

Community Conversation Feedback from Focus Questions

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Having learned more about the nature of retaliatory crime in Burlington, what are your safety concerns?

- Kids are often in gangs for safety as young as 9th grade
- Drugs in schools
- Not trusting the police
- Knowing resources
- Responsiveness of police officers and teachers
- Mental health
- Lack of mentors
- Truancy
- Innocent bystanders could be injured
- Kids are involved in these crimes (i.e. 17 year old charged with murder)
- Schools work to identify those involved in criminal activity
- Not enough police in known drug areas
- Adults need to love children
- Faith community is not involved enough
- Complacency in the community
- National trend of decreased respect for officers
- Parenting

Pink Cards: What do you see as the primary cause of violent crime in Burlington

- Lack of access to opportunities
- More leadership opportunities at the grass roots level
- Lack of accountability
- Children do not know the meaning of respect
- No discipline of children
- Proactivity by police – cruising
- More policing in high crime areas
- Poverty
- Drugs
- Gun control
- Gangs
- Break down of family
- Lack of discipline and boundaries
- Lack of education

- Lack of respect for human life
- It starts at home
- Retaliation
- Lack of supervision
- Police patrol the neighbors
- Programs for youth
- More severe punishments
- Lack of community: loss of the village
- Sex offenders
- Lack of street lights
- Outside predators to kids in neighborhoods
- Mental health
- Parenting disrespectful children
- Home training parental guidance
- Education
- No value of life
- Street rep/ Social media
- Lack of community leadership
- Lack of parenting
- Entertainment industry
- Lack of love in community
- Schools are not committing resources to prevention
- Lack of proactivity
- No fear
- Communication
- No positive outlets
- Influences: social media
- Family history
- Unsolved social issues
- Instant gratification
- Lack of resources/ knowledge
- Lack of resources
- Drugs

Green Cards: What can the police do better to keep you and your family safe?

- More police presence in communities
- Faster response
- Everybody needs to be treated the same as far as policing our communities

- Change of attitude in race relations and police response
- Visibility
- Educate community
- More presence during peak times
- Communication
- More officers in schools
- Community meetings
- Investment in building community
- More police presence
- Help bring neighbors together
- Increase city budget for more officers
- Walk community and create stronger relationships
- Change of police image
- Have involvement in community programs
- We are unable to offer any suggestions because we lack an “intimate” knowledge of current police resources
- Educating the public
- Community watch
- More officer interaction in the community
- Well trained and versed in cultural competency
- Engage with public in forums
- Foot patrols and talking to neighbors
- It is a community challenge not a police problem
- Be professional; be available
- More patrolling
- Faster response time
- Add community policing back
- Police who live in neighborhoods and reflect diversity of neighborhoods
- More patrol in “problem” areas
- Be nice (police to citizens)
- Diverse police force
- Police follow the same laws that citizens follow
- More police visibility
- More patrols

Yellow Cards: What can you do better to keep yourself and your family safe?

- Call the police!
- Become active in diffusing incidents

- Create safe, positive avenues for expression for young people
- What can I do to protect my family?
- Listen to the youth
- Communication with the youth
- Hold the youth accountable
- Communication with neighbors
- Black males more in the schools, reading to students
- Become more involved
- Call police when you see unlawful activity
- Report criminal activity
- Locks and security systems
- Show more love to all
- Report crime
- Form community watch
- Be positive role models and be involved with youth
- Parental involvement
- Be involved
- Neighborhood watch/ Cookouts
- Open up communication and spread awareness
- Give more love
- Spend time having a trusting relationship
- Reduce stigma on how kids view officers
- Be better parents
- Discipline more
- Be more visually aware and report crime to police
- Share resources
- Follow the rules
- Call police of suspicious activity
- Invest in our neighbors: time, resources, knowledge
- Neighborhood watch
- Safety in numbers
- Use cultural and community centers for meetings
- Work together
- Be proactive
- Knowing our neighbors
- Have neighborhood watch
- Parent our children
- Pattern respect for elders and those in authority
- Be aware of surroundings
- Inform others/ report to police the things that are going on in neighborhoods

Orange Cards: What should community stakeholders do collaboratively to reduce gun violence in Burlington?

- Business: Ban the Box. Raise minimum wage.
- Nonprofits: Change measures of what success looks like, Seek community input 1st before thinking the nonprofits have the answers
- Community agencies: Create opportunities to gain feedback from consumers of service.
- Church: More time, resources spent on individuals. Focus on restoration
- Church: Pastors should be committed to children. Set up tutoring for kids. Look for grants. Committed people.
- Church: Education. Involvement in schools
- Churches: Get involved. Be ok to talk about sensitive issues. Cleaning up community appearance.
- Faith Based: Be more proactive in our community before, during and after to prevent gang activity and criminal activity
- Churches: Provide more youth related activities. Walking within the communities letting residents know the church is a safe haven.
- School System: Open up communication, awareness, and accountability
- School System: Hire teachers with a passion to teach all children.
- School system Help kids and not shame them. SROs do more proactive activities with the kids. Committed people.
- School System: Stop teaching for tests. Teachers being able to teach creatively. Inspiring and respecting the youth.
- School System: Get involved in prevention
- Parents: Parental involvement. Teaching parenting classes. Financial literacy classes
- Department of Social Services: More program to address issues, empowerment, address poverty, equipping through education.
- Department of Social Services: More inspections for people living in government housing. More restriction.
- City: Improve function and beauty of the City
- Re-entry programs
- Housing
- Mental Health services
- Combined resources
- Increase programs for children
- More federal funds for programs
- People need to vote for elected officials
- Make police work more attractive as a career with better pay and hours.
- Hire civilian workers to run gang database to free up detectives to work the street

- Increase employment opportunities
- Create hope
- Encourage
- Organize lobby days to lobby legislators on gun control and use advocacy groups and college fraternities and sororities
- More exposure for young people outside of the neighborhood
- Parenting classes. Make them an attractive resource.
- More gun control
- Early intervention with problem youth
- More surveillance cameras.
- Organize community meetings where the youth are invited in all neighborhoods
- Parenting classes at the community level
- Social skills classes for the young