Mission: The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) works to reduce violent crime in the region by promoting and advocating a coordinated, well-supported support system, policies, and interventions among area governments, institutions and agencies that serve individuals and families most at risk of violent crime.

Vision: VPC envisions a St. Louis region where communities enjoy quiet nights and the sounds of children playing during the days. St. Louis is a safe and desirable destination for businesses and residents. All community members feel protected and served by law enforcement and empowered to have a voice in important regional issues.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions
   - VPC Team: Jessica Meyers, Serena Muhammad, Lisa Potts

2. Center for Policing Equity Presentation & Questions
   - See PowerPoint
   - CPE’s Reimagining Public Safety in the City of St. Louis: A Vision for Change, April 2022: https://policingequity.org/what-we-do/a-policy-plan-for-policing-in-america
   - Facebook page for St. Louis engagement for CPE. https://www.facebook.com/CPEinSTL/
   - Presenters: Max Markham, Rob Kenter, Rukiya Lee, McKenna Kohlenberg,
   - VPC’s Police Legitimacy Priorities as Identified through Community Engagement:
     - Human Resources (How officers are recruited, hired, retained, and promoted)
     - Transparency & Accountability
Community Engagement (Community-defined engagement)
Alternatives to Police Contact (getting crisis needs met without an armed police response)

- CPE advocates for police coming in to spaces community already occupy like churches, schools, community centers rather than expecting community to come to police spaces
- CPE is not suggesting SLMPD get larger or increase their footprint. Rather, it’s about having equitable staffing levels based on workload across district.
  - Longer wait times in North STL are due to higher demands/number of calls. All districts are currently staffed equally regardless of workload.
- Concerns were raised by attendees that the report focuses on staffing levels, but not making sure we have the RIGHT PEOPLE doing the job of policing the City.
  - More police will not solve the issues, but BETTER police would have a greater impact and build trust
  - Qualities of officers are more important than the quantity of officers
  - Must address white supremacy in policing in order to make change and build relationships
- Police (primarily higher ups), Mayor, Public Safety, & Community have all been very receptive to the recommendations from the CPE report
- CPE is hiring two folks from STL to work on implementation of the plan’s recommendations. They will continue to engage community in crafting the implementation of these recommendations.

3. Gun Safety Initiative

- VPC was invited to two different conversations that have been discussing the rise in accidental/unintentional shootings of youth- convened by SLPS and local leaders
- St. Louis Public Schools have been working on this issue for a while. Dr. Adams said he has seen an increase in the number of guns brought in backpacks- higher than he’s ever seen in his career.
  - SLPS is planning a press conference on April 28 with the message of educators banding together against unintentional shootings
- VPC will help to develop and disseminate messaging about reducing the number of shootings- unintentional and intentional
  - The message is not about having NO guns. It’s about gun safety like safe storage and keeping guns away from youth

4. Youth Pop Up Events

- VPC will be putting out an RFP for youth events in neighborhoods.
  - We will also be engaging youth to review applications for these events. A flyer with the application will be distributed.
Skating Events

- VPC is hosting a series of 4 skating events at the Dellwood Skating Rink,
They are usually scheduled for Thursday evenings, but the first one has been moved to Wednesday April 27 due to expected inclement weather. Revised flyer below.

5. Update from the Mayor’s Office
   • From Wil Pinkney, Mayor’s Office of Children, Youth & Families
• The City is part of a Community Violence Intervention cohort that is convened by the President and facilitated by Cities United
• In her State of the City address, Mayor Jones announced that she will be forming an office to coordinate the City’s violence prevention efforts. More details will be forthcoming

