Gun Violence Prevention Summit

#ChoosePeaceGNV

Sunday, August 6 – Community Day*
Taking a partnered approach to learning and sharing, these conversations and activities draw on the knowledge of mental health professionals, thought leaders, justice system experts, neighbors and advocates.

2:00 – 2:30 p.m.  Invocation
Welcome and Reason for Convening
Greetings and Opening Remarks
Recognition of Partners and Elected Officials

2:30 – 4:15 p.m.  Dinner / Panel Discussion: The Role of Community in Addressing Gun Violence
Greg Bradley, Founder and President of Mirror Image Leadership Academy, moderates this panel discussion as experts from a variety of disciplines share effective methods for making community part of the solution.

- Lauryn Simmons, Junior Class President, Gainesville High School
- Zouzouko Doualehi, Compliance Manager, City of Gainesville Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Heather Jones, Chief Assistant State Attorney, Office of the State Attorney, Eight Judicial Circuit
- Alexandra Martinez, Director of the Alachua County Crisis Center
- Adrian Price, Social Acceptance Advocate

4:15 – 4:20 p.m.  Session Transition and Overview

4:20 – 4:30 p.m.  Break

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  Resource Fair
The Resource Fair is an opportunity to highlight and learn about programs that strengthen and safeguard our community by providing support that addresses the root causes of gun violence. Organizations include Children’s Trust of Alachua County, City of Gainesville, Moms Demand Action, Peaceful Paths and more.

Educational Breakout Sessions
This series of breakout sessions is designed to assist in evaluating and understanding the rising tide of gun violence on the national and local levels while supplying tools to discourage dangerous behavior and mitigate risk.
• **Below The Water Level**: During this session, participants will be provided with tools and strategies to resolve conflict. This approach will be taught by Corey Collins, Youth and Community Specialist of River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding.

• **Youth and Hip Hop Culture**: Understanding the genre known as drill music, and how its messages impact our youth, can help us develop better solutions. As Dr. Derek Hicks of Wake Forest University notes in his lecture series, *Youth, Hood and Hip Hop*—this phenomenon is the latest development in a long history of young people taking societal cues from the energy and power of music.

• **Violence Intervention and Prevention Strategies**: Violence intervention and prevention is an umbrella term for a collection of interrelated approaches that promote public safety. These include everything from family support services to street outreach workers who mediate disputes before gunfire erupts. These techniques are taught by Intervention Specialists John Alexander and Caleb Young. Redirecting for a more positive outcome is the goal.

• **Social and Emotional Well-Being and the Risk for Violence**: One way to protect children is by monitoring their social and emotional well-being. Know how to look for the warning signs associated with the risk of violence. Children are influenced by factors in the home, at school, from peers, and in the online environment. Dr. Sarah Lynne of the University of Florida’s Family, Youth and Community Sciences department will present information to help parents understand healthy social and emotional development and look for warning signs associated with mental health needs and risk of violence.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  **Youth Town Hall**

Amid the rising tide of gun violence across the United States and in our community, it is crucial to bring young people into the conversation. The Youth Town Hall will center youth voices with a panel discussion. To provide an opportunity for context and analysis, DJ E-Lo will play snippets of drill music as part of this event. Gainesville Mayor Pro-Tem, Desmon Duncan-Walker will serve as moderator for this important discussion.

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  **Kickback / Reception**

* The material in these sessions will include violent content and some profane language. Portions of the discussion may be emotionally and intellectually challenging, particularly for young people. Mental health resources will be available onsite for those who would like additional support. The intent of this event is to create a space where we can engage thoughtfully together.
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Monday, August 7 – Policy Day:
The sessions focus on the overlapping spheres of social disparity, mental health and public safety. This day is about strategizing around operational approaches that work to improve the Gainesville-Alachua County efforts for gun violence prevention. Participants will engage in dialogue with their respective sectors around multi-level factors that can lead to gun violence. That session will lead to a tabletop exercise emphasizing collaboration between sectors in a real-world scenario. The activities are designed to spur a discussion around changing policies and procedures for a healthier and safer community.

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  Invocation
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9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  Overview and Introduction to the Social-Ecological Model
On July 20, 2023, the Gainesville City Commission declared Gun Violence a public health crisis. Gainesville Community Health Director Brandy Stone, MPH, CPH, and University of Florida Senior Lecturer Julia Varnes, Ph.D., gives an overview of a public health approach to violence prevention as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Social-Ecological Model (SEM) will be described as a tool to develop actionable policies and practices.

10:45 – 12:15 p.m.  Sector Breakouts: A Public Health Perspective for Gun Violence Prevention
This series of breakout sessions is divided by sector. Each group will brainstorm factors relative to the sphere of influence using the Social-Ecological Model. The discussions will include prevention strategies and protective factors such as safe homes, social support networks, convenient healthcare, and opportunities for engaging programs and activities.

- Public Health, Healthcare and Social Services
- Elected Officials / Local Government
- Public Safety / Judicial System Stakeholders
- Educators and School Administrators
- Business and Civic Community Members

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch / Keynote Speaker: Ariel Cathcart, Everytown for Gun Safety

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  Panel Review: Learning from Sectors
This is an opportunity to learn from the sectors. As moderator of this panel review, Mayor Harvey L. Ward Jr. will employ the following prompts to generate discussion based on the previous activity.
• How can your sector intervene with positive action items to work across each level of the social-ecological model to prevent gun violence?
• What can your sector do to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors for gun violence in our community?

2:45 – 4:30 p.m.  Tabletop Exercise
All stakeholders have a role to play in preventing gun violence. This tabletop exercise encourages participants to share knowledge and perspectives as they work through a real world, multi-phase gun violence scenario together. Using the Social-Ecological Model to address a series of increasingly complex health and social challenges, this activity focuses on interoperability between sectors.

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.  Next Steps / Where do we go from here?
Our final session is facilitated by Bishop Christopher Stokes of the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center and Jeffrey Weisberg of the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. The discussion looks at next steps in the development of enhanced communication, improved leveraging of resources, and centralized data collection to heighten future collaborative strategies. Participants also have an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned.

5:00 p.m.  Closing Remarks