

Community Conversation Feedback from Focus Questions

June 15, 2016 St. Marks Church

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

- Caught in the crossfire
- Crime is an increasing problem
- Loopholes in the justice system prevent prosecution
- The young age of people involved
- Older criminals involving younger people in crimes
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Migration of crime from bigger cities and I-85/40
- Too many guns
- Easy access to guns
- All kids could be stigmatized
- Safety of senior citizens
- Youthful disruptive behaviors

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

- Uneducated kids
- Lack of jobs
- Single parent homes (Kids raising themselves or siblings)
- Cycle of poverty
- No options to absorb energy
- Influence of pop culture
- Poverty
- Drugs
- Lack of activity and lack of knowledge of resources
- Mental illness
- Lack of parental involvement
- Value or morals
- Gangs
- Drugs
- Breakdown of family (single parents)
- Lack of respect of human life
- Lack of conflict management skills
- Break up of family

- Poverty
- Education/ drop outs/ lack of educational focus
- Perceived lack of opportunity
- Feeling that drugs are the best opportunity
- Clique status is better than overall cultural status
- Lack of activities and jobs
- Drugs
- Need to belong to something
- Lack of parents – need somebody
- Looking for love
- Fear
- Parents' lack of education
- Mother's prenatal care, substance abuse, poor parenting, mental health issues
- Environment: home, community, lack of support/resources
- Stress of poverty is toxic
- Breakdown of the family
- Breakdown of family unit
- No guidance
- Drugs
- Lack of security
- Education
- Poverty
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Weapons
- Lack of future
- Lack of education
- Retaliation
- Parents did not instill respect for education
- Lack of good role models
- Parents covering for their children

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

- Be more visible
- Bigger police force
- More patrols
- Community policing- establish relationships introducing themselves
- Neighborhood watch groups established
- Keep us informed
- Police presence

- More patrols in areas reported to have higher criminal activity
- Stop the “stop and frisk” downtown
- Build trust, build awareness
- Encourage participation in Citizens Academy
- Make sure police are in the neighborhood during a good time
- Have a good attitude
- Show love to the young kids
- Show he/she cares
- More visibility
- Continue community meetings/ involvement/ seeking community input
- Text to Tip – more publicity so people understand they cannot track tips
- Strong witness protection
- Cops stationed in same area for longer periods
- More community involvement in restorative justice programs in school—assisted by police
- More traffics stops / Stop and frisk
- Have youth camp or activities for officers to interact with young kids
- More police presence in a positive way in at risk neighborhoods/ communities
- More police on patrol
- Make it clear how to report a crime or potential crime through Crimestoppers (anonymously)

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

- If you see something, say something
- Have community watches
- Continual communication with meetings
- Educate our community
- Report suspicious activity
- If you are a witness, be a witness
- Show up/ Participate
- Fortify your home
- Security systems in our homes
- Gun training/ take proactive steps to protect yourself
- Attend HOA meetings
- Know your neighbors
- Look out for neighbors (especially when they are away or on vacation)
- Be prepared to protect yourself
- Have a big dog
- Restorative justice/ conflict resolution
- More respectful for public servants – custodians, support staff, “low end” jobs
- Push back against consumerism and materialism
- Community watch

- Call in any suspicious activity
- Get to know your neighbors and their routines
- Communicate with PD when out of town
- Lock doors and cars
- See something, say something
- Post Crimestoppers and text to tip numbers at home
- Keep our friends safe/ protect each other
- Intervene to help each other
- Mentor a kid that needs support
- Light on in the street
- Educate my neighbors
- Support
- Have workshops in the Bynum Center with Police

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

- ABSS/DSS/BPD: