

# St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

April 28, 2023 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Virtual

**Mission:** The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) works to reduce violent crime in the region by promoting and advocating a coordinated, well – resourced 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.

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## AGENDA:

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- VPC Team: Jessica Meyers, Serena Muhammad, Lisa Potts, Zenique Gardner Perry
- Attendees: Damon Major, Jim Wild, Lisa Wheeler, Craig Schmid, Becky Haley, Kristen Mueller, Cathy Gilbert, Matthew Holden, Nicole Wood, Sal Martinez, Melanie Davis, Kortni Blackmon, Sheila Strode, Wesley House, Chris Geden, Chris Sullivan, Don Logue, Reshad Statieh, Mike McLively, City Clerk Jones, Emily Hunter, Katie Dalton, Kimberly Pryor, John Posey, Eboni Hooper Boateng, Hailee Morris, Marley, Peggy Neufeld, Sydney Theerman, Caitlyn Dorion, Samuel Murphey, Lois, Josephine Smedley, Ella Withers, Poli Rijos, Keiana West, Anthony Franks, Darnell Hill, Becky, Julie McDowell, MaChelle West, Jessi LaRose, Josh Miller, Felice McClendon, Mo Farrell, Chloe Ward, Jamaal Crawford, Nic Harris, Mary Leopold, Kathleen Larkins, Dr. Marty K. Casey, Nova Walton-Marriott, Debra Harper-LeBlanc, Ted Simpson, Arthurine, Bet Stapleton, Ida Casey, Kat Cocivera, Kenan Morrison, Harvey Lockhart, Dr. Jackie Lewis-Harris, Kaylen Lucas, Courtney Hinton, James Stampley, Nick Skinner, Susan Colangelo, Chris Fahy, John Harper, Bolanle Ambonisye, Paula Southerland

### 2. Recap of Stop, Lock & Drop It Spring Break Activities

- Follow up video & list of events: <https://www.stlareavpc.org/spring-break-events-2023>
- VPC has had a goal to have programming during spring break since violent injuries of youth often increase during out of school time. Zenique was able to combine proposals submitted through the VPC Youth Pop Up Grants as well as some bids that were solicited. There were 18 events during the week from Mary 18-26, when St. Louis Public Schools and several other districts were on spring break.
- Chris Geden (River City Outdoors) and Hailee Morris (Movement Not a Moment) spoke about their experiences hosting events.

### 3. Youth Advocate Program

- Program website: <https://www.yapinc.org/>
- YAP will be launching in STL this summer. See slides for more information.
- STL job postings: <https://www.yapinc.org/Get-Involved/Jobs>

### 4. Addressing Community Violence in St. Louis County by Giffords Law Center

- <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/addressing-community-violence-in-the-county-of-st-louis/>
- See slides for more information.

### 5. New Opportunities for Wellness Preview

- VPC received Community Project Funding for the Gun Violence Response Network (<https://www.stlareavpc.org/gvrn>) in October 2022. The goal of this funding is to bolster mental health supports for victims of gun violence. The plan has also been to increase resources for COMMUNITY healing, beyond individual and family healing. VPC, along with our partners, will launch New Opportunities for Wellness this summer.
- See slides for more information.

### 6. Public Safety Collaborative Launch

- The St. Louis Public Safety Collaborative launched April 13. It will use place-based data to identify risk places and partner with community to design interventions to reduce violence in those areas. VPC is a member of the Public Safety Collaborative and will continue to provide updates at future meetings.
- KSDK Article: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/crime/new-crime-solutions-tool-st-louis/63-0679caa6-11ee-4711-acec-07fc3ce031a6>
- Newark Public Safety Collaborative (an example of this model in action): <https://newarkcollaborative.org/>
- See Data-Informed Community Engagement One Pager for more information.

### 7. VPC Announcements

- Staffing Announcements: Zenique Gardner Perry will be ending her time with VPC at the end of June 2023. We sincerely thank Zenique for her time, her effort, and her passion for STL youth.
- VPC will be winding down our youth pop up grant in favor of larger investments in
  - May 7, 2023 will be the final deadline to apply for a youth safe spaces pop up grant.
  - In the meantime, Invest STL has launched their Small Dollars Action Fund that will allow folks who want to continue to host events to apply for funding through them. The flyer is below. (<https://www.investstl.org/small-dollars-action-fund/>)

**\$S\$AF**

**You and your neighbors  
can receive**

up to \$2,000 to boost your neighborhood  
engagement activities with the

**Small Dollars Action Fund.**

THE SMALL DOLLARS ACTION FUND IS FOR...

- NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS
- BLOCK UNITS
- RESIDENT-LED COMMITTEES
- INFORMAL COLLECTIVES OF RESIDENTS

TO FUND ACTIVITIES THAT ARE...

- PLACE-BASED
- INTENDED TO CONNECT NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS
- FREE & OPEN FOR MEMBERS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
- FEASIBLE, SHORT TERM & READY TO IMPLEMENT
- CREATED & IMPLEMENTED BY NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS



**Application Opens April 21**  
InvestSTL.org/small-dollars-action-fund



**Small Dollars  
Action Fund**

- VPC will be releasing the date for the upcoming Advocacy Training offered in partnership with Missouri Foundation for Health.

#### 8. Partner Announcements

- Story Stitchers youth are having a public discussion on youth and violence May 30, 6:00 at High Low, 3301 Washington Ave, 63103. Free.
- Story Stitchers is holding a public celebration for the new youth center Saturday, May 20, 12:00-8:00 PM, 3701 Grandel Sq, 1A, 63108. Free. Prizes and activities, food, DJ, vendors, dance and beat battles. Mayor Jones to give remarks at 1:00. Youth are currently organizing vendor tables for 5/20 event at Story Stitchers. Interested in a table? Email [susanc@storystitchers.org](mailto:susanc@storystitchers.org).
- May 5 and 6: Children Mental Health Days (Vision for Children at Risk) <https://www.visionforchildren.org/events/>
- The St. Louis Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition invites you to: Putting Privilege to Work: Implications of Legislation on Suicide Safety for LGBTQ+ Youth  
Date: May 12, 2023  
Time: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM  
Details and link to registration: <https://tinyurl.com/45kmebjf>
- PreventEd is hosting Teen Institute Jun 12-15 for high school students in grades 9-12. This will be the first year that we are hosting in person since 2020. Details are in the flyer.

## 9. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VPCApril23>

### 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

July 28, 2023 from 1-3pm

October 27, 2023 from 1-3pm