
9 this effort for improved data collection
10 to streamline the follow-up of action
11 items and to begin to measure the
12 effects of implementation. So we've
13 determined that the Roadmap executive
14 implementation meeting is the
15 appropriate form to bring these action
16 items to in order to ensure follow-
17 through. We'd like to expand on some of
18 the data sources we include as well as
19 noted here.

20 And finally, I want to speak on
21 our plans for this HVIP Collaborative,
22 which many of you here were such
23 advocates for. This an effort to
24 support some of our review team findings
25 but would build on some of the existing

1 resources available here in Philadelphia
2 to improve recruitment, improve
3 collaboration and measure the collective
4 outcomes for those who are
5 firearm-injured.

6 I did want to briefly say that
7 this is a model. This is just a
8 definition for those who may not be
9 familiar. This is an intervention that
10 classically begins in a hospital
11 setting, in the ER or at a hospital
12 bedside, and then follows up with long-
13 term community-based case management
14 subsequently. And there are a number of
15 services that are usually tailored to
16 the individual's needs that are provided
17 over a long period of time for those who
18 are engaged in these types of services.

19 It's worth noting that the kind
20 of core and national organizations for
21 these groups really believes that
22 addressing the social determinants of
23 health is a critical part of making this
24 effective, and that goes back to the
25 value I mentioned before of a community-

1 based intervention rather than just
2 focusing on the individual. That's how
3 I think this becomes more than just
4 intervention, but also prevention,
5 right, of the next shooting that may be
6 coming down the road.

7 So our goal is to begin at
8 Philadelphia County Level 1 trauma
9 centers. And we would include all
10 hospital-based response programs but
11 we're focused on improving recruitment,
12 identifying barriers to recruitment and
13 identifying the relevant shared
14 outcomes.

15 So as an example, there's
16 evidence to suggest that engagement in
17 these programs might do some of these
18 long-term things like reduce subsequent
19 involvement in the criminal justice
20 system and reduce the likelihood of
21 being shot again. But there are other
22 outcomes that are more proximal that are
23 also important. Do we find that people
24 who are engaged are more likely to find
25 gainful employment, are they more likely

1 to be connected to mental health
2 services, those are also incredibly
3 significant and contribute positively to
4 the community.

5 So I wanted to spend just a
6 moment discussing the Injury Prevention
7 Dashboard as another key portion of our
8 commitment to providing publicly
9 available data on gun violence for the
10 City. As you may remember, this was
11 launched earlier this year as a first
12 stage and is available on the Health
13 Department's website.

14 The dashboard begins by showing
15 how four social determinants of health,
16 so poverty, education, employment and
17 opportunity youth correlate with numbers
18 of shooting victims by zip code, and
19 this image shows poverty as an example
20 and the ever-concerning overlay of
21 poverty with the existence of violence
22 in Philadelphia communities.

23 In the last few weeks, we've
24 added some additional 2021 data to the
25 dashboard as seen here, so this shows

1 city-wide trends for shooting victims,
2 both fatal and nonfatal through August
3 of 2021. We've also added some
4 additional months of data on our
5 emergency room visits, and this of
6 course ties into the work we would like
7 to do in improving kind of
8 hospital-based response and follow-up
9 for individuals who are initially
10 approached in this setting.

11 And finally, we are tracking
12 data on cost as it becomes available.
13 Obviously, nothing compares to the human
14 cost. And also, it's important to
15 realize that hospitalization is only a
16 fraction of the total even financial
17 costs of gun violence. Emergency costs,
18 follow-up care, lost wages, the cost of
19 navigating the criminal justice system,
20 the cost of mental health supports are
21 just a few additional costs that we
22 would like to always bring attention to.
23 But by tracking this cost over time, we
24 can see at least one of the effects of
25 gun violence on our communities and on

1 our City.

2 So we have several new
3 directions we'd like to pursue on the
4 dashboard in particular. We have a
5 number of additional metrics and
6 indicators we hope to add in the future.
7 But one in particular that should be
8 mentioned is assets and resources. So
9 this would be in keeping with the
10 place-based approach of the City Roadmap
11 plan and would allow individuals to
12 access help in addition to information.
13 So we don't just want to highlight a
14 community or a zip code or a census
15 block or any geographic region where
16 there's a problem, we would also like to
17 highlight what solutions exist in that
18 same location. And again, that is very
19 much in keeping with what Ms. Atwood
20 outlined from the Roadmap plan.

21 There are a number of
22 interventions that were studied right
23 here in Philadelphia such as greening
24 and blight remediation, which is one
25 that I always like to bring to the

1 forefront, which in addition to reducing
2 violence improves the general health and
3 well-being of communities. It would be
4 great to track those kinds of efforts
5 through this type of centralized system
6 as well.

7 And then finally, we want to
8 connect our work from other injury
9 prevention efforts, so I gave some
10 examples here of some of the things that
11 we would like to see on the dashboard,
12 so that there's a streamlined way for
13 all stakeholders to see what the Injured
14 Prevention Program is up to.

15 Finally, as you're aware, over
16 time we're committed to fitting all of
17 our collective efforts into this public
18 health framework, so this will help us
19 identify where we have resources and
20 active programming where more is needed.
21 So far we focused on resources that are
22 available in the pre-event space,
23 identifying what the services are, what
24 their current capacity is and what stage
25 of operation they are, and we're

1 starting with the tactical team members,
2 the people that Erica referenced just a
3 few minutes ago. Those are the people
4 who we've been trying to get information
5 for around pre-event factors, and we're
6 in that kind of host human factor
7 section right now.

8 There's also an opportunity to
9 further implement and measure other
10 evidence-based strategies, some of which
11 were studied here as I mentioned before.
12 And prevention is always the focus,
13 optimizing that pre-event space and the
14 resources available in the pre-event
15 space is our continued goal. Thank you
16 again for your time and attention, and I
17 will be happy to take any questions.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
19 very much, Ruth. And as always,
20 appreciate your dedication and staying
21 on top of this issue from a health
22 standpoint. Just had a couple of
23 questions, and I'm glad that you gave us
24 an update on the hospital-based
25 intervention approach.

1 My colleague and I,
2 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier, both of us
3 are very, very strong advocates of the
4 work that you're doing. We advocated
5 with the Administration for funding to
6 try to help expand hospital-based
7 intervention, but most importantly to
8 support the follow-up on this type of
9 work. So I just want to get an idea of
10 the status of bringing on a person to
11 assist.

12 Two, part of your presentation
13 talked about the support that's needed
14 after a person is injured by a firearm,
15 right. I think it was the second slide,
16 at the very bottom. It basically said
17 that more work needs to be done in that
18 area. I guess it's called the HVIP
19 model, right. And so --

20 DR. ABAYA: Mm-hmm.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- I
22 wanted to get an idea on how we're
23 moving forward with the hospital-based
24 intervention initiative from a staffing
25 standpoint. Two -- it wasn't right

1 here. Go to the next one. No, not that
2 one; nope, not that one; not that one.

3 DR. ABAYA: Let's see.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You just
5 passed it, example action items. No. 9,
6 Slide No. 9.

7 DR. ABAYA: I see. Okay.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Right
9 there, warm hand-offs after injury and
10 incarceration to violence prevention
11 programs. HVIP model is great for this.
12 As a City, we need to better monitor and
13 improve hand-offs after injury, but
14 there is no clear path after
15 incarceration. Elaborate on that as
16 well.

17 DR. ABAYA: Sure. So I'll
18 start there and I'll keep this up just
19 so people can reference. So the
20 conversation we had here was we had
21 parties from several of the hospital
22 based-response programs that are members
23 of the Homicide Review Team as well.
24 And those individuals had noted this
25 idea that when you're at the bedside, we

1 recognize that that's a teachable
2 moment.

3 It's also a moment where
4 someone might be particularly receptive
5 to intervention. We can then connect
6 you to resources and then follow you
7 using the same program, the same core
8 team and kind of culturally competent
9 care, people who are specifically
10 skilled in violence intervention work,
11 to follow you as you leave that setting.
12 And there's no reason that the setting
13 can't be a prison setting or a school
14 setting in addition to a hospital
15 setting. So that was the idea that came
16 out of the conversation in this
17 particular Homicide Review Team meeting.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will there
19 be follow-up action items to make this
20 come to fruition when monitoring from an
21 individual standpoint?

22 DR. ABAYA: Yeah. So I think
23 the first step is to figure out how to
24 optimize and centralize the work we're
25 doing in the place where it's been

1 studied and practiced, which is a
2 hospital basis. And then I think we can
3 extract core lessons to say these are
4 the pieces of this that are easily done
5 in these additional settings.

6 I think it would be fairly
7 novel for us to do that. That would be
8 us kind of setting a trend as a city,
9 which is something that I think we
10 should aspire to do. But I think that
11 the first step is to better streamline
12 the HVIP model to provide in the classic
13 setting in the hospital, and then we can
14 extract core lessons again and apply
15 them in a variety of settings.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. And
17 just give me an overall status of the
18 hospital-based intervention initiative
19 that you're working on and the need for
20 support, how the Health Department can
21 also be supportive of the expanding and
22 building capacity around this particular
23 initiative.

24 DR. ABAYA: Sure. Thank you,
25 yes. So I believe we're waiting on a

1 final decision as to the allocation of
2 that funding. Our hope is to have a
3 central kind of project management team
4 that would liaise between all of the
5 different parties or all of the trauma
6 centers.

7 We had our first convening in
8 July of this year and we had
9 representation from all of the area
10 trauma centers, including the ones that
11 don't have active hospital-based
12 programs. And I think what we learned
13 is that there's a great amount of
14 commitment I think for this work.
15 There's a lot of benefit to everyone
16 being able to speak with one another
17 about how they're recruiting, what their
18 barriers are and how they can optimize
19 care in this setting.

20 I do think it's worth saying
21 that these programs don't just work with
22 those who are violently injured by a
23 gun. They recruit individuals who are
24 violently injured depending on the
25 program in a myriad of ways. So that's

1 really an opportunity of prevention.

2 If someone is a victim of a
3 stabbing or an assault, having a
4 conversation and providing resources
5 with that individual at that stage might
6 actually be preventative for more
7 serious crime. And there's some
8 evidence to suggest that that's the
9 case, that those who are assault-injured
10 might be at subsequent risk of gun
11 violence injury in particular.

12 And so, I definitely think that
13 everyone sees the value of this. And it
14 was great to have such a wide range of
15 stakeholders at the first convening.
16 Our goal is to meet monthly until we've
17 established what core outcomes are going
18 to be and then go from there.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes,
20 please keep me updated on that. And
21 then also something that you mentioned
22 is very, very critically important and I
23 think it's overlooked a lot. Regardless
24 of how you become a victim, it doesn't
25 determine how you may actually pick up a

1 gun, if I said that correctly.

2 I'm just going to use this in
3 regular layman's terms. A young person
4 gets into a fight, calls himself giving
5 somebody a "fair one". Let's say he
6 gets over on the guy. Guy pulls out a
7 gun and starts shooting at him, doesn't
8 hit him, right. But because he was shot
9 at after a fight, right, he decides to
10 pick up a gun to retaliate or if a
11 person gets jumped after school and they
12 get assaulted, right, go to the hospital
13 banged up and bruised. They don't have
14 anybody to decompress how they're
15 feeling. No one to talk to. They take
16 that trauma, go back home, revenge
17 mentality, peer pressure saying you got
18 to retaliate, person picks up a gun. So
19 it's beyond the individual who has been
20 a victim of gun violence. It can be a
21 person who's been a victim of any type
22 of assault, right, or any type of
23 negative incident that can also steer
24 them to pick up a gun, and addressing it
25 from that aspect obviously should be

1 prevented.

2 The other question was you
3 talked about environmental intervention,
4 you know, removing graffiti, lighting,
5 planting trees improves the quality of
6 life of an area. When you look at
7 research, right, what do you think that
8 we should prioritize our efforts when it
9 comes to addressing it from that aspect
10 comprehensively from an environmental
11 aspect?

12 DR. ABAYA: Yeah. So I think
13 one of the most notable studies that was
14 done right here in Philadelphia that
15 demonstrated an effect is that which was
16 done by Charlie Branas and Gina South
17 and colleagues, looking at the effect of
18 the work that PHS does in blight
19 remediation and in greening in
20 particular. So they do -- I believe
21 it's called the LandCare program.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: LandCare
23 program, yes.

24 DR. ABAYA: And what they do,
25 they were able to demonstrate a

1 measurable effect on shooting incidents
2 in particular, in addition to some other
3 effects of how scared people feel in the
4 neighborhood which is not at all
5 insignificant. So I think that there's
6 a lot of potential to expand greening
7 work and blight remediation in kind of
8 core locations throughout the City.

9 And the place-based methodology
10 that the Roadmap team is in general
11 implementing, right, so you heard Erica
12 talk about how it's district-by-district
13 people identify where the problems are.
14 Similarly, this is a place-based
15 intervention. And so, there's room to
16 kind of marry those. And I know that
17 that's exactly the kind of vision that
18 Erica and team have for how we kind of
19 make the Roadmap unfold using evidence-
20 based strategies.

21 And there are a number of other
22 evidence-based strategies that I think
23 that we can bring in from this whole
24 world of environmental design, but I
25 think that's a major one. So houses and

1 the way that houses are remediated so
2 that the windows aren't broken, et
3 cetera, the way that we think about
4 lighting, the way that we think about
5 just beautifying neighborhoods. And I
6 think they are effects beyond reducing
7 violence. And so, how can we think
8 about the effects on mental health and
9 the effects of other chronic diseases of
10 remediating neighborhoods. I think
11 there's a lot of additional work we can
12 do.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Awesome.
14 Question by Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Hi.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Hi, Dr. Abaya. Welcome back
18 and congratulations.

19 DR. ABAYA: Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I
21 wanted to know if you could expound
22 upon -- the money that we fought for in
23 the budget, I believe it was a half a
24 million dollars to go towards your work.
25 Can you just expound upon what that

1 would mean in terms of staff but also in
2 terms of output and impact?

3 DR. ABAYA: Sure. Are you able
4 to hear me still?

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: (Nodded
6 affirmatively).

7 DR. ABAYA: Good. Okay. So we
8 had a number of ideas for staff, people
9 who could kind of make this effort
10 successful. So that includes someone
11 who would do more project management
12 work, so there are a lot of different
13 programs that work at hospitals.
14 They're not identical. They work in
15 different ages. They work in different
16 types of trauma centers. They have
17 different approaches. They have
18 different project management, outpatient
19 project management follow-up.

20 And so, if someone has central
21 project management skills I think is a
22 core piece of this to liaise between
23 these organizations and figure out how
24 we're going to streamline things like
25 data collection for future evaluation.

1 We also wanted to have someone who has
2 senior level epidemiologic skills to
3 help think about kind of future
4 directions and how to support programs.

5 We would need someone with
6 (inaudible) skills because we do want to
7 look at outcomes and be able to try to
8 measure their effect. And so, what we
9 can say about our capture rate, how many
10 people with this kind of inclusion
11 criteria of being a victim of a gunshot,
12 how many of them did we recruit from
13 year-to-year and what can we say about
14 the long-term outcomes for those
15 individuals.

