

St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission Quarterly Commission Meeting

April 25, 2025 | 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.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. VPC Team: Jessica Meyers, Serena Muhammad, Justin Mosley, Lisa Potts
- b. Attendees: Karen Francis, Deanna Shea, Sal Martinez, Brandon Sterling, Zenique Gardner-Perry, Vontriece McDowell, Mayor Reggie Jones, Marcel Scaife, Chris Sullivan, Lisa LaGrone, Denise Carter, Jeremy Kander, Marley Graviss, Chiamaka Onuoha, Lekesha Davis, Anna Mucherman, Mykee W., Reann Hines, Craig Schmid, Becky Smith, Molly Imming, Kim Long, Kristen Mueller, Susan Kabat, Sydney Theerman, Eboni Boateng, Colleen Cunningham, Debra Harper LeBlanc, Hannah Sherrard, Rhonda, D'Markus Thomas-Brown, Alice Style, Courtney Hinton, Kateri Chapman-Kramer, Cecil Cornish, Tom Crees, Tammy Harper, Denale Powell, Stepanie Co, Anjanette Washington, Arthurine Harris, Poli Rijos, Haliday Douglas, Tiffany Blanford, Machel West, Carey Cunningham, Bolanle Ambonisye, Mikayla Johnson, Latasha Barnes, Donnita Hathaway, LaDonna Sims, David Steele, Felice McClendon

2. Save Lives Now! Update

- a. Brandon Sterling (Director of Save Lives Now!)
 - i. brandon.sterling@ewgateway.org
 - ii. <https://www.ewgateway.org/save-lives-now/>
- b. Slides in meeting powerpoint
- c. Is this an active program? Yes, as of April it is launching in the City. It will scale up in other municipalities during the rest of the year.
- d. How often will the target neighborhoods be re-evaluated? We have partners from UMSL on the Implementation Team who will be doing ongoing data reviews
- e. How are the trusted community identified? Are they recruited or have to express interest? They must have credibility in the area in which they are working and be comfortable speaking with individuals at high risk for committing violence.
- f. The positions listed on the budget slide-- are they employees of East West Gateway or a variety of organizations? They will mostly be employed by

community-based organizations that are contracted to provide the services. Some may also be municipal employees within Offices of Violence Prevention

- g. Why is most of the money in the budget for staffing and less money budgeted for support/stabilization services? This type of deep, relentless engagement requires a lot of personpower. However, some of the services will come from organizations that already provide them, but just need some assistance to provide them in a more effective way for those at highest risk.
- h. What about prevention programs before someone gets to the point of being at highest risk? Save Lives Now! is a complementary program to work currently being done on prevention/upstream interventions. VPC has been present throughout the creation and implementation of Save Lives Now! Jessica and Serena continue to serve on the Implementation Committee.

3. LaSalle Park Activation

- a. VPC received a request from St. Louis Housing Authority to partner on supporting residents in LaSalle Park Apartments
- b. Please fill out the whiteboard with your availability to support the upcoming activities listed in the powerpoint:
<https://zoom.us/jb/doc/1lQmoRXDR36BMs3icEASqw/p/212133363580928>
 - i. Or email Justin@stlareavpc.org
- c. Needs expressed include:
 - i. Summer Camps
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Parent Services

4. Summer Youth Event Plans

- a. Youth have repeatedly told us that they don't feel welcome in public spaces.
- b. The goal is to have an ongoing calendar of events so youth know where safe events are happening across the region all summer- downtown St. Louis, City Rec Centers, and County Rec Centers We realize different events will attract different youth, so if anyone has suggestions, email justin@stlareavpc.org
- c. To learn how to host your own event, visit <https://www.stlareavpc.org/youth-events>

5. Sidewalk Talks



SIDEWALK TALK
LISTENING
BUS TOUR

**WE LISTEN AND
WE DON'T JUDGE**

 **MAY 6TH, 2025**
04:00 PM - 07:00 PM

About Our Event!

Join us for an afternoon of connection and support in the heart of the community. Take a moment to sit, listen, and be heard.