6. Additional VPC Announcements
• DV Training: VPC staffs the Steering Committee for the implementation of Cure Violence in STL. We heard from interrupters that they are encountering folks who have experienced domestic violence. VPC engaged the St. Louis Ending Domestic & Sexual Violence Network to provide a one day training on mechanisms of domestic violence, legal options, and local service providers. The training is being offered twice, on Monday 4/25 and Friday 4/29. Attendees will include Cure Violence Interrupters, BHR Co-Responders, SLMPD CRU Officers, and City social workers
• Cities United Site Visit: VPC, along with Conflict Resolution Center and Life Outside of Violence, participated in a site visit with reps from Atlanta, St. Paul, and Austin that was organized by Cities United. STL participates in the President’s community violence intervention cohort with these and other cities.
• **We are always looking for new committee members.**
  - [https://www.stlareavpc.org/join-a-committee](https://www.stlareavpc.org/join-a-committee)
  - Youth Safe Spaces Taskforce will work on the pop up events, Policy & Systems Change will be involved in the implementation discussion with CPE.

7. Partner Announcements
• Susan Colangelo: StoryStichers is hosting Peace in the Prairie at Forest Park on April 22
  - [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peace-in-the-prairie-tickets-218221124257](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peace-in-the-prairie-tickets-218221124257)
• Theda Person: Upcoming STLCO Event
• Courtney Hinton: Prevent+Ed will be hosting Teen Institute for High School youth in grades 10-12. The event this year will be in-person. This will be a leadership building event. Cost is $50, however scholarships are available. Please contact Kristin Bengtson at kbengtson@prevented.org, or Heather Craig at hcraig@prevented.org;:
• Gerald Watson: Active Parenting Classes First Five Years
gwatson@freshstartcoalition 314-912-6952, www.freshstartcoalition.com,
• Sydney Theerman: Crime Victim Center and HMCA are having a Vigil of Remembrance in honor of homicide victims this Saturday, 4/23 at St. Teresa and Bridget Church at 11am: [https://www.supportvictims.org/vigil-of-remembrance](https://www.supportvictims.org/vigil-of-remembrance)
Beyond-White-Paper.pdf. You can check out the executive summary for key takeaways. We are hoping that this can be a resource for community partners and families and that it can spark conversations about next steps in using technology to bring about education equity in Missouri. In addition, EJP has created a new guide for parents and students to address bullying and harassment in schools. The resource can be found on our web page: https://bit.ly/3K0P1QW. It includes information about federal and state laws, practical tips, resource lists, and templates for advocacy.

- Poli Rijos: May 13th: What’s Data Got to Do with it? Using Technology to Reduce Suicide
  - https://web.cvent.com/event/daefe506-1ba7-42e8-b9ad-d35b14d4e7fe/summary
- Kelly McGowan: The City and County are soliciting input on how to spend the influx of ARPA dollars.
  - City of St. Louis ARPA Survey can be accessed here: https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/initiatives/arpa-community-needs-survey.cfm
  - BOA | HUDZ Committee ARPA Town Hall being held on Sat., 4/23 @ 10am @ St. Stephen’s Church | 3949 Wilmington – 63116
  - For more information or how to get involved re ARPA community engagement efforts, email Kelly McGowan from EVOLVE @ kellyxevolve@gmail.com
- Jessi LaRose: Missouri Foundation for Health will be launching the End Family Fire campaign starting next week- while the focus will be on preventing firearm suicide specifically- the messaging around safe storage and firearm safety may resonate with this group. The statewide campaign will include TV spots as well as a website and digital campaign
- Lisa: Man of Valor, is hosting a special training for parents, teachers and community leaders next week. Flyer below:
TRAVMA AND ITS EFFECTS ON STUDENTS IN THE Black Community

GUEST SPEAKERS

NIKOLE SHURN
PANEL MODERATOR
NSPIRE 2 DREAM

KAYLA THOMPSON
MANAGER OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS
ALIVE & WELL

DR. RONDA WALLACE
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
NORTH TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

DR. TIFFANY GHOULSON
DIRECTOR OF PARENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND THE WRAPAROUND CENTER
EAST ST. LOUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Save The Date

26 TUESDAY APRIL 2022 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Sign up here
Use your phone to scan the QR code

More Information
Contact Bishop Luther Baker
lbaker@uacityschools.org
314.290.4103
• Serena: Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day is May 7.

8. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation
Next Quarterly Meeting: Friday, July 22, 2022