16 And then we also want to make
17 sure we provide some additional funding,
18 specifically to organizations that do
19 this work if they're going to be
20 responsible for providing the City with
21 additional data on their work and kind
22 of liaising between us. We want to make
23 sure that we empower them to do that,
24 recognizing that their staff are already
25 stretched thin doing the actual work of

1 responding to violence. So those are
2 the kind of core personnel and the goals
3 of what we wanted the money to go to.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
5 you. It was exciting to hear that in
6 the data that you're digging up, that
7 you're uncovering new program areas or
8 ways that we can be impactful on gun
9 violence like discovering maybe that
10 there needs to be a better path for
11 people coming out of incarceration.

12 What is the process for how
13 something becomes a program from like an
14 idea? I'm imagining that you're going
15 to uncover lots of times like gaps or
16 needs through the data that you're
17 collecting and that programs around this
18 data may be carried out by you, may be
19 carried out by OVP. What is the path
20 for that and how does that work?

21 DR. ABAYA: So one of the
22 things that I really appreciated about
23 our Co-Chair meeting so far is I think
24 all three of us are trying very, very
25 hard to minimize any reinvention of the

1 wheel. So I think the first step in the
2 process of identifying a need and
3 determining whether or not we can fill
4 it is to see whether or not there's an
5 existing program or party within the
6 City of Philadelphia, public or private,
7 who might provide that service and
8 whether or not there's a way we can
9 either expand that role better-funded,
10 better-supported to evaluate it so that
11 we can make it functional.

12 And if there's no service, if
13 there's a need that's found but no
14 service that answers it, that's where I
15 think there's room for true innovation
16 and building something new. But I think
17 that the value of the convenings that
18 exist within the City are to try to say
19 this is a need we found, is there anyone
20 doing this or anything that approximate
21 to this and what does that look like,
22 could it be expanded or modified
23 slightly to meet the additional needs.

24 For example, as I referenced
25 there's plenty of kind of post-

1 incarceration response and work done
2 with returning citizens in the City in
3 various forms. How do we look at what
4 that is, borrow from a model that we
5 know works in another setting and add to
6 those existing efforts. And that's what
7 I think streamlines things for
8 individuals so they're not getting 14
9 phone calls after they leave the
10 hospital, after they leave any setting.

11 It also helps us to be
12 internally communicative and make sure
13 that we're busting silos between
14 divisions. And finally, I think it's
15 fiscally responsible to make sure that
16 we're optimizing what we have in
17 addition to investing in new programs.
18 Does that answer your question?

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Yes, it
20 gives me a sense. And from a staff
21 perspective, who will do that work of
22 taking sort of things that come up from
23 the analysis you're doing and turning
24 them into prevention and intervention
25 initiatives?

1 DR. ABAYA: So right now that
2 would have been me. So what happens is
3 I have a list of all of what we call
4 action items. And then based on the
5 conversations that happen in the room --
6 this is specific to the Homicide Review
7 Team meetings. Based on the
8 conversations that happen in the room,
9 we decide what we think is the most
10 appropriate team that would handle that.

11 And recently, we decided that
12 the right forum to discuss these and
13 kind of push them up the ladder and
14 figure out how to make them operational
15 would be the executive implementation
16 meeting for the Roadmap, so that these
17 things don't get discussed and just sit
18 in the idea box somewhere. So that's
19 the current plan.

20 I think that the dream scenario
21 would be that we would have someone who
22 has project management skills who has
23 the ability to kind of follow up and
24 liaise between departments to say, what
25 are the pieces of this service, are

1 there pieces that are being provided
2 elsewhere and then what's missing and
3 how can we best provide that. So those
4 are some of the ideas that we have.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: So you
6 do need this person, this additional
7 staff person, to be able to provide that
8 capacity to take your analysis and turn
9 it into prevention and intervention
10 programs?

11 DR. ABAYA: Yeah, I think that
12 would be the best way to make sure we're
13 moving kind of realtime, that we're
14 identifying action items and then months
15 don't go by before we've figured out and
16 followed up with each party to say,
17 what's the status, what's the status.
18 Because often what happens is I think we
19 have more ideas than we have time to
20 kind of follow through with them.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I'm
22 sorry. If I missed this in the line of
23 questioning with Councilmember Johnson,
24 but what's the timeline for that hire?

25 DR. ABAYA: So we're waiting to

1 hear. So I think we're still waiting to
2 hear on a final decision about the
3 actual allocation of those funds. And
4 as soon as those are allocated, we will
5 start drafting a description of the
6 person that we would like.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
8 Thank you so much. And please know that
9 you have our support on that because
10 this work is just incredibly important
11 and urgent. Thank you.

12 DR. ABAYA: Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's so
16 urgent that we hope they hire somebody
17 next week. Just being upfront. Well,
18 thank you, Dr. Ruth. Appreciate your
19 time for being here. Thank you very
20 much.

21 DR. ABAYA: Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will the
23 Clerk please call the next panel.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner
25 Danielle Outlaw.

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1 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Good
2 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the
3 Special Committee on Gun Violence.

4 Kevin, can we get our slide
5 deck up. Thank you so much.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
7 morning, Commissioner. How are you?

8 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I'm well.
9 Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm
10 Danielle Outlaw. I am the Police
11 Commissioner here with the Philadelphia
12 Police Department, and this morning I'm
13 joined per usual by the executive team
14 in the event that there are some
15 questions that you may have for any of
16 us.

17 I'm going to start with giving
18 you an update. It's been a long time
19 since we've presented. And I know this
20 is the initial gloom and doom slide.
21 And I would like to say that the numbers
22 have gone down, but they haven't. I'm
23 just going to give you an update of
24 where we are.

25 As you can see, again since

1 2014 we have been trending upward as it
2 relates to our homicide and our shooting
3 victims. At the end of 2020, victims
4 were up 39 percent and 52 percent
5 respectively when compared to the
6 previous year. Looking at year-to-date,
7 this trend as you mentioned, Mr. Chair,
8 is continuing as homicides are now up 15
9 percent compared to the previous year.
10 And shooting victims are up 10 percent.
11 We also are showing that our firearm
12 possession arrests are tracking
13 alongside our homicide and our shooting
14 victims, which lead us to believe that
15 more guns on the street are meaning more
16 victims for us.

17 Next slide, please. We put
18 this slide in here because this is one
19 of the slides that we tend to show
20 during our biweekly pressers. And what
21 this does is show week-to-week a
22 comparison of the homicides and the
23 shootings so we can see how much it
24 fluctuates.

25 Examining -- and I like to use

1 D.C. Dales' statement green is good, red
2 is bad. It's the easiest way to say it.
3 When you look at our weekly trends, our
4 homicide and our shooting victims appear
5 to be fluctuating since last August.
6 And while this past week we're down from
7 our high of 20 homicides and 71 criminal
8 shooting victims from the previous week,
9 we're actually higher than we were in
10 late August.

11 Remember, the same time last
12 year we were deeply entrenched in the
13 pandemic, the COVID-19 pandemic, so
14 focusing on our strategies and with the
15 pandemic appearing to slow down a bit,
16 we're hoping to see the total
17 year-to-date comparison of homicides and
18 shooting victims decrease or drop.

19 Next slide, please. This is a
20 reminder of our model and the goal set
21 forth in Operation PinPoint. Operation
22 PinPoint is how we operationally
23 implement the umbrella of Philadelphia
24 Roadmap for Safer Communities. So if
25 you recall when we first rolled the plan

1 out in June of 2020, we not only laid
2 out these goals, but one of the goals
3 was to establish an operating model so
4 it was very clear what we were supposed
5 to be doing, and that's what this
6 framework is.

7 So Goals 1, 2 and 7, quite
8 frankly those were accomplished very
9 early on. But the most difficult
10 ones -- and again, they may be lofty,
11 but they're our goals. They're our
12 targets by the end of the evaluation
13 period for the Roadmap, the more lofty
14 goals really focus more on reductions in
15 homicides in our PinPoint areas by 25
16 percent by the end of 2021, reduction of
17 our shooting victims in Operation
18 PinPoint, where it is by a quarter by
19 the end of this year, and then also to
20 increase our homicide clearance rate to
21 65 percent by the end of this year and
22 increase our nonfatal victim shooting
23 clearance rate up to 30 percent. We
24 have not met these goals. We are still
25 working towards these goals. But with

1 all of that said, we do know that in the
2 short-term, PinPoint is showing positive
3 results.

4 I mentioned that we met our
5 action plan goal of implementing
6 PinPoint in 45 areas across the City.
7 There was an expansion upon my arrival.
8 We only had a few. We didn't have
9 representation across the City. We now
10 do. We also know that our shooting
11 victim count show a 12-percent decrease
12 in our PinPoint areas when you compare
13 to city-wide, and our homicides are
14 showing an increase of only 2 percent.
15 It's still an increase, but it's a lot
16 less in our PinPoint areas than it is
17 city-wide, which is well below the
18 city-wide increase of 15 percent.

19 And then I want to also
20 highlight this: When you look at these
21 specific districts year-to-date, under
22 the leadership of Captain Drissel in the
23 12th District, we're seeing a 13 percent
24 reduction in our shooting victims and a
25 10 percent reduction in our homicides.

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1 Under the leadership of Captain Smith in
2 the 14th District, we're seeing an 18
3 percent reduction in shooting victims
4 and 39 percent reduction in homicides.

5 Under the leadership of Captain
6 Walker in the 15th District, we're
7 seeing an 11 percent reduction in
8 shooting victims and we're flat in our
9 homicides. Under the leadership of
10 Captain O'Donnell in the 17th District,
11 we're seeing a 46 percent decrease in
12 our shooting victims and a 43 percent
13 decrease in homicides. And then also in
14 the 1st District, we're seeing a 40
15 percent -- this is under Captain
16 Zaffino, 41 percent decrease in our
17 shooting victims and a 26 percent
18 decrease in homicides.

19 And then in the 26th District
20 under Captain Fisher, we're seeing a
21 slight uptick in our shooting victims of
22 3.8 percent, but we're seeing a 42
23 percent decrease in our homicides. And
24 then also in the Kensington District,
25 we've seen in the last year an overall

1 decrease of 17 percent in our violent
2 crime, most notable a 32 percent
3 reduction in our shooting victims and a
4 43 percent reduction in our aggravated
5 assault with a firearm. And again,
6 looking at Kensington through the
7 combined effort of the Kensington
8 District that we established, our East
9 Division personnel and the support of
10 our narcotics enforcement, our District
11 boundaries have achieved 127 percent
12 increase in arrests for VUFA.

13 So while again we still have
14 some long-term goals that we need to
15 meet, in the short-term in some very
16 specific targeted areas we are seeing
17 some wins. And then lastly, I want to
18 remind you before I move on to the next
19 slide, I want to remind folks that our
20 staffing levels are down 8.2 percent
21 since 2016. And then in addition to
22 that, we have about 1,000 officers out,
23 whether it's due to IOD, limited duty,
24 restricted duty, so on and so forth, so
25 we're doing what we can with what we

1 have.

2 Next slide, please. This slide
3 here is one that we show during the
4 pressers it reinforces the stats that I
5 just shared, in that we're seeing an
6 increase city-wide of 15 percent. But
7 in our PinPoint areas as it relates to
8 homicides, we're seeing a 2 percent
9 increase.

10 Next slide.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I --

12 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Go ahead,
13 sir.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
15 wanted to -- I should be waiting until
16 the end, but those numbers are I guess I
17 would say inspiring. I just want to get
18 an idea of -- and I represent the 12th
19 Police District and I also represent the
20 17th. The best practices that those
21 captains are doing to get those numbers
22 where they're at, I know there was a
23 major indictment of certain neighborhood
24 gangs. In South Philly, I know for a
25 fact. After that indictment, it's been

1 quiet so I definitely know that played a
2 major role in it because I'm on the
3 ground in both areas, but I know what
4 happened in South Philly that kind of
5 quieted those two guys, those two
6 groups, from going back and forth all
7 those years.

8 Obviously, y'all already going
9 to try to duplicate those efforts, but
10 what are the best practices that those
11 captains are saying when you're in
12 meetings, saying this is what we're
13 doing to keep these numbers where
14 they're at right now?

15 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I knew
16 you would ask that question. I think
17 it's a fair question. And before I turn
18 it over to D.C. Dales, I think the
19 obvious is, well, what do you do when
20 see something working. I'd like to say
21 how do we put that in a bottle and sell
22 it. Obviously, every neighborhood is
23 different. Community engagement is
24 different depending on where you are in
25 the City.

1 But again, we have been
2 hocusing -- focusing, focusing about
3 honing down again through the use of
4 data, through the use of collaboration,
5 through the use of partnerships, through
6 the use of our participation in task
7 forces whether they're at the state or
8 federal levels and we know that that
9 works. And so, depending on again where
10 we are in the City, we're going to see
11 the numbers fluctuate and we're going to
12 see some of the strategies work better
13 than others.

14 D.C. Dales, do you want to
15 chime in?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:
17 Yeah. You pretty much covered it all in
18 general, Commissioner, in reference to
19 what happened in South Philadelphia. We
20 pretty much did the same in Southwest
21 and also Northwest, the 14th and 12th
22 Districts, so we're going to continue
23 with that which was a plus on our part.

24 Also too, we are still focusing
25 on straw purchasing working with the

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1 Detective Divisions, Attorney General's
2 Office and also there's a special task
3 force in the District Attorney's Office,
4 a nonviolence task force that we work
5 with consistently, so we are seeing
6 results. We are seeing progress. We
7 are getting many guns off the street as
8 well as narcotics.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good.
10 Okay. You can finish, Commissioner.

11 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Okay.
12 Great. Thanks. I think we are ready
13 for the next slide or maybe not. Did we
14 skip a slide?

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No, you --

16 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I covered
17 that. So this slide here speaks to VUFA
18 arrests or illegal gun possession, the
19 Violation of Uniform Firearm arrests.
20 And we share this slide because we're
21 showing that over the years our numbers
22 have increased.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Next
25 slide. We always credit our officers

1 with their ability to get guns off the
2 street and it's not safe to do that.
3 And I want to publicly commend our
4 officers here. But this trend is very
5 disturbing. When you look at the number
6 of crime guns that we've recovered so
7 far this year and look at last year, we
8 got just under 5,000 illegal guns off
9 the street last year. And right now
10 we're just at a little bit over 4700.
11 If we keep on at the rate that we're
12 going, we're going to get over 6,000
13 guns off the street if we continue at
14 our current pace.

15 And again, this is highly
16 concerning because as you said before,
17 we believe that the more guns available,
18 the more shootings and homicides that
19 we're going to see without a deterrent.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And that
21 begs the question, right. I know you're
22 a part of I guess the Fed operation, all
23 hands on deck, right, and you don't have
24 to go into elaborate detail, and also,
25 Attorney General John Shapiro's in

1 partnership with the District Attorney's
2 Office, the Gun Violence Task Force, to
3 kind of track down where these guns are
4 also coming from, right, and from my
5 understanding, the surrounding counties
6 and so forth.

7 But my question is the effort,
8 right, that the intergovernmental
9 partnership is putting behind is zero-
10 like targeting on the tracking and
11 flowing of illegal guns, right. Could
12 you elaborate on those efforts? And I
13 publicly reached out to the Drug
14 Enforcement Agency with a letter just
15 putting more notice to see what level of
16 energy that they're putting into this,
17 right.