Sponsors

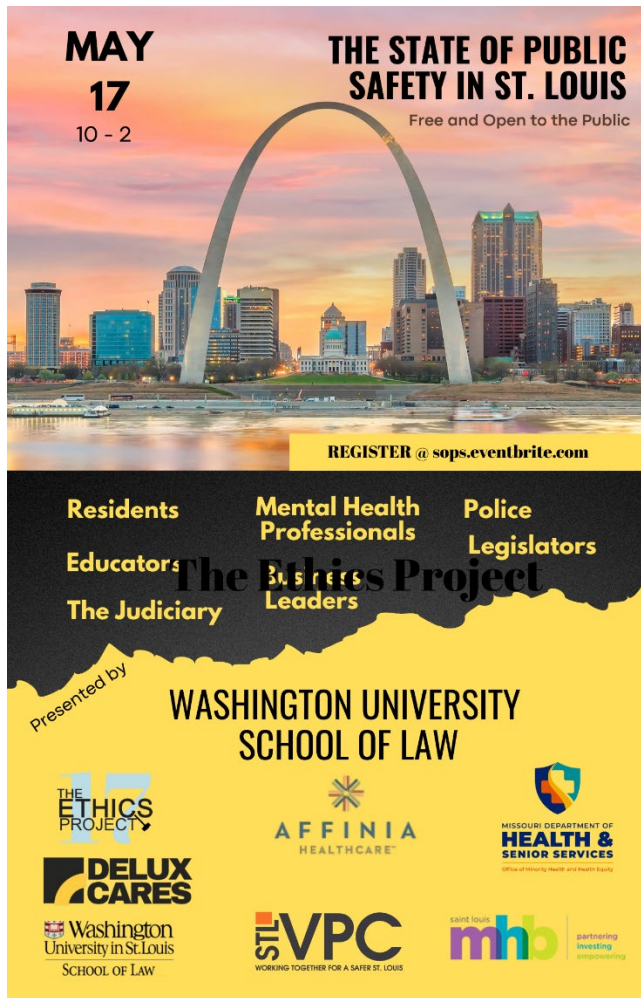
      

 For More Information
www.sidewalk-talk.org/

- a.
- b. Sign up to be a listener by April 28 at <https://www.sidewalk-talk.org/2025-listening-bus-tour>
- c. This is a rain or shine event.

6. State of Public Safety



- a.
- b. [SOPS.eventbrite.com](https://sops.eventbrite.com)

7. Forward Through Ferguson Racial Equity Summit



- a.
- b. Register at <https://www.racialequitystl.org/>

8. Partner Announcements

- a. Colleen: Equal Justice USA is concerned about cuts that have been announced for federal violence prevention grants. They have created an action alert: <https://action.ejusa.org/a/pay-up-trump?emci=6e72ef95-dd21-f011-8b3d-6045bded8cca&emdi=7eafdaddd-e321-f011-8b3d-6045bded8cca&ceid=13214494>

- b. Poli: The St. Louis Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition invites you to Stronger Together: Workplace Wellness and Suicide Prevention.
 - i. Date: Friday, May 16th
 - ii. Time: 12PM to 1:30PM (CT), Virtual
 - iii. Cost: Free to attend, low cost for CEUs
 - iv. Many of us spend a significant part of our day at our job, be it business, the trades, education or social services. The people we work with are key assets in any workplace, and creating a culture of health and safety is good for business. Join us as we explore opportunities to enhance workforce productivity through emotional health and mental wellness supports that can reduce the risk of suicide.
 - v. Registration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/35342878-8182-4582-84a8-6053bc862fe3/summary>
 - c. From Lakesha: Ignite Hope is hosting its first trivia night, Lighting the Flame, on April 26th, 2025 from 6:00 pm -9:00 pm at Hazelwood Community Center (1186 Teson Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042). Bring your friends and brain power for an unforgettable night of trivia – mental health matters! Doors open at 5:30 PM and Trivia starts at 6:00 PM. Rock your red and black attire to show support for Igniting Hope. Proceeds will support Ignite Hope programs to support mental health and wellness. Registration is \$30 per ticket, or \$210 for a table of 8 players. The evening features 10 rounds of trivia, awesome door prizes, silent auction, and more -so bring cash! Soda and water will be available while quantities last. BYOB. Bring your favorite drinks and snacks. Cash prize for the winning team. For questions or more information, contact us at: ldavis@ighope.onmicrosoft.com
 - d. Marcel: There will be a Black youth suicide convening on 10/7/25
 - e. Tiffany Blanford: There is a paid opportunity for Promise Neighborhood Initiative. <https://63106promisetosuccess.org/>
9. Quarterly Meeting Evaluation
- a. <https://bit.ly/vpcapril2025>

2025 Quarterly Meeting Dates

July 25, 2025, 1-3pm (In Person, Location TBD)

October 24, 2025 (Virtual)