18 And so, I do want to give some
19 feedback from that because I do agree
20 that it's totally just the level of
21 access. I mean, the guns is like
22 mindboggling, which I've never ever
23 witnessed in my time doing this work,
24 but just kind of understanding how
25 things work. But it's like, if you

1 don't have a gun, you're not cool these
2 days.

3 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Sure.
4 I'll turn it over to D.C. Naish to talk
5 about some of our task force efforts and
6 how that works and how our partnerships
7 works.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:
9 Thank you, Commissioner. And,
10 Councilmember Johnson, I just want start
11 off by acknowledging and thanking you
12 talking about the process where people
13 who perhaps in the past wouldn't have
14 gotten a gun and are now getting it, and
15 you talked about the kind of conflict
16 that happens. It used to be settled
17 with fists and now it's turning to I got
18 to have a gun because everybody has a
19 gun, and I think that that's what we're
20 confronted by out there.

21 The collaboration that we have
22 with our fellow criminal justice
23 partners is overwhelming. I'll start
24 off with what you just referenced, which
25 was the DEA. You have numerous officers

1 from our Narcotics Bureau as well as
2 other parts of the Department that are
3 detailed to the DEA, and they
4 continually conduct investigations that
5 uncover information about where guns are
6 and we do search warrants on those
7 locations.

8 And we do it to take the drugs
9 off the street. But inevitably, when we
10 are doing those search warrants, we're
11 also recovering multiple firearms. And
12 that's why you see such a high number of
13 crime guns beyond the number of just
14 VUFA arrests because we're getting
15 multiple guns.

16 And then you also referenced
17 the way things are going and the way
18 that they've changed. Well, not only
19 are they getting guns but they're also
20 showing guns and they're doing it on
21 social media, and we talked about that
22 in the past. And we conduct numerous
23 investigations from our DEA partnerships
24 as well as with our ATF partnerships,
25 our FBI partnerships and our Attorney

1 General partnership.

2 And then the collaboration that
3 Commissioner Outlaw referenced
4 specifically with the Attorney General's
5 Gun Violence Task Force, that's
6 following up on every gun that we've
7 recovered and getting a location as to
8 where it came from so that we can trace
9 how the guns are getting into the
10 street.

11 So all that is to say we have
12 numerous levels of collaboration. We're
13 dedicating all possible resources. But
14 the problem as you know, as you well
15 know, is overwhelming because there are
16 so many guns that are just flooding the
17 streets and it just becomes an
18 incredible challenge.

19 As those guns are available,
20 those guns inevitably lead to the
21 violence that we're seeing. And I think
22 that that's the systemic problem that
23 we're facing right now. I hope that
24 that kind of deals with where are those
25 guns coming from. They're coming from

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1 everywhere, and that's the best way I
2 can describe it.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

4 Thank you very much.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank
8 you. Next slide. Continuing on the
9 conversation about guns, we know that
10 privately-made firearms or ghost guns
11 are also an issue here, and we are
12 seeing an increased amount of ghost guns
13 or privately-made firearms recovered
14 from the street as well. Year-to-date
15 we are now at 447.

16 Next slide. We've shown this
17 slide before, and it's just to show that
18 there is a trend there. We've had an
19 increase in VUFA arrests. We've had an
20 increase in number of guns, illegal
21 crime guns recovered from the street.
22 But the trend lines are going in the
23 direction that we would not like to see
24 them go in.

25 So while our arrests have been

1 increasing, the convictions have been
2 steadily decreasing, from 73 percent in
3 2015 to 49 percent last year. And then
4 you look at the withdrawn and dismissed
5 cases, those are also steadily
6 increasing. From 17 percent in 2015 to
7 42 percent in 2020. And the current
8 2021 trend shows a (inaudible)
9 continuance.

10 Next slide. We're mentioning
11 our homicide clearance rate here because
12 we're not hiding from it. We know that
13 the clearance rates --

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can we go
15 back to the last slide, please?

16 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Sure.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So if
18 convictions are going in one direction
19 and arrests are going in another
20 direction, but y'all are meeting weekly
21 with the Shooting Review Team, are we
22 making progress or not at all?

23 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: D.C.
24 Naish, you want to talk about your
25 meetings --

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1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's a
2 question during the next panel, but I'm
3 just trying to get an understanding.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:
5 Yeah, I do.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Because
7 other than that, what's the purpose of
8 meeting?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH: So,
10 Councilmember Johnson, Chairman Johnson,
11 I understand on appearances it seems
12 that the convictions are going down and
13 yet we've been talking about the
14 collaboration that we've been doing a
15 lot of times. We've promoted -- my
16 partnership with ADA Chance Lee in the
17 DA's Office, he tracks it. But I do
18 have to point out a timing issue, and
19 that is because of the slow-down of the
20 criminal justice system. I think it's
21 only fair to say that some of these
22 numbers are not representative of what's
23 happening as we started to move forward
24 starting back in December and the
25 success that we're going to see in the

1 future.

2 What we're seeing now are the
3 cases that have been adjudicated that
4 have been perhaps lingering in the
5 system. And also, because the courts
6 slowed down as much as they did, cases
7 that were not sufficient or were deemed
8 to be nonsufficient to go to trial were
9 getting tossed out because they were so
10 old.

11 So remember, the pandemic
12 started in March of 2020. The court
13 shut down for over a year. We didn't
14 get the courts up and running to hear
15 gun cases until July of this year.
16 There were a lot of cases that sat, and
17 then eventually there were suppression
18 hearings. There were some that were not
19 going the right way and those cases
20 ended up being dropped. So while the
21 numbers show convictions going down,
22 it's because of the limited level of
23 available cases to go forward. I hope
24 that that explains --

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is the

1 Courts at the table to help expedite
2 this process?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:

4 They have, and they have in the form of
5 creating a room so that all gun cases
6 can get a preliminary hearing in the
7 same room, and that expedites the level
8 of preliminary hearings so that we can
9 get those cases held for court.

10 And then the courts have put a
11 number of rooms together to constantly
12 be hearing the cases since July, so I
13 think that we're going to start to see a
14 change. But right now unfortunately,
15 we've seen some numbers that I think in
16 some ways may not be completely
17 revealing, but they're not a reflection
18 about the way that we've been doing our
19 collaboration which I think has been
20 really successful in identifying any
21 issues that might come up with cases
22 before they get to the trial stage. I
23 hope that that helps explain.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No, that's
25 clarity. And I am familiar with and I

1 did talk to -- I'll deal with this on
2 the next panel. I did talk with the
3 DA's Office before about the courts
4 having one room that dealt with nothing
5 but gun crimes just to expedite that
6 process, which I think is a step in the
7 right direction.

8 But at sight, I kind of wanted
9 to get clarity on the different
10 directions of the trend. And I would
11 hope that the Courts will participate in
12 this hearing in the future from a
13 collaborative standpoint. I do believe
14 it has to be all hands on deck. But for
15 some apparent reason, they couldn't be
16 available today. But we are in a state
17 of emergency. For me, I just think it
18 comes down to making sure that everybody
19 rolls up their sleeves and being
20 transparent and accountable to the
21 public on how we're addressing --

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:
23 Chairman Johnson, let me just also say
24 we've been meeting and talking to Judges
25 Perez and Clemons at the Common Pleas

1 Court in trying to make sure that our
2 cases have the best ability to go
3 forward, so I know that we've been
4 working closely with them.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's
6 great. All right. Thank you very much.
7 Commissioner Outlaw.

8 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Yes.
9 Thank you. Next slide. Clearance rate,
10 our clearance rate has continued to
11 decline. Whether incrementally, it's
12 still declining over the last 10 years.
13 Our current homicide clearance rate is
14 at 40 percent. And when you pop the
15 number of homicides in our clearance
16 rate, you can see the inverse
17 relationship here. The clearance rate
18 goes up when our case count goes down.
19 And conversely, our clearance rate goes
20 down when our homicide count goes up.

21 We've discussed a lot of the
22 various factors that impact our
23 clearance rate, not just witness
24 collaboration, but the increased case
25 volume without having additional

1 detectives, weapons used, our gun
2 homicides have lower clearance rates,
3 and then all of the unique circumstances
4 around the pandemic that we've discussed
5 before.

6 Again, we want to put out there
7 that we acknowledge addressing our
8 clearance rate requires something more
9 than just us, but a comprehensive
10 strategy that includes addressing the
11 illegal guns off the street. Because
12 again, we believe the more guns out
13 there, the more shootings we're going to
14 have which increases our caseloads,
15 which we believe impact our clearance
16 rates.

17 Next slide. And lastly, I want
18 to end on a somewhat bright note. We
19 have had the pleasure of being selected
20 as a 2021 National Public Safety
21 Partnership site. We're proud to be
22 such a part of an incredible network of
23 cities that are focused on crime and
24 violence reduction.

25 This is an initiative that

1 supports local jurisdictions that are
2 experiencing sustained increases in
3 violent crime and would benefit from the
4 U.S. DOJ or the Department of Justice's
5 support in developing our own capacities
6 to fight violent crime in our
7 communities and is tailored to the needs
8 of a community that desires
9 capacity-building of assistance.

10 So while we know we've had some
11 wins with our current operating
12 framework, what this does is will show
13 us our blind spots, allow us to
14 benchmark, allow us to have peer
15 engagement with other cities. It again
16 brings local, state, federal partners
17 together, but it's a deal. And we are
18 only one of 10 sites across the country
19 to receive the support over the next
20 three years after having re-applied back
21 in May of 2021. It doesn't cost any
22 additional money to the City.

23 And they were selected through
24 a process that considers both
25 quantitative and qualitative measures in

1 consultation with the U.S. Attorney's
2 Office and the DOJ law enforcement
3 partners. And for us to be considered,
4 the site or us must have had levels of
5 violence that exceeded the national
6 average.

7 We also have to demonstrate a
8 commitment to reducing violent crime and
9 be ready to receive the very intensive
10 training and technical assistance that
11 will be provided. So some of the things
12 that we can expect, and we're hoping
13 that we can launch later on this season
14 at the end of fall 2021, we can expect
15 customized technical assistance.

16 There's something called a PSP library,
17 which is a library of virtual trainings
18 on crime guns, crime team management,
19 leadership and some other things.

20 There's subject matter expert
21 consultation. There's a strategic site
22 liaison that's assigned to us who's a
23 former law enforcement executive that's
24 had success in other parts of the
25 country. There's opportunity for peer

1 exchanges. There's a strategic
2 assessment, actually several assessments
3 which will take place first to give us a
4 baseline understanding of what we're
5 working with.

6 There's a summit, a PSP summit,
7 that's an invitation-only event that
8 convenes all of the executive leadership
9 and key stakeholders from all of the
10 sites to have discussion and it's for
11 public safety and violence reduction
12 strategies directly with national
13 practitioners and other researchers and
14 the DOJ, U.S. Attorneys, so on and so
15 forth.

16 I say all that to say that this
17 is a deal. Some of you might be
18 familiar with the work that was done in
19 Camden County across the bridge. Some
20 of their successes with the public
21 safety partnership was allowing them to
22 streamline ballistics evidence
23 processing. They incorporated social
24 network analyses and integrated
25 technology into daily operations, and

1 they're now serving as one of the model
2 sites for this partnership. And for us
3 in addition to the plethora of things
4 offered, we really want to be able to
5 hocus -- I don't know why I keep wanting
6 to say hocus, but focus or hone in on --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's
8 Halloween.

9 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Exactly,
10 it is. That's what it is. I wanted to
11 be able to work with them to focus on
12 our investigative strategies as well to
13 see what we can do to enhance our
14 clearance rates. So all of that to say,
15 we are a learning organization. We're
16 always looking to see what we can
17 sharpen, what works well, how we can
18 replicate that, but again, what are some
19 areas that we need to tweak. And we're
20 open to best practices and benchmarking,
21 and being a part of this three-year
22 initiative I think will help us do that.

23 With that, I'll open it up to
24 any further questions that you have.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Well,

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1 congratulations first and foremost. And
2 hopefully --

3 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- this
6 will be another tool in the toolbox to
7 help us keep our City much safer as we
8 move forward, specifically around the
9 issue of gun violence.

10 I just have a couple of
11 questions. Well, one, again it sticks
12 out what captains are doing in the
13 various PinPoint areas. And I guess the
14 question is how can we expand on what's
15 taking place in those PinPoint areas
16 that show that y'all are very at least
17 effective with this presentation, how do
18 we go to scale, right, with the
19 resources that we have, with the
20 manpower that we have?

21 And the second question is, and
22 I want to be helpful in this part as
23 well, how is recruitment going for
24 manpower, how is expanding manpower in
25 the Homicide Unit, what does that look

1 like? I know at one point in time we
2 talked about waivers for individuals who
3 may not move in the City but want to
4 become an officer.

5 I'm recently looking at people
6 who have been grandfathered in, in terms
7 of maybe they applied for the test and
8 then the legislation came down and now
9 they may be excluded, things of that
10 sort, but that all boils down to a
11 manpower issue. Can you elaborate on
12 where you are from a recruitment and
13 expanding standpoint because that plays
14 a major role as well in terms of
15 caseload and burden?

16 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I will
17 briefly talk about the recruiting piece,
18 and then I'll turn it over to D.C. Dales
19 to talk about our CompStat process and
20 accountability. So as it relates to our
21 ability to attract, the good news is
22 we're still attracting people. But to
23 your point, it's not in the numbers
24 where we want to (inaudible).

25 Yes, there have been some

1 challenges that we found in some of the
2 new requirements. It's now required for
3 those who want to apply, you have to
4 have lived here in the City for at least
5 one year, and then there's also a
6 vaccination mandate for all the
7 employees effective early September, I
8 believe.

9 With that said, we were able to
10 work from -- there was a waiver, a
11 couple of waivers, for the last two
12 lists that we got from City HR. We were
13 able to grandfather those people who had
14 been waiting on the list to push them
15 through the process and to formulate the
16 class that we currently have, and
17 hopefully we will have another class by
18 the end of the year.

19 We have done everything that we
20 can in recent months to make sure that
21 we're reaching people where they are.
22 We are partnering with academic
23 institutions to provide workshops to
24 help people on the reading tests because
25 we saw that we were losing people there.

1 Also, with local gyms and such, so that
2 we can provide workshops to get people
3 through the physical piece because we
4 were losing people there as well.

5 With that said, it is a reality
6 that our numbers are at a very critical
7 low. Our authorized strength was
8 reduced in the last budget process and
9 it was not -- well, process before last,
10 and it was not restored. But even with
11 that said, it takes some time to get the
12 bodies here. And so, as we're being
13 asked to do more and I keep saying that,
14 whether it's around ATV details or a lot
15 of the crime rates that we're seeing,
16 we're pulling from the same pool. We're
17 pulling from the same cadre. Some of
18 the same officers that we would be using
19 on an overtime and on an extra basis to
20 address a lot of the PinPoint stuff
21 would be some of the same officers that
22 we're using in other parts of the City.
23 So I'm going to be honest with you in
24 that it is challenging because we're
25 also being questioned every time we

1 make, as we should, about our overtime
2 expenditures and costs as it relates to
3 that.

4 As it relates to
5 accountability, our CompStat process is
6 designed specifically for that.
7 D.C. Dales, you want to chime in and
8 talk about how the captains are held
9 accountable as to what's going on in the
10 grids?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:
12 Absolutely. Good afternoon, Councilman.
13 How are you, sir?

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
15 afternoon, Deputy Commissioner Dales.
16 How are you?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES:
18 Doing pretty good. So before I go into
19 the accountability piece, the captains,
20 what they have been doing in PinPoint
21 grids, they also do the same outside the
22 PinPoint grids. When we see a hotspot
23 developing, we don't ignore it. We
24 definitely deploy in those zones, so
25 obviously we increase our presence

1 within our problematic areas, which nine
2 times out of ten turns into removing a
3 violent offender from the streets.

4 We also work with our partners,
5 which you mentioned, local, state and
6 federal partners within these zones. We
7 don't just put police officers in those
8 zones without implementing operation
9 plans within those zones. We have
10 operation plans in place, deployment
11 plans in place. We also implement
12 various initiatives, strategies within
13 those zones. We work with Probation,
14 work with Parole. You name it, we work
15 with everyone to try to reduce gun
16 violence within these zones.

17 Now, as far as the
18 accountability part, we definitely hold
19 the captains accountable for reducing
20 gun violence in their respective
21 districts. We meet every morning.
22 Every morning we talk -- if a shooting
23 occurred the day prior, we talk about
24 it. We talk about the offender. We
25 talk about the witness. We look at the

1 victims. When you look at the victim,
2 there's a story behind the victim. Just
3 because they're a victim one day doesn't
4 mean they can't be an offender another
5 day, so we look at that as well. And we
6 take the appropriate action to try to
7 prevent another shooting from occurring,
8 which we have been effective I will say.

9 We also have CompStat meetings
10 every two weeks, where I let the chief
11 inspectors run the CompStat meetings.
12 Now, those districts that are
13 experiencing high volumes of gun
14 violence within that week, within a
15 one-to-two week period, then I'll have
16 an inperson CompStat down here in my
17 office with those District commanders as
18 well as their chiefs.

19 So we would have a deep
20 discussion as to what's driving the
21 problems in your respective districts,
22 what support do you need, how can we
23 help you to work on reducing those
24 problems, do we need to reach out to
25 other agencies, do we have to focus on

1 the environment, which Erica Atwood
2 talked about earlier in reference to
3 correcting those issues that can be
4 reducing the problems in certain areas.
5 So in a nutshell, that's pretty much
6 what we're doing to try to keep gun
7 violence down within the community.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
9 And those PinPoint areas that you
10 mentioned, obviously I represent two of
11 them, the 12th and 17th. But even when
12 I look at the other ones that's not in
13 my District, it sticks out that they are
14 PinPoint areas. And at least in those
15 particular areas, something's working.
16 So always looking at best practices and
17 models, which I'm quite sure y'all are
18 as well when you see the numbers going
19 down the way that they're going down.
20 We're not doing an arrest game. It's
21 about really getting to the root causes
22 of why these young people are picking up
23 guns, predominantly young people in the
24 first place, and the level of carnage
25 that we're seeing. And --

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1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DALES: And
2 I just want to (inaudible), sir. The
3 officers are out there working hard
4 every single night. Every night they're
5 getting guns off the street. And what
6 pretty much makes me upset is when I see
7 the background of these individuals were
8 involved in shootings or if we got a gun
9 off of them and (inaudible) throughout
10 the City.

11 Last night we arrested a
12 gentleman. He had an extended magazine.
13 You look at his history he had two prior
14 VUFA arrests, two prior VUFA arrests.
15 The initial bail was set at \$200,000.
16 Then it was reduced to \$75,000. Two
17 days prior to that, Kensington and
18 Allegheny it was a shooting. The guy
19 literally shot at several individuals
20 and shot one male. Thank God he
21 survived. SEPTA police were there. The
22 SEPTA police made the apprehension.

23 You look at his background, he
24 had an open VUFA case this year in
25 April, an open VUFA case, and he's back

1 out on the street. So these are some of
2 the things we're dealing with. We have
3 to work together as a team as a whole if
4 we want to reduce gun violence in our
5 City.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So I guess
7 that just leads me to the point when you
8 have cases like that, I know y'all have
9 a Shooting Review Team, right, where
10 y'all all sit around the table. Are the
11 Courts at the table? I know the DA's
12 Office is at the table. Who else is at
13 the table when you have cases like this
14 to try to get to the root cause of why
15 you keep seeing the same individuals?

16 And listen, I've been doing
17 these hearings for so long that I get
18 both perspectives. But obviously, if
19 everybody is sitting inside the same
20 room, right, and we're all working
21 toward the same goal which is a safer
22 city and you see cases like that, how do
23 you nail down on, okay, here is the case
24 study of these two individuals, right,
25 known to be shooters in the

1 neighborhood, right, their backgrounds
2 show that they're shooters in the
3 neighborhood, yet they're still walking
4 the streets and have the ability to
5 commit crime carnage.

6 And they don't want to a job.
7 They're not looking for an opportunity
8 to get out of the lifestyle. This is
9 what they do, right, so I guess doing a
10 case study. And a deeper dive, I know
11 Councilman Jones has the 100 Shooting
12 Review Committee, like really nail down
13 on those types of individuals and get to
14 the root causes of actually why those
15 individuals have the opportunity to
16 still commit the types of shootings that
17 they are doing.

18 Now, that's just my
19 perspective. Because I know the various
20 agencies do meet, but at the end of the
21 day, if we're going to get off the rat
22 wheel of homicides and shootings, at
23 some point in time we have to get to the
24 root cause of why we keep seeing the
25 same individuals pulling the triggers

1 day in and day out. And it's a variety
2 of different perspectives, but at the
3 end of the day getting to the root
4 causes of it and making sure it doesn't
5 happen is how we see ourselves out of
6 the current situation that we're in.
7 And so, thank you for your perspective,
8 your update.

9 I had a question regarding the
10 clearance rate for homicides and
11 nonfatal shootings, right. Can you give
12 me those numbers and also your
13 perspective on how we're addressing
14 them? Particularly around our
15 homicides, right, have we expanded? And
16 I know we have a manpower problem. I
17 guess that's more of a promotion type of
18 detective issue more than anything else.
19 Have we expanded the case manpower in
20 the Detectives Unit?

21 And then also, because
22 witnesses are so apprehensive about
23 coming forward, and this has been
24 discussed in the prior hearing, what is
25 the Police Department's strategy to

1 make -- I guess that's more of a
2 question to ask the DA. But how are you
3 making people comfortable to come
4 forward with information?

5 And that will be a conversation
6 for both agencies but -- because people
7 need information. I'm one to say, I
8 tell the public in a heart beat if you
9 see something, you got to say something
10 because homicide can't solve a homicide
11 if they don't have the information. You
12 can blame the cops all you want. But if
13 you're not coming forward saying I saw
14 this person shoot that person or provide
15 camera footage or to provide some type
16 of information, then the homicide can't
17 solve a homicide, and those families
18 don't get justice at the end of the day.
19 And that's what they all want for some
20 closure.

21 So, Deputy Commissioner Naish.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:

23 Yeah. Thank you. Commissioner, I'll
24 jump in here.

25 Chairman Johnson, you just laid

1 out all the challenges that we face in
2 our homicide investigations in one
3 sentence. But let me start and try to
4 break it down. Staffing of homicide,
5 since I've been in the position that I'm
6 in, I've made it a priority to make sure
7 that no matter where we are with the
8 Bureau as a whole, we're maintaining
9 consistent level of staffing in the
10 Homicide Unit.

11 So while the Detective Bureau
12 has lost a significant number of people
13 since the last time that we've had
14 detective promotions, the Homicide Unit
15 staffing has remained consistent.
16 Twelve detectives and three supervisors
17 since I've been here have gone into the
18 Homicide Unit. But the problem with
19 that is even though we've been able to
20 maintain the staffing level at where
21 we've been in the past, as the homicide
22 numbers have grown significantly, it has
23 meant that individually those
24 investigators have resulted in a higher
25 caseload.

1 And you've seen the inverse
2 relationship. As the homicide numbers
3 go up, the clearances go down. That's
4 because they don't get the opportunity
5 to spend as much time as they can on
6 each individual investigation.
7 Ultimately, we've been robbing from
8 Peter to pay Paul. We've been taking
9 from the Detective Divisions, the
10 experienced and strong investigators
11 that work other types of cases,
12 including the nonfatal shootings as well
13 as other robberies and other Part 1
14 crimes, those who have a demonstrated
15 track record have had the opportunity to
16 go into Homicide and prove how good they
17 are when it comes to the biggest
18 priority that we have, which is solving
19 the homicide cases.

20 Let me touch on you talked
21 about the comfort level of witnesses
22 coming forward, and I'm going to give
23 you a recent example and it combines two
24 things and it's cooperation. You nailed
25 it. You've heard me say numerous times

1 that a great percentage -- I would put
2 it as high as 80 percent, maybe even
3 higher, closer to 90 percent -- of the
4 cases we're able to bring in are
5 dependent upon recovery of video. And
6 that's from surveillance video, whether
7 it is from a commercial establishment, a
8 Ring doorbell somebody in the
9 neighborhood put up or a police camera.

10 And it's not as simple --
11 Chairman Johnson, it's not as simple as
12 we've got an image of the person who did
13 it. But it's a matter of we're able to
14 determine that a vehicle arrived at a
15 scene and that vehicle was captured on
16 an image, and from that vehicle we can
17 trace it back to who was responsible for
18 the shooting that way, and then with
19 that comes other levels of
20 corroboration.

21 But as I'm talking about the
22 video, we're not only getting resistance
23 sometimes from community members who see
24 things and don't want to come forward
25 because of legitimate fears that they

1 have, sometimes we're even getting
2 resistance from people who have the
3 video who don't want to cooperate.

4 And in a recent case, we
5 believed that a location of a commercial
6 establishment could provide some
7 critical video. But that person, when
8 we went to the owner of the
9 establishment, they said, no, the camera
10 doesn't work. We talked to the victim's
11 mother. The victim's mother happened to
12 know the person from that commercial
13 establishment, called the person
14 themselves and found out the video was
15 in existence, and that video is
16 critically important and can lead to an
17 arrest that we're going to get.

18 All of that is to say there is
19 a legitimate concern for people's safety
20 in cooperating with investigations. We
21 work very closely with the District
22 Attorney's Office and the Attorney
23 General's Office in order to relocate
24 people who provide information and feel
25 that their lives may be in danger.

1 I can tell you that recently
2 Councilmember Gauthier has reached out
3 on a number of occasions about people
4 who have had situations where they've
5 been concerned about their safety as a
6 result of cooperation, and we've done
7 everything we can and worked with our
8 DA's Office partners in order to
9 accommodate those individuals.

10 So the bottom line in all of
11 this, and I'll wrap it up by saying,
12 yes, we've seen less cooperation. We
13 have a greater dependency on two things.
14 We have a greater dependency on video
15 surveillances recovered and ballistic
16 information or forensics as we've talked
17 about a lot of times. Those things are
18 critical in increasing our clearances.

19 But I can assure you from the
20 bottom of my heart, the homicide
21 investigators are incredibly dedicated
22 and they are working so hard to bring
23 justice to the families. So I hope that
24 answers in a long way some of the
25 concerns that you've addressed.

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1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

2 Absolutely.

3 Next, I want to call on
4 Councilman Allan Domb for questions.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman, and thanks you for this
7 hearing today.

8 Good afternoon, everybody,
9 Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners
10 and everyone. I want to follow up,
11 Chairman Johnson, on your questions
12 regarding the staffing. I'm concerned
13 about the staffing for the Police
14 Department. I'm concerned about it for
15 the Fire Department. And when you pick
16 up every newspaper today, even the front
17 page of the Inquirer today, there's
18 staffing problems nationwide. And
19 people are trying to make things easier
20 to hire people today than to make it
21 more difficult.

22 So having said that, I just
23 wanted to ask the Commissioner, did you
24 mention you have about 1,000 officers
25 out right now?

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1 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Yes.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is that
3 out of 6600 potential spots?

4 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: No, so
5 it's not out of 6600. Our authorized
6 strength is far lower than that. It's
7 1,000 in addition to the authorized
8 strength that we have. So we have about
9 6100 that are here fully able and
10 working. In addition on top of the 6100
11 or of those 6100, we have about 1,000
12 people that are out.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So you have
14 about 500 vacant positions I'm guessing,
15 right, and another 1,000 from the 6100
16 that are out. So you're down to like
17 5100 people while crime is increasing
18 dramatically?

19 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Ish, give
20 or take, yes. And Commissioner Coulter
21 is on if you have any specific questions
22 also about the numbers.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: And is there
24 something we can do, Council, the
25 Administration, what could we do to help

1 you find people to fill these positions
2 of 500 vacancies? Because I think in
3 today's day and age, we need to figure
4 out solutions to attract people,
5 especially for jobs in the police force
6 and make it easier for you to hire
7 people than difficult.

8 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I
9 think --

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We need to
11 get that budget increased first, Allan.
12 We need that budget increased. We took
13 that money away a couple years ago.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: We have 500
15 openings that are budgeted, so we have
16 to fill those.

17 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: In
18 addition to the budget issues, I would
19 say I think we need to have a very
20 honest look across the board. It's not
21 anything that was newly implemented in
22 the last year, but we have to have a
23 hard look and a very honest look at any
24 potential entries to barrier -- barriers
25 to entry. I'm just all over the place

1 today. Hocus focus, entry to barrier.

2 Anyway, any potential barriers
3 to entry that would -- and that would
4 even include things like age that may or
5 may not be a barrier. Obviously,
6 there's a residency requirement here.
7 There's some other mandates in place.
8 But just across the board, we need to
9 see if there's anything aside from what
10 we've done internally in any of those
11 areas that are potentially subjective,
12 not required by the state, in any of
13 those areas that are subjective, is
14 there anything that can be done to not
15 only get people interested in wanting to
16 do this.

17 We can't control the national
18 narrative, but we can control our
19 messaging here in the City, how we
20 support law enforcement, how holding us
21 accountable is not mutually exclusive,
22 right. So you can publicly supportive
23 and then also say, but we're going to
24 hold you accountable at the same time.

25 We have to make the police

1 department an employer choice or the
2 City an employer choice. Meaning, that
3 we support you when you do the right
4 thing. And when you don't, we're going
5 to say something, but it doesn't mean
6 that we don't support our local law
7 enforcement. And that's what we're
8 hearing. A lot of folks are like uhn,
9 there's some other things that I can do
10 right now that won't seem as though
11 we're not being supported or every time
12 we turn around, there's something
13 negative to say or we're not hearing the
14 positives about all the great work that
15 we're doing.

16 I mean, we just had two active
17 shooter situations in the last couple of
18 weeks within days, right, where we had
19 officers running toward the danger to
20 address the threat. And I can't praise
21 them enough. It would also be great to
22 hear from others in the City, whether
23 it's other City leadership from Council
24 to talk about the great job that was
25 done there because they literally risked

1 their lives in order to prevent others
2 from being taken.

3 So it's things like that, it's
4 nuance, but it's low hanging fruit. I
5 think that will be very helpful coming
6 from you all and from everyone as a
7 whole quite frankly in addition to
8 looking at potential barriers to entry.
9 And quite frankly it's not just our
10 police officers, it's also with our
11 dispatchers as well, not to go down
12 another rabbit hole.

13 But we also thank you. We have
14 new positions that were authorized in
15 this last budget to hire additional, but
16 we got to look at their salaries, are we
17 paying them enough, is it comparable to
18 other cities, what can we do to retain
19 so that we're not requiring mandatory
20 overtime because the numbers are so low.
21 So again, I think there's some things
22 that we can do to make sure that this is
23 a supportive environment for all of our
24 PPD employees, and it's okay to say it
25 publicly.

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1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And if I
2 can give a point of information,
3 Councilman Domb, if that's okay.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Sure. Go
5 ahead.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I think
7 also, Commissioner, and I saw you at a
8 great event called Faith & Blue with
9 some community folks, right. I think
10 also if we have more of those type of
11 initiatives coming from the actual
12 Philadelphia Police Department in
13 partnership with the community, it will
14 also go toward helping build that bridge
15 and kind of shut down that narrative
16 that's nationally saying the community
17 has to be pitted toward the Philadelphia
18 Police Department.

19 And I'll give you an example.
20 At least in my District in the 17th,
21 this might be the first year we probably
22 didn't do it, but we have a robust PDAC,
23 right, and now we have a youth PDAC
24 that, Deputy Commissioner Joel Dales, I
25 guess yourself as well being a leader in

1 the police department is also starting,
2 that goes a long way as well to creating
3 that narrative, getting young people
4 involved.

5 And I will say this from
6 personal experience. I've met more
7 people who told me they want to become
8 an officer now, right, because they
9 believe that they can change the system
10 from within. A couple of individuals
11 have approached me saying the same
12 thing. And I'm like really? Yes, I
13 want to be a part of change from within
14 the system. And so, just wanted to put
15 that out there. But definitely
16 well-taken in terms of, yes, being
17 supportive of the environment. But I
18 also believe that it goes both ways in
19 terms of making sure that we're building
20 those bridges between the community and
21 the law enforcement community as well.

22 Councilman Domb.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 I just want to ask the

1 Commissioner, can you make
2 recommendations to us that we should
3 maybe -- maybe we should consider a
4 12-month, I don't know what you want to
5 call it, time period where we relax some
6 of the requirements in order for us to
7 build back these staffing levels in our
8 police and fire department.

9 So if there were three, four or
10 five recommendations that we only do for
11 the next 12 months to see if that can
12 help us build back the police
13 department, I think that's something we
14 should look at if you can let us know
15 what that might be.

16 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Sure. I
17 think we can take a look. As far as the
18 newer requirements, it's still really
19 early to tell whether or not that's had
20 an impact because we're working off the
21 two lists that got the (inaudible). But
22 with that said, I think I want to make
23 very clear -- so the answer is yes, we
24 can do that. But I also want to make
25 very clear that there still has to be

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1 some standards, right.

2 So I don't want people to walk
3 away thinking that we've relaxed all
4 entry requirements to become a police
5 officer because everybody can't become a
6 police officer to be frank. But I think
7 we do need to take another look at any
8 potential barriers to entry, and we
9 would be happy to report back on what
10 those could be.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank
12 you very much, Commissioner.

13 And thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Great
16 questions, Councilman Domb. Thank you
17 very much.

18 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
20 you, Mr. Chair.

21 My comment and my question is
22 for Deputy Commissioner Naish. Hi,
23 Deputy Commissioner, if you're still
24 there.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH: Hi,

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1 Council --

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Hi.

3 First, I wanted to take an opportunity
4 to publicly thank you. As you mentioned
5 before because so much of this is
6 happening in the neighborhoods that I
7 represent, I've had several instances of
8 outreach with people, either having
9 questions about their investigation or
10 people who were really scared who wanted
11 to be relocated. And just at every
12 turn, every time I reached out to you,
13 you've answered expeditiously. You've
14 taken it really seriously. You've given
15 me and the constituents as much
16 information as possible, and I just want
17 to let you know how much that means to
18 me, but also to people who are
19 experiencing a high level of trauma. So
20 thank you very much.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:

22 Thank you. And it has been the team
23 that includes the DA's Office and
24 G. Lamar Stewart a lot, but it's also
25 been the commanders at the Detective

1 Divisions and at Homicide. And I want
2 to say upfront my heart still breaks
3 over what happened in the 16th District
4 with the situation we were trying to
5 resolve. That one hits hard and I know
6 that it hits you hard, and we're still
7 continuing to try to do everything we
8 can for that family.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Okay.
10 Thank you. I wanted to ask a question
11 about relocation. I wanted to know if
12 you had your (inaudible) and you could
13 make any changes to relocation that you
14 thought was needed to make it better, to
15 protect people and also to entice more
16 cooperation, what would that look like?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH: On
18 a personal note, I hate to say this, but
19 again some of these things come down to
20 money. I think that the DA's Office who
21 oversees the program does a really good
22 job at it, and I don't think that it
23 should go to the police department. I
24 think it has to work in conjunction with
25 the prosecutor's office. So I think

1 that's the appropriate place, and they
2 get their support from the Attorney
3 General's Office. So I think it's in
4 the right place.

5 They often times are asking
6 from us, from the investigators, the
7 people who are asking for help in
8 situations, are they providing their own
9 level of help in order to get the help,
10 and it is a two-way street. And I know
11 a lot of times it seems like sometimes
12 we hear stories about somebody needs
13 relocation, they need help because
14 they're afraid. And then as we get into
15 looking at the behind the scenes
16 sometimes, we have to have a way of
17 evaluating are they doing the things for
18 themselves to help us help them.

19 I'm not trying to back out of
20 this. I guess I'm just saying that I
21 think sometimes to expedite it maybe the
22 DA's Office needs some additional
23 funding to put more people in there to
24 help to expedite it because they are the
25 overseers of the program. And then I

1 know there are also times where the
2 funding has run out where somebody has
3 been in a relocation situation and
4 they've exceeded or they've reached a
5 cap on what they're able to do.

6 And just so that we're all
7 clear, this is not -- and I've talked
8 about this before. This is not a
9 witness protection program. We are not
10 the United States Marshal Service who
11 does a great job for the federal
12 government. We are a witness or a
13 victim, basically a witness relocation
14 program. We move people. And generally
15 speaking, most of the time we move them
16 from one section of the City to another
17 section of the City.

18 And I believe that there are
19 times that we move them from one section
20 of the City outside of the City, and
21 that can be really, really effective.
22 But it's less within the grasp of the
23 City, because a lot of times the
24 relocation has to work in conjunction
25 with our Philadelphia Housing Authority.

1 So if there was more money in
2 order to allow people to move outside of
3 the City itself if they feel that their
4 lives are in danger, I think that that
5 would go a great way to reducing the
6 level of fear. As Chairman Johnson
7 talks about, encourage the sense of
8 cooperation and participation in working
9 with our investigators. So I hope that
10 that kind of addresses what you're
11 trying to look for.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I think
13 I clearly hear more funding, right, and
14 funding that would allow us to move
15 people outside of the City. But I
16 wanted you to expound on what do you
17 mean by people trying to -- you
18 mentioned people working through issues
19 that would I guess make them better
20 partners in relocation. Can you sort of
21 talk about some of that? Can you
22 expound on that a little bit more?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH: I
24 think a lot of that goes back to the
25 things we talked about with the Faith &

1 Blue and the trust with the community.
2 On Saturday, I went to the
3 Transfiguration Baptist Church on
4 Fairmount Avenue, and I saw you accept
5 an award and you were incredibly
6 gracious and you are incredibly well-
7 deserving of that. And I don't mean
8 that to sound too puffy right now. But
9 I know the commitment that you have with
10 the community. And I know the
11 frustration that you feel when the
12 members of the community that you are so
13 diligently trying to serve are being
14 victimized by continuing and ongoing
15 violence.

16 But I think that what we saw
17 from that forum, which was incredible
18 with these young interveners, is that
19 there are people who have been in
20 situations that are difficult and
21 they're recognizing that they can get
22 involved and encourage others to reduce
23 the level of violence.

24 So it's all about the things
25 that the Commissioner so often is

1 encouraging, and it's building the trust
2 between the police department, which is
3 often times seen as a blue wall, and the
4 community which has gone through so much
5 in the last year and a number of months,
6 especially as a result of what happened
7 last summer, where there was an overall
8 breakdown in the trust from the
9 community to the police department. And
10 we are trying continually to rebuild
11 that trust, and we're doing it through
12 events like what we saw on Saturday and
13 other events that are going on.

14 And so, I expressed a level of
15 frustration where people are reluctant
16 to cooperate, and I'm talking about
17 something as simple as giving us video.
18 And part of that and in fairness to some
19 of those folks is because they are
20 afraid that if it gets back to offenders
21 that they provided the video, that they
22 may be targeted in the future.

23 I don't frankly know a way to
24 overcome all of that other than get more
25 and more public surveillance type of

1 things out there, because the cameras --
2 we're in a vicious cycle. The homicides
3 go up, the retaliation continues, one
4 homicide leads to another homicide. And
5 I know everyone is critical about our
6 lower clearance numbers than they should
7 be.

8 And we can only stop this
9 terrible cycle if we can take the people
10 who are responsible for those and get
11 them off the street. And in order to do
12 that, we need evidence. And in order to
13 do that, we need trust with the
14 community. So all of that stuff is to
15 say we need to continue to build
16 partnerships like the things that we've
17 been trying to do.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
19 you so much and thanks again for your
20 work.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NAISH:
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
25 Councilwoman Gauthier. And thank you,

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1 Deputy Commissioner Naish.

2 That's all the questions I
3 have. Any other questions from the
4 Committee?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:
7 Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, as always
8 thank you for your leadership. Thank
9 you for you and your team staying on the
10 case. Obviously, we all want to work
11 toward the same goal which is making
12 this City a safer city. So thank you
13 very much for your time and thank you
14 for participating in the hearing.

15 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank
16 you.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
18 welcome. Will the Clerk please call the
19 next witness, the next panel.

20 THE CLERK: District Attorney
21 Larry Krasner.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: How are
23 you doing, Commissioner -- how are you
24 doing, District Attorney Krasner?

25 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I'm

1 doing extremely well. Thank you very
2 much. I truly appreciate the
3 opportunity to speak. I'm going to
4 respect your time because I know these
5 things for perfectly good reasons tend
6 to be long so --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's cool.
8 Take your time.

9 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: All
10 right. Well, let me try to be as
11 efficient as I can because I think this
12 is a very, very important topic. I also
13 think that -- I agree strongly with an
14 awful lot of what you just heard. There
15 is some disagreement. But in general, I
16 think in full context with some of the
17 full explanations there's very, very
18 important information. There's some
19 important clues to where we go from
20 here.

21 I would first like to
22 acknowledge you, Councilmember Johnson,
23 but also Councilmember Curt Jones, other
24 members of City Council obviously
25 participating heavily, and

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1 Councilmembers Domb and Gauthier, victim
2 advocates and community (inaudible.)

3 I have my whole baseball team
4 here with me. I've got Chance Lee. I
5 have -- who of course runs our
6 Intelligence Unit heavily on the weekly
7 VUFA and gun crime review, we have Bill
8 Fritze, who is Head of our Gun Violence
9 Task Force here. I also have here with
10 me Deb Watson-Stokes, who is the Chief
11 of our Municipal Court Unit who has a
12 very important role in making sure cases
13 are getting past preliminary hearings
14 among many other things.

15 We have with us nearby G. Lamar
16 Stewart who is a Philadelphia police
17 officer and also Head of our Community
18 Outreach. I think we also have some
19 other people who have input and may be
20 able to answer specific questions should
21 you have them. I have Cheslea Lightsey
22 who is the Chief of our Homicide and
23 Nonfatal Shooting Unit.

24 We also have some success
25 stories about good things that have come

1 from the ONE STOP Job & Resource Hub.
2 And those success stories include
3 stories from the lives of Kerry Johnson,
4 who was recently hired to a great job to
5 that program. We have Andreana
6 Barefield and Donyte Jones, both of who
7 are employees of the DA's Office doing
8 community outreach, but are examples of
9 the success -- Andreana actually got her
10 job by going to the ONE STOP Job &
11 Resource Hub with her fancy degrees. I
12 also see we have the very wonderful Myra
13 Maxwell, who like so many people among
14 us wears more than one hat. She's not
15 only Head of our CARES program and a
16 wizard when it comes to addressing the
17 needs of victims, she is also a pastor
18 as well.

19 So let me just jump in.
20 There's a couple of elephants in the
21 room, and I think they reflect what in
22 my view is good news. I think we have
23 to be careful when we have these
24 conversations to make sure that we are
25 really open and we talk about the

1 context because it is important.

2 Councilmember Johnson, I heard
3 you talking about "something's working"
4 in the 12th and 17th. Well, you're
5 right, something is working in the 12th
6 and 17th, and Captain Drissel and
7 Captain Michael O'Donnell deserve a lot
8 of credit. As was pointed out by Deputy
9 Commissioner Naish, both of those
10 captains worked very closely with the
11 DA's Gun Violence Task Force headed by
12 Bill Fritze.

13 And so, when we talk about
14 these major takedowns -- I'm not talking
15 about a takedown of a bunch of guns,
16 that is a priority but it is not the top
17 priority -- we are talking about
18 takedowns of people shooting people,
19 takedowns of people committing homicide
20 by gun. That is what happened in the
21 12th and 17th, is we went for the main
22 issue, top priority, which is homicide
23 by gun and shooting by gun.

24 And we were able to do that
25 because the Gun Violence Task Force over

1 the past couple of years has had some
2 decent funding through the state, but
3 also because we invested in forensics,
4 okay. When we talk about the issues of
5 witnesses feeling endangered not wanting
6 to come forward, maybe not even
7 providing (inaudible), that's real.
8 That's not new news. It's been real for
9 a long time. It's been a challenge.

10 But the way of successful,
11 slow, careful efforts to gather evidence
12 and indict a whole group of people who
13 were shooting other people, the way that
14 works was in part because we had
15 meetings a couple of years ago where we
16 were able to agree with the Attorney
17 General's Office on getting some
18 technology that would allow us to crack
19 people's phones, obviously with a
20 warrant, but get into their phones.
21 That technology has been very
22 successful. So successful that we've
23 invited the Philadelphia Police
24 Department to come use it basically
25 whenever they want and to the extent

1 that it's free. It's a real need that
2 the PPD has to have better forensics in
3 terms of phone technology because it's
4 such a great tool, showing people's
5 location, their contacts, their
6 communications.

7 So when we look at that
8 recognizing the great job the PPD has
9 done there, which we should and we
10 should give them credit for it, we need
11 to understand what really happened there
12 was a great collaboration with the Gun
13 Violence Task Force that focused on the
14 main issue, shootings. It is shootings.
15 And that's what we have to make our top
16 priority. Obviously, many other things
17 are very, very, high priority as well.

18 So I say that to say that
19 there's some clues there. Number one,
20 the DA's Office and the PPD had several
21 collaborations that I consider to be
22 very effective. And if I was hearing
23 correctly, I was hearing that there is
24 agreement within the PPD, and I've heard
25 this before, that some of these

1 collaborations have been very effective
2 and they are very important. But they
3 also have to be funded.

4 Make no mistake, the
5 Philadelphia Police Department has gone
6 to bat for its funding. It has gotten
7 considerable funding. I think \$130
8 million or something, an increase yet
9 again, coming in the future and that's
10 fine and that's good. To the extent
11 presence on the street makes a
12 difference, that can help. And I
13 totally support them in that.

14 But it's not going to work. It
15 is not going to work simply to have
16 additional police presence. What we
17 need to have here is funding of these
18 collaborations both within the PPD and
19 within the DA's Office funding the
20 courts, funding the public defenders, so
21 we can make the system move forward.

22 This is part of the reason that
23 we have been in discussion with members
24 of Council about the reality that we
25 will not be able to continue with these

1 collaborations that we say are
2 successful and the PPD says are
3 successful without an increase in our
4 budget on the order of \$6.5 million.
5 Honestly, it should be about 10 if we
6 were to be able to keep up with comfort,
7 but we're going to need that. Not
8 because we're greedy, not because we
9 want to take resources away from others.

10 But let us remember not so long
11 ago there was an announcement of a 20
12 percent cut in the DA's Office budget.
13 You may all recall that 20 percent cut.
14 That was untenable debt. It's been
15 untenable ever since. So let me break
16 down a little bit of what we're talking
17 about.

18 So early on after the
19 Commissioner came to Philly, and it's
20 been my pleasure and it continues to be
21 my pleasure to work with Commissioner
22 Outlaw, there was a meeting in which I
23 suggested that we will put 12
24 prosecutors out in the field and those
25 prosecutors would work directly with the

1 Detective Divisions on shooting cases.

2 We did not ask for additional
3 funding to do it. We just said there's
4 a crisis, yes. That was 12 people.

5 There was a suggestion from the
6 Commissioner, an excellent suggestion,
7 that both the DA's Office and the PPD on
8 a weekly basis would look at gun
9 violence cases to improve them and
10 improve training. It has been very
11 effective, and I have no doubt that the
12 PPD will confirm it. But it amounts
13 essentially to the full-time work of
14 five to six DAs. We did that without
15 saying give me more money and it has
16 been very effective. They have to be
17 funded.

18 There was a suggestion coming
19 from us, which we thought was again a
20 good one, of having a DA in DVIC, in
21 other words, the intelligence center
22 that the police run as many other law
23 enforcement agencies have. The
24 Commissioner accepted. We were able to
25 put one person there, and it's been very

1 helpful in putting together
2 informational packages about people who
3 are drivers of gun violence. It helps
4 us to try to get higher bails. It helps
5 us to try to keep higher bails. It
6 helps us to prioritize those cases and
7 bring all the evidence we might be able
8 to bring when we are prosecuting those
9 cases, and it also helps PPD and other
10 law enforcement because we can assist
11 with writing of various things,
12 warrants, affidavits of probable cause.
13 We can participate in all of that. We
14 got one person doing that, but that's
15 really a 24-hour job. That should be
16 three.

17 I can go on and talk about
18 this, but the Gun Violence Task Force is
19 a collaboration that has been effective.
20 Many captains other than Captain Drissel
21 and Michael O'Donnell have come to us to
22 collaborate. We are thrilled. There's
23 nothing we want more than that. But
24 once again, our Gun Violence Task Force,
25 which is doing amazing work with

1 technology with Bill Fritze, not only
2 the phones, but also doing analysis of
3 social media, and I won't get into the
4 specifics but it works. He's only got
5 seven lawyers.

6 If we really want to get
7 serious as we sit around and we are
8 talking about police staffing that is on
9 the order of 6,000 or should be on the
10 order of 6,000, we just need to remember
11 that collaborations, and we do have
12 effective collaborations, have to be
13 funded and that is the reality.

14 We find ourselves in a
15 circumstance nationally where not only
16 the police department, but also the DA's
17 Office is having high levels of
18 attrition. Some of that seems to be a
19 normal consequence of a pretty abnormal
20 event, the pandemic. But some of it is
21 because the City makes specific
22 commitments at the beginning of the
23 prior Administration specific promises
24 that we told our employees when we
25 interviewed them and hired them, that

1 there would be moderate annual raises.

2 Well, they're two-plus years now without
3 a nickel, without a nickel.

4 These are talented people.

5 Many of them diverse and have come from
6 all over the country, and they are not
7 just being pressured by everything from
8 the pandemic, but by the reality that I
9 can't keep my promises because the City
10 won't keep its promises to my Office.

11 There's nothing (inaudible) to be able
12 to support these collaborations, to
13 expand these collaborations which we
14 agree are successful. But that means I
15 need support of City Council. It means
16 I need the support of the Mayor. And
17 I've conveyed this communication to the
18 Budget Office. It means that we're
19 going to have to spend some money for
20 something that we all understand is so
21 vitally important.

22 All right. Having said that --

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Also,
24 Larry, you also have the very talented
25 Don Jones working for you as well. You

1 know, I think a budget support would
2 help that young man continue to do the
3 work he's doing up in Nicetown and all
4 across the City of Philadelphia as well
5 as the incomparable Myra Maxwell who's
6 out there on the ground helping the
7 mothers and fathers who have lost loved
8 ones to gun violence through the CARES
9 program, so I just wanted to put that
10 out there.

11 But, Larry, I do hear you loud
12 and clearly. And separate from this
13 conversation of the hearing, if you can
14 just provide the members of the
15 Committee the collaboration that your
16 Office has been engaging in as of late.
17 And then probably put the number next to
18 it just to give everybody an overview
19 of, hey, listen, here is the manpower
20 and the collaboration of the work that
21 we've been doing and the outcome and the
22 results that have been done as a result
23 of our collaboration. I think that will
24 be helpful as well.

25 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

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1 Councilmember, I'll be delighted to do
2 that. Since you brought up Donyte Jones
3 and brought up Myra Maxwell, let me just
4 say this because I think it does go to
5 collaboration. So G. Lamar Stewart and
6 Donyte Jones have been --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And G.
8 Lamar. I --

9 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I'm
10 sorry. Go ahead, Councilmember.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I said I
12 think G. Lamar Stewart got a shout-out
13 in the last hearing with the
14 Philadelphia Police Department. So,
15 yeah, your team is on the ground doing
16 some work.

17 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
18 Well, I'll take back his shout-out. You
19 know, I believe in equal treatment. But
20 I want you to know that the two of them
21 spent 31 days during the month of August
22 on the ground on the street from 9:00 at
23 night to midnight where they were joined
24 by co-victims of homicide, former
25 juvenile lifers, faith leaders, and they

1 were out there to listen and to try to
2 help address some (inaudible) connected
3 to individuals and direct people towards
4 the ONE STOP Job & Resource Hub, which
5 has been so successful.

6 So they were in Wilson Park
7 Homes, Johnson Homes, Raymond Rosen
8 Homes, Richard Allen, North Town,
9 (inaudible), Happy Hollow and other
10 areas impacted by gun violence. And the
11 truth is, the truth is a lot of these
12 young people want out, not all of them.
13 The ones who don't want out can have a
14 jail cell, but a lot of them really do
15 want out.

16 They are afraid. They have
17 reason to be afraid. They want out, but
18 they don't know how to get there. And I
19 must tell you (inaudible) ONE STOP, but
20 I also applaud City Council for putting
21 money aside for prevention in a
22 meaningful and significant way.
23 Obviously, that money's got to flow in
24 the way that these micro grants that the
25 DA's Office has been giving out some of

1 the fortunate money that has flowed
2 quickly, it's got to flow.

3 But I just want to say I think
4 it is important as we are talking really
5 mostly about important enforcement ideas
6 to recognize the significance that can
7 be made by a real (inaudible). I'm
8 incredibly happy about that. So there
9 are many other things I can touch on.

10 But I'm going to move on to some gun
11 cases and gun violence cases.

12 This was actually (inaudible)
13 that I think was laid out by Deputy
14 Commissioner Naish in the combination of
15 commentary that came out, but it's not
16 necessarily obvious on the numbers, and
17 that's why I want to give you the bigger
18 picture on the numbers.

19 So when we talk about the
20 reduced conviction rate, what the
21 Commissioner was showing was a slide
22 that has to do with gun cases. And if
23 you just look at the slide, it looks
24 like (inaudible). What is happening in
25 the year 2021, (inaudible) not win

1 anything. Well, that is actually not
2 the case.

3 As Deputy Commissioner Naish
4 pointed out, what's really going on is
5 the criminal justice system is not open
6 so that very few cases are being
7 disposed. A lot of work is getting done
8 here, and that work is positive. And
9 what it shows is that when you look at
10 gun-related cases -- and I will just say
11 one of the three big (inaudible) that
12 are handling the map, these are the
13 numbers to keep in mind.

14 So there are 3,054 of these
15 cases listed as preliminary hearings.
16 And as you know, it's a two-step
17 process. You go to the preliminary
18 hearing and it gets withdrawn, but we
19 got to get past the preliminary hearing.
20 Of those 3,054 cases, 1,365 have already
21 been held over for a trial. They're
22 waiting for a trial, emphasis on
23 waiting. That all by itself is almost
24 50 percent.

25 There's a ton of other cases

1 that are waiting to have their
2 preliminary hearing. They're in a
3 continuance status. The number of cases
4 dismissed is actually only 258. So out
5 of 3,054 cases, the number of cases that
6 have been thrown out either because
7 witnesses wouldn't show up or because
8 the judge says there's not enough
9 evidence or because for some reason our
10 office did not want to proceed with it,
11 258 thrown out of 3,054. Okay. That's
12 about a 93 percent rate of these cases
13 are still on track.

14 Among that, you see that
15 approximately 40 percent, 45 percent
16 have already been held over (inaudible).
17 They're just waiting to go to a
18 disposition. And just to shift gears, I
19 looked at some of the cases that
20 actually got disposed in the CP Court.
21 I looked at a group of 78 cases. We
22 lost four. We won 74. Okay. So while
23 it is mathematically correct that we
24 show a low conviction rate this year,
25 it's only mathematically correct because

1 we are counting every dismissal as soon
2 as it happens early in the process, but
3 we're not counting all of the cases that
4 are going exactly on track, exactly
5 putting into plan headed towards a
6 disposition that is likely to be very
7 favorable.

8 I do appreciate the
9 Commissioner's comments and also Deputy
10 Commissioner Naish's explanation
11 (inaudible). Now, am I taking credit
12 for that, no. I mean, I think we have
13 some excellent attorneys, but I think
14 the court has made some really smart
15 moves in terms of basically in
16 collaboration of handling gun violence
17 cases in what is a total (inaudible).
18 That's worked really well. It allows
19 both sides to put their best (inaudible)
20 in those rooms.

21 They have applied pressure in
22 other ways. They are often giving us
23 two listings of the case before they're
24 forcing it one or the other. It used to
25 be three or four. We're okay with that.

1 We'll take that pressure. We will do
2 everything we can. I don't want to
3 suggest that I'm taking a bunch of
4 credit. Obviously, a lot of (inaudible)
5 need to be made for making a lot of gun
6 arrests even though there is a serious
7 challenge of the actual shooting cases.

8 But I just want you to know
9 that I don't think it helps any of us to
10 take what is actually good news and
11 (inaudible) to us that it looks like bad
12 news. I know that's not what the PPD
13 tends to do. So I just want to point
14 that out. Now, I'm going to be quiet
15 because I know there's a lot of
16 questions and several things I'd like to
17 say as well.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: One, I
19 would ask everyone who's on the call for
20 the hearing to make sure that their
21 phones are on mute because somehow,
22 Larry, it sounds like you're going in
23 and out. I can hear you, but it's not
24 as clearly as it normally would be when
25 we have a hearing. So I don't know if

1 other individuals who are on the call
2 may have their phone off of mute, but
3 that's the feedback that I'm receiving
4 from the public who's actually watching
5 the hearing.

6 Larry, can you give me an idea
7 and an overview of you talked about case
8 backlogs and so forth. Do you have an
9 idea of what that backlog looks like for
10 homicides, nonfatal shootings and legal
11 gun possession? And what's the strategy
12 and plan to kind of expedite that
13 process moving forward? Are we working
14 with the courts or what's the strategy?

15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So
16 thank you for the question. Number one,
17 we are working with the courts. And I
18 have to say, you know, I don't want to
19 speak for the courts because they're not
20 here, but I think we have some excellent
21 judicial leadership right now. We are
22 getting a lot done with the Honorable
23 Lucretia Clemons and Judge Shirdan-
24 Harris. A lot of things are moving in a
25 way they were not moving before. I

1 truly appreciate that. In fact, I have
2 a meeting with her 10 o'clock in the
3 morning on Friday about another
4 initiative to try to move things along.

5 Yes, we are working with the
6 courts. And I also have to give some
7 credit to Judge Dugan, President Judge
8 of the Municipal Court, who even before
9 the new judicial leadership was in place
10 did some positive things in terms of
11 getting these prelims handled.

12 What is actually happening is
13 that homicide cases are going through
14 the preliminary hearing pretty
15 effectively, so are all gun violence
16 cases getting through the prelim pretty
17 effectively. But because of the limited
18 capacity of the court to actually do
19 jury trials, even in good times during
20 the pandemic, we've only had a total of
21 four per week, which is far less than
22 the usual flow and to do other trials.
23 Because of that, what's happening is we
24 have a great big line of cases that's
25 waiting to get to trial.

1 The courts have worked well
2 with us, but obviously they cannot fill
3 courtrooms with people who are going to
4 give each other a fatal disease. They
5 have to follow CDC guidelines and they
6 have to follow infection rates and so
7 on. And I think they're being very
8 sensitive to do that.

9 There are other plans under
10 way. And once again, I'm going to be
11 (inaudible). We have cooperated fully,
12 but there are various rooms where they
13 are trying to (inaudible) with guilty
14 pleas and we are working with them full-
15 time on all those sorts of things. Now,
16 part of the good news though is that we
17 always prioritize homicides.

18 When the court said we can only
19 do four jury trials after they said we
20 could not do any jury trials due to the
21 pandemic, we made the top priorities to
22 be homicides and shooting cases and
23 first-degree rapes. Those were really
24 our top priority. So we actually moved
25 more homicide cases than you might think

1 during this period of time.

2 Other things, misdemeanor cases
3 slowed down a lot, less serious cases by
4 most of our estimation. A car theft,
5 for example, would not be prioritized
6 like those cases. So we've pretty much
7 done everything you possibly can to keep
8 these moving, and we think that's
9 important. But we are going to have to
10 be in a position where we can work with
11 these hard-working judges and in a room
12 that requires two lawyers, have two
13 lawyers, not just one. A whole room can
14 break down. You can have real slow
15 progress with cases when you need to
16 have an attorney in the hall getting the
17 next case ready while the attorney at
18 the bar of court is handling the case.
19 I mean, this is how the work gets done.
20 So we do have to have adequate staffing.

21 Nobody's fault that there's
22 such high attrition during a pandemic.
23 But I'm just underscoring the reality
24 that we can't ignore people's promises
25 made to them and expect them to stay.

1 And we also can't just keep working with
2 a skeleton crew when the backlog is
3 enormous. It really is a giant wave of
4 cases that are coming.

5 And as you know, many of them
6 are serious. So we need to be able to
7 hold people accountable when they point
8 a gun at another human being and pull
9 the trigger. We need to be able to do
10 that. We've been pretty good at it, but
11 we cannot stretch forever with too few
12 lawyers and too few people to cover
13 these important collaborations.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
15 very much. And when you talk about the
16 court system, right, give us an idea --
17 and just from working with you in the
18 past, I had somewhat of an idea. But
19 let's go on the record to talk about
20 instances where and policies where your
21 team is requesting a high bail for gun
22 offenses.

23 If you can give me the
24 percentages of when they are granted,
25 when they aren't granted, and then your

1 office policies for appealing those
2 cases when you ask for a 99, 99.9 bail
3 and it's slapped down to something like
4 5,000 and the guy comes back out on the
5 street and got a gun. It's not on you.
6 But at the end of the day, your team did
7 request a high bail. What happens?
8 Give us an overview of that process and
9 that policy.

10 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I'm
11 happy to do that. But I think one of
12 the best ways to do it actually is to
13 have a member of my team talk about the
14 case of a defendant named Tariq Bey very
15 briefly, and then I can get into more
16 general statistics.

17 Do you want to do that, Bill?

18 MR. FRITZE: Sure.

19 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: All
20 right. This is Mr. Fritze who's the
21 Head of our Gun Violence Task Force and
22 who was so profoundly involved in the
23 two police districts we talked about
24 earlier and those investigations.

25 MR. FRITZE: Hello, Councilman.

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1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Hey. Good
2 morning.

3 MR. FRITZE: I can give you an
4 example of what we've been dealing with
5 Gun Violence Task Force and the DA's
6 Office in general. Just this last week,
7 we had a warrant effectuated on an
8 individual from a shooting that occurred
9 in the Christy Rec area. It was a
10 double shooting.

11 That warrant was issued in
12 March so he had been on the run this
13 entire time. As of last Thursday, he
14 was picked up. My unit was going to
15 handle the case. We sent over a very
16 lengthy bail email with our request and
17 we had one of our attorneys handle that
18 request for bail.

19 The bail was initially set, and
20 this is a double shooting at a rec
21 center where we would have probably
22 asked for about \$1 million with an
23 appropriate appeal below number. And we
24 received a \$175,000 bail on someone who
25 had been on the run for eight months.

1 Based on that because it was a double
2 shooting, we appealed.

3 During the appeal to the
4 emergency judge, we received the bail
5 and it was lowered to \$25,000 on each
6 transcript, so a total of \$50,000 bail
7 for a double shooting at a rec center.

8 Based on that, we attempted to get
9 before the emergency judge of CP Court.
10 And unfortunately, by the time we filed
11 our motion to stay that order, the
12 defendant had been released.

13 And at this time, we are still
14 in contact with PPD and working with
15 them to try and locate that individual.
16 We're hoping to have another hearing for
17 bail. But as you can imagine, if
18 someone's been on the run for eight
19 months, the likelihood of them showing
20 up to court for their bail to be
21 released is pretty low.

22 So on a generalized basis when
23 we know that there's shootings or
24 shootings involved or bail for gun cases
25 of certain individuals, there's a packet

1 that goes over to those DAs who are in
2 the Charging Unit. If it comes from
3 within my unit, my DAs will handle it
4 and send an additional email and handle
5 the arraignment as well.

6 We generally request almost \$1
7 million bail. We appeal below when we
8 find it to be too low. And then if it's
9 too low, we try and appeal that as well.
10 And then when it goes to Gun Court which
11 is Room 503, we also make a
12 recommendation for bail increase once a
13 preliminary hearing has been heard. So
14 that is what we're seeing how the court
15 system currently operates.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Bill, help
17 me out and give me some clarity on this.
18 Some would say, okay, well, Councilman,
19 the role of bail is to hold individuals
20 hostage, right. You got defense
21 attorneys and then you got DAs that go
22 toe to toe, right. And as a result,
23 that plays a role in how a person gets
24 granted bail or not get granted bail.

25 Give me an idea of what that

1 process looks like in terms of the Gun
2 Violence Task Force. Do you have a team
3 of DAs that you work with on a daily
4 basis that are responsible for going to
5 bat, particularly for bail when you have
6 individuals who are shooters or known
7 offenders carrying -- I'm not talking
8 about the typical gun possessions.

9 We're just talking about the
10 shooters, right, or an individual who
11 has a jacket that's carrying the gun,
12 how does that process work. Because
13 people who have approached me have said,
14 well, Councilman, at the time if I got
15 X, Y, Z defense attorney and he's up
16 there doing his job, right, and he does
17 X, Y, Z motion, things will go his way
18 as opposed to not going towards the DA's
19 way and it kind of gives the impression
20 that the judge is just sitting in the
21 background being neutral. Can you
22 explain that process or provide a level
23 of clarity for me, please?

24 MR. FRITZE: Well, I will say
25 as far as the Gun Violence Task Force, I

1 don't have enough DAs to actually make
2 these bail arguments city-wide, but I do
3 have about four DAs who try to handle
4 all of these shootings that come through
5 for us. As far as who the defense
6 attorney is, it doesn't really matter
7 who makes those arguments. We try and
8 come prepared with a full background on
9 that individual as well as the facts of
10 the case and we're arguing that.

11 We're arguing community safety.
12 Obviously, we're in an epidemic of gun
13 violence at this time and the likelihood
14 that that individual is going to appear
15 in court. And those are the two
16 arguments we're allowed to make, right.
17 We're allowed to make arguments about
18 community safety and then whether this
19 person is likely to come to court and
20 abide by the court regulations for bail.
21 So those are how our requests go
22 through.

23 It starts with a magistrate.
24 If we don't like what the magistrate set
25 the bail at, we have the ability to

1 appeal which we often times do. That
2 goes to an emergency judge. If we still
3 don't like that, we can appeal to the
4 Court of Common Pleas.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Do you
6 have the percentage of times you've
7 actually appealed to the Court of Common
8 Pleas?

9 MR. FRITZE: I do not at this
10 point, no.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Do you
12 know off the top of your head how often
13 you would have to make those types of
14 appeals based upon rulings that don't go
15 in your favor that you feel is, you
16 know, rules that don't go in your favor
17 and at the end of the day becomes a
18 matter of public safety?

19 MR. FRITZE: I think the DA is
20 going to answer that question.

21 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
22 don't have that. I'm happy to get it
23 for you. But I want to make sure
24 everybody didn't miss this. We have a
25 person who we have probable cause to

1 believe put bullets into two children,
2 two young people at a rec center I
3 should say, nonfatal but still this is a
4 terrible, terrible crime.

5 We go in looking for \$1 million
6 bail. We get \$170,000, which is not
7 \$170,000. He only takes a little bit
8 less than \$6,000 to pay a bail bondsman
9 to get you out on \$170,000. And when we
10 appeal it, the appeals judge says that
11 is too high, that is too high as if to
12 punish us for disturbing his day. And
13 then we have \$50,000, which requires
14 \$1,666.66 to get you out with a bail
15 bondsman. This is a broken system. A
16 cash bail system is a broken system and
17 this is exactly why.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So, Larry,
19 I just want to say this too, and
20 obviously that is totally unacceptable.
21 If your team can provide to members of
22 the Committee with just statistical data
23 that says, listen, we requested \$1
24 million bail. This is how many times
25 we've been denied. This is how many

1 time we've appealed. This is how many
2 times these appeals came back favorable,
3 nonfavorable as well.

4 And let me tell you why it
5 helps. Because at the end of the day as
6 elected official individuals, even
7 myself being a (inaudible) of this in
8 general, a lot of these candidates come
9 in front of the actual public jocking
10 you for a position. They all want to
11 run. They all want to get inside these
12 positions.

13 We don't support mass
14 incarceration, but I can honestly say
15 and I'm pretty sure I speak for most of
16 the average citizens who live in the
17 City of Philadelphia, we do want to feel
18 safe, right. And if that means a high
19 bail or holding an individual who has
20 become a menace to society that shoots
21 up a rec center, that shoots up babies
22 and children in the streets of
23 Philadelphia, they should be held so
24 they can be prosecuted to the fullest
25 extent of the law.

1 I'm pretty sure any
2 neighborhood I go into, whether Black or
3 White, low income or high income, they
4 would agree that that person should be
5 dealt with accordingly. And so, if you
6 can provide that level of data just for
7 us, that will be helpful just as it
8 relates to addressing the system as a
9 whole.

10 And I know we have the judicial
11 branch that's totally separate, so to
12 speak, branch of government. But
13 nevertheless, you can't come through our
14 neighborhoods asking for support and
15 then you're handing out rulings that's
16 adverse to the community that actually
17 put you in office, at least that's
18 Kenyatta Johnson's position.

19 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
20 understand and I understand that
21 position. But I do want to point
22 something out that goes to part of the
23 problem here. Our ex-public defender
24 has pretty thoughtful ideas on this.
25 The bails in Philly are set very

1 quickly. They're often set 8 to 16
2 hours after an arrest. While in general
3 that sounds like a good thing,
4 understand they're not set by judges.
5 They're not set by elected judges. They
6 are set by bail commissioners also known
7 as magistrates who are not elected.

8 These are appointees who are
9 under the President Judge of the
10 Municipal Court. Believe it or not in
11 Philly, sometimes the people who get
12 appointed are exactly the right people.
13 And believe it or not, sometimes it's
14 somebody's nephew, okay. Let's talk
15 about what is really happening here.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
17 right.

18 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So
19 when we need to put on a full-fledged
20 hearing to say, judge, this one should
21 not be released at all, we're in the
22 wrong place to do that. It's 8 to 16
23 hours after the event. We have bail
24 commissioners. Not all of them are even
25 lawyers. Almost none of them have ever

1 handled a trial as a judge or supervised
2 somebody on probation or parole.

3 I'll tell you one of the things
4 that I want to see, and Keir Bradford-
5 Grey talked about a similar notion,
6 which is that 8 to 16 hour system is
7 really good for nonserious cases, for
8 less serious cases. It is not a good
9 system for a where we have probable
10 cause that a human being pointed a gun
11 at another one and pulled the trigger.

12 That should be a full hearing
13 that should be in front of a Municipal
14 Court judge. There should be a couple
15 of days to prepare as is done in the
16 federal system. That's how they do it
17 in the federal system, and that judge
18 should have the power to say I'm just
19 holding you. The law makes it very,
20 very difficult for us to argue what is
21 basically impossible to argue it 8 to 16
22 hours after in front of a bail
23 commissioner who is an appointee and
24 doesn't have the accountability
25 (inaudible).

1 Councilmember, I would love to
2 see a situation in which the DA's Office
3 is able to say, all right, this is a
4 shooting case, defer it in a couple of
5 days to a judge in Municipal Court, an
6 elected judge with all that background
7 and all that experience and let us make
8 the argument there. But because these
9 decisions are made so quickly sometimes
10 by nonlawyers, always by bail
11 commissioners and because people are
12 released before we can even get to a
13 higher level of review, as happened in
14 the Tyriq Bey case, we have a mess. We
15 have a guy who shot two people and he's
16 out there running.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's
18 totally unacceptable, and we'll do a
19 deeper dive on the same conversation
20 that I discussed with my colleague
21 Councilman Jones regarding the bail
22 bondsman and the current system and how
23 they get appointed and the criteria for
24 those who are serving. And so, that's
25 something that we will definitely do a

1 deeper dive on, and most importantly
2 keep on our radar particularly around
3 this issue of senseless gun violence.

4 I'm going to have Councilwoman
5 Jamie Gauthier. I'm going to call on
6 her. She has a couple of questions she
7 would like to ask.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I
9 really just have a comment. Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 First, I wanted to thank our
12 partners at the DA's Office for
13 everything that they do to help our
14 constituents, and there are so many
15 people that have been invaluable to my
16 constituents over the time that I've
17 been in office, from you, yourself, DA
18 Krasner to G. Lamar Stewart to Detective
19 Lightsey to Reverend Maxwell, to others
20 on the team as well, so thank you.

21 And I also just wanted to make
22 the point that -- the point you made in
23 your testimony is well-taken that you
24 need support in order to reach the
25 outcomes that you're being pushed to

1 achieve, and I think we need to
2 seriously consider that from a funding
3 perspective, particularly on key issues
4 like relocation, on the level of support
5 that we're able to put to the Gun
6 Violence Task Force, which is very
7 important to the work that we're doing
8 right now.

9 So I just wanted to say that I
10 want to see what you guys need, and I'm
11 hopeful that as a Council body we will
12 seriously consider the request. And
13 that's really all I had.

14 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
15 Thank you so much. And, Councilmember,
16 once again I really appreciate that you
17 reach out when we can help. Thank you
18 for that.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
20 you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
22 very much.

23 Larry, I just had a couple of
24 questions just regarding, I want to go
25 to shootings. Can you give us the

1 percentage of gun homicide arrests and
2 results in charges by your office and
3 the same thing for nonfatal shooting
4 cases that resulted in attempted murder
5 or aggregated assault charges by your
6 office?

7 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
8 can tell you based on the data that I've
9 seen that it is nearly 100 percent. It
10 is probably about 98, 99 percent. The
11 only cases of that type that we are not
12 going to charge are going to be cases
13 where we conclude that there is not
14 probable cause, even then generally
15 going to respectfully push back to a
16 detective and say go get some more, so
17 it's extremely high.

18 Chelsea Lightsey, who is our
19 attorney, who is the Chief of the
20 Homicide Nonfatal Unit might be able to
21 shed a little bit more light, but it's
22 extremely high. I think it's also good
23 though to point out that, you know, we
24 had said a long time ago that we want to
25 work with the PPD to shoulder the

1 challenges that come in solving these
2 cases. We know how hard it is to solve
3 these cases because we know some of the
4 prosecutions you're talking about have
5 been achieved largely based upon
6 forensics, because we can't get
7 witnesses. We get that.

8 Just so we don't get all lost
9 in the numbers that flew by, my
10 understanding based on our data lab's
11 analysis, and we are certainly open to
12 having longer conversation about it if
13 it turns out that the PPD feels that
14 this is incorrect, but what we are
15 seeing is clearance rates for gun and
16 homicides of about 29 percent and for
17 nonfatal shootings of about 15, 1-5
18 percent. These are significantly below
19 national averages. But once again,
20 that's not a criticism of anything.
21 That is just I say that in an
22 aspirational way.

23 If we would actually seriously
24 fund forensics in this City, a drum that
25 I've been beating for more than two

1 years, a drum I beat the other day in a
2 room that was full of law enforcement
3 leaders, including the local heads of
4 the FBI, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms,
5 the Acting Chief Prosecutor for the U.S.
6 Attorney's Office, a high-level
7 representative of Josh Shapiro's
8 Attorney General's Office and also
9 Commissioner Outlaw. In that room,
10 there were a lot of voices who were
11 singing the song --

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Time-out,
13 time-out, Larry. You were in a meeting
14 with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the
15 Office of Attorney General, the
16 Philadelphia Police Department, you were
17 in a meeting with all of them together?

18 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
19 Yeah, and some other people, but I don't
20 want to give away any secrets. Yes, I
21 was.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good, good
23 to hear that.

24 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: We
25 like to be there. But what I like even

1 more is that with very few exceptions,
2 there was a whole cheering section for
3 the idea of putting a few million
4 dollars into forensics, forensics that
5 is (inaudible). I mean, I think I even
6 heard this from one of the Deputy
7 Commissioners, forensics that we all
8 know would increase these solve rates,
9 but it would also give the DA's Office
10 stronger cases.

11 It would turn jury trials that
12 are a close call into quick guilty pleas
13 that move along cases. It makes sure
14 that we don't get the wrong people. It
15 makes sure the City isn't paying \$10
16 million bucks down the road for putting
17 an innocent percent in jail. So I see
18 that as a big part of the solution and
19 how we can all collaborate and work
20 together to assist PPD with increasing
21 the clearance rate for gun violence.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I
23 guess I'll just go on the record and say
24 that you have been beating the drum
25 about forensics lab and so forth. I

1 don't know if there's federal funding on
2 a federal level, and I see that
3 Commissioner Outlaw is also still on the
4 call as part of a past panel, but maybe
5 we can have a discussion if the City
6 can't fit the whole bill, then there's
7 maybe a joint partnership with the feds
8 to bring that money back to the City of
9 Philadelphia.

10 I know we have Congress people
11 who are in Washington, D.C. who are I
12 would think passionate about addressing
13 this issue, but it's not just one
14 person's responsibility. It's all of
15 our responsibility. And so, if that's
16 something that should be really
17 seriously looked into, if we don't have
18 the total funding to do here in the
19 City, it should at least rise to the
20 level of a conversation with our federal
21 and our state partners to see how
22 something like that can happen.

23 And so, that's something that
24 we'll take out of this Committee to
25 really do a real conversation to see how

1 does something like that work if all the
2 partners are on board. That's something
3 that is needed, because you've mentioned
4 it several different times. I know that
5 Commissioner Outlaw mentioned it in a
6 way in the past, talked about it is a
7 major funding commitment. But at the
8 end of the day if we're bringing people
9 home from prison because they're
10 railroaded and forensics played a part
11 on that process, then I think the
12 investment on the front end helped you
13 save money on the back end, I would
14 think that with the level of people who
15 are coming home from prison who are
16 wrongly convicted.

17 I had another question
18 regarding the possession of illegal
19 guns. And I know we've talked before in
20 the past regarding one person may have a
21 gun and it may be illegal. He may have
22 a license to carry and on that day
23 didn't have his license to carry or it
24 could have been a kid like me, had an
25 illegal gun for the wrong reasons and

1 wind up getting probation for a
2 diversionary program.

3 But give me an idea of the
4 percentage of arrests for those who are
5 arrested for illegal gun possessions
6 that result in charges. And then also,
7 under what circumstances are defendants
8 in these cases allowed to enter a
9 diversionary program?

10 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So
11 the last data I saw on the rate at which
12 we charge a VUFA or a gun possession
13 case was that it was about 97, 98
14 percent. Once again, if we're rejecting
15 a gun case, then it's going to be either
16 because it is dead in the water or
17 because it's obviously an illegal search
18 and the law is getting more difficult in
19 that regard in Pennsylvania or because
20 it's a situation where we simply don't
21 have enough evidence to rise to the
22 level of probable cause. But it is on
23 the order of 97, 98 percent in which we
24 charge them. You had a second question.
25 I apologize. I --

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

2 Diversionary programs, opportunities for
3 individuals who are arrested with an
4 illegal gun, right, the opportunity to
5 participate in a diversionary program,
6 do we have programs that will show a
7 young person that you got caught with a
8 gun, right, and often times they just
9 get arrested and go back home. If they
10 don't get any time, they just go back
11 home as if life just moved on as opposed
12 to really addressing those root causes
13 of why they had the gun in the first
14 place, the trauma that they can actually
15 put on another person's family when they
16 take a person's life with that gun. So
17 give me an idea of how does that work.

18 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So,
19 Councilmember, thank you for that. And
20 I think your question, even a little bit
21 of your personal experience that you
22 described there, I think it goes to an
23 essential issue, which is that some
24 people who possess guns are really
25 dangerous and they need to be locked up

1 before trial and they need to have an
2 appropriate lengthy sentence. We know
3 that.

4 But we also know that
5 Philadelphia is a place where you can do
6 stuff by possessing a gun that's legal
7 everywhere else in Pennsylvania, but our
8 legislature for some reason, I'll let
9 you guess why, decided that it had to be
10 illegal in Philadelphia. What I'm
11 talking about specifically is you need
12 to have a permit to carry in
13 Philadelphia that you do not need in the
14 other approximately 66 counties in
15 Pennsylvania. That is something
16 legislature did for us.

17 So that on the one hand is a
18 benefit because frankly, I'd love to see
19 a permit to carry all over Pennsylvania.
20 But on the other hand, it's inequitable
21 because there will be people who have
22 been across the Montgomery County line
23 and were carrying a gun and would not
24 even be arrestible for what they did.
25 Basically working people who want to

1 protect themselves, who are fearful at a
2 time when there's a high level of gun
3 violence. There will be people who
4 deserve diversion and they should get
5 diversion.

6 Now, there has always been some
7 diversion in the DA's Office. The level
8 of diversion before recently in the DA's
9 Office was higher than in the past. It
10 was usually about a half of a percent, 1
11 percent, three-quarters of a percent of
12 all VUFA cases would be diverted by the
13 DA's Office.

14 The last data I saw on this we
15 were at about 2.5 percent. Obviously,
16 still a very small level. But there are
17 collaborations under discussion right
18 now with leadership in the courts, with
19 this office and modeled to some extent
20 to other national models to try to
21 really separate the wheat from the
22 chaff. In other words, try to separate
23 out people who we know are not a danger,
24 who we know are possessing that gun for
25 reasons that are not because they want

1 to drive gun violence, who are doing so
2 because they work a late job or they're
3 doing so out of fear. They used to have
4 a permit, but it expired. They never
5 went back and got it. They're people
6 who got beat up or victimized that are
7 attending college and foolishly carrying
8 a gun they shouldn't be carrying.

9 Some of those people, not
10 necessarily all of them, ought to be
11 diverted. So we have a collaboration
12 going now talking to judicial leadership
13 about how we separate them out and put
14 them in a separate place. The bigger
15 issue here obviously is we do not want a
16 gun violence epidemic where we need to
17 cap shooters. We don't want it to
18 simply become a war on guns. Because
19 we've seen a war on drugs and we've seen
20 how much damage it did.

21 We find ourselves in a position
22 where we got more drugs than ever,
23 they're cheaper than ever, they're
24 killing more people than ever. After
25 30-plus years of a war on drugs what it

1 gave us was mass incarceration. Some
2 people called it a war on people. Yes,
3 drug enforcement is important, but it
4 wasn't done surgically. It was done
5 with a chainsaw. So we do not want to
6 turn the current situation into an
7 opportunity to make the same mistakes,
8 and act like every single person and no
9 prior record is the same as every single
10 person with a prior shooting, every
11 single person who's working hard and
12 going on to college is exactly the same
13 as somebody who's running with Brickyard
14 Mafia. We have to look individually and
15 be careful.

16 And I think what we're going to
17 see here is probably similar to what has
18 been seen in other cities, which is if
19 you're careful and you put the right
20 people into diversion when they are
21 possessing a gun in a way that is not
22 directed at driving gun violence, when
23 you do that, they actually have better
24 futures.

25 They're less likely to be

1 involved in crime in the future because
2 they're going to keep that job. They're
3 going to keep up with the education.
4 They're going to be educated on going to
5 get a permit. They're going to comply.
6 That's going to turn out even better
7 than if we had simply crushed those
8 people.

9 I think I've been clear. If
10 you want to be in the Brickyard Mafia,
11 if you want to engage in shooting back
12 and forth like it's a varsity sport, you
13 need to be in a jail cell. That is
14 where you need to be. And I would
15 appreciate some cooperation from some of
16 our bail commissioners, other ones are
17 doing a great job, from some of our
18 judges, other ones are doing a great
19 job. I would appreciate that. But
20 that's how we have to be.

21 We got to do individual justice
22 here, and we can't just replace the era
23 of the war on drugs with a war on guns
24 when the real top issue is get people
25 who are killing people with guns. The

1 second one is get people who are
2 shooting people with guns. The third is
3 getting people who are shooting and
4 missing with guns. And maybe the fourth
5 is get felons who possess guns or people
6 who have a resume that says they are
7 about doing bad, get them. And
8 somewhere down at the bottom we're
9 talking about just people who doesn't do
10 crime anywhere else and they should get
11 diversion.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That was
13 my question I was about to ask. An
14 individual that has that background of
15 having a possession in the past, being a
16 shooter in the past which shows clearly
17 this is what you do, this is your
18 lifestyle, not first-time possession
19 individuals, but individuals that pretty
20 much show in their background that this
21 is pretty much their lifestyle.

22 I'm going to wrap up on this
23 last question. So how do you deal with
24 when we talk about these VUFA arrests
25 and individuals getting arrested and

1 getting back out on the street, is there
2 a combination of evidence that's needed
3 to make a case secure before you bring
4 it in a courtroom to prosecute or not?

5 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

6 Well, let me tell you a couple of
7 challenges that we're going to face
8 because I think it's important. There's
9 been two significant changes in the law
10 in the last two and a half years by
11 Pennsylvania Supreme Court. One is
12 called the Hicks case. The other is
13 called the Alexander case.

14 What the Hicks case stands for
15 is something new, which is just because
16 a police officer sees you showing
17 somebody else a gun in a public place --
18 it was actually a gas station in the
19 Hicks case -- that doesn't mean the
20 police can come up and get information
21 from you about why you have a permit.
22 It doesn't mean they can arrest you.

23 I happen to think that case is
24 kind of crazy because we all know the
25 number of permits in Philly is way, way

1 less than the number of guns, so I think
2 there is probable cause if you're
3 showing a gun to somebody in a public
4 place to come up and ask questions and
5 inquire further, but that's what the
6 Hicks case says. So it means that
7 police, whatever the training, have to
8 lay back.

9 The Alexander case is even more
10 concerning because it reversed law that
11 had been around for a long time.
12 Alexander basically says go get a
13 warrant, not for every single car that's
14 (inaudible), most of them go get a
15 warrant, when we used to over several
16 years allow police to go into cars
17 without a warrant, okay. What's the
18 problem there? Well, one of the
19 problems there is we have a whole pile
20 of cases where police did what they
21 thought the law was and they were
22 correct when they did it, but that law
23 has now changed.

24 They all got backed up during
25 the pandemic, so there's a whole pile of

1 cases that were prosecutable before but
2 aren't any more due to the Alexander
3 decision. There's also a pile of cases
4 that have been arrests since Alexander
5 where the training was not effective and
6 police officers have searched cars
7 without a warrant when Alexander says
8 they needed a warrant. This is a
9 problem.

10 I will say this, we are seeing
11 much improvement in the new cases coming
12 in that involve a car search and a gun.
13 We're seeing much improvement as opposed
14 to seeing maybe on the order of 25 or 30
15 percent of the cases in our weekly VUFA
16 review where there was a search problem,
17 that 25, 30 percent is probably down to
18 about 15 percent. Well, we've got more
19 to go.

20 So these are challenges that we
21 all face. We face with the PPD. We
22 remain committed to assisting in any way
23 we can with training, with providing
24 them that kind of information. But
25 there's going to come a time when either

1 judges are going to throw these cases
2 out after they hear a hearing or we're
3 just going to have to concede that based
4 on everything the police told us about
5 what they did, it does not meet
6 constitutional standard. That's just
7 where that is.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

9 Understood. Thank you for that clarity
10 because that has come up several
11 different times. One of the court cases
12 I'm familiar with, which is Hicks. I
13 wasn't familiar with the other one. But
14 it just talks about the complexity of
15 how we're addressing the issue.

16 Listen, any other questions or
17 comments from members of the Committee?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: As always,
20 District Attorney Larry Krasner, thank
21 you for your time, thank you for you
22 team, participating in this Special
23 Committee on Gun Violence. Again, it's
24 all about responsibility and addressing
25 this issue comprehensively. So thank

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1 you for taking time and being here.

2 And we will definitely do a
3 follow-up with you regarding any
4 additional information we may need
5 regarding your request. The bail
6 bondsman issue as well, we want to take
7 a deeper dive into it. And then also, I
8 know you had some comments regarding the
9 relocation of witnesses, that you had a
10 interest in. And we will be discussing
11 that as a group.

12 Also, those are the key issues,
13 so I just want to thank you and your
14 team for your time. Thank you.

15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
16 Thank you so much. Truly appreciate it,
17 Councilmember Johnson.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.
19 Are there any questions or comments from
20 the Committee?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will the
23 Clerk please prepare for public comment.

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Modesto,

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1 are you there?

2 MR. JOHNSON: Hello?

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Hello?

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

6 Mr. Johnson?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Who's
8 calling?

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: This is
10 Councilman Johnson.

11 MR. JOHNSON: This is
12 Councilman Johnson?

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, it
14 is.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I thought
16 I hear you through the T.V.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Are you
18 ready to provide public comment?

19 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry?

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Are you
21 ready to provide public comment?

22 MR. JOHNSON: I sure am.
23 Actually, I had a question.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Say your
25 name for the record, please.

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1 MR. JOHNSON: Jamal Johnson.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, sir,
3 Mr. Johnson. Are you ready for your
4 public comment?

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I am.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. You
7 can begin, sir.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. My public
9 comment was I remember back in July
10 there was a press conference with
11 Councilwoman Gauthier and Controller
12 Rebecca Rhynhart with some solutionary
13 demands to the Mayor in reference to the
14 gun violence. And I was very curious
15 whatever happened with that. If there
16 was a solution between them, has it been
17 publicly stated and where can we find
18 that?

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I don't
20 have the information. We can reach out
21 to the Mayor's Office and his team and
22 his Administration to see what his
23 response is to Rebecca Rhynhart, the
24 City Controller, and Councilwoman Jamie
25 Gauthier.

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1 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. How would
2 I be able to find out the end result of
3 that?

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I would --
5 I can personally follow up with you, but
6 I would also after we ask the question
7 of the Administration, which is the
8 Mayor's Office, do additional follow-up
9 with the Office of Jamie Gauthier and
10 City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart, but
11 I'll do an official request as well just
12 to see the status for the record.

13 MR. JOHNSON: I appreciate
14 that.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
16 welcome.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
19 welcome, and keep up the good work.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Any other
22 witnesses for public comment?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Hearing
25 none, this concludes the Special

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1 Committee on Gun Violence. We will have
2 a follow-up hearing on November 3rd at
3 10:00 a.m. Thanks to all the panelists
4 for taking time out of your schedule and
5 participating in this very, very
6 critically important hearing.

7 And most importantly, I want to
8 thank all of my Council colleagues for
9 taking time out of their schedule and
10 being a part of this hearing. We know
11 at the end of the day it's going to take
12 all of us participating and working
13 together to address this issue.

14 And so, with that being said,
15 this concludes the hearing of the
16 Special Committee on Gun Violence. The
17 next hearing will be on November 3rd.
18 We will recess now to the call of the
19 Chair.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chair.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
23 Councilman Domb.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
25 you.

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1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're
2 welcome, Kendra, Councilman Jones,
3 Councilwoman Bass, Councilwoman Jamie
4 Gauthier, Councilwoman Maria Quinones-
5 Sanchez, Councilman Mark Squilla.

6 (Special Committee on Gun
7 Violence Prevention concluded at
8 12:45 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic notes
taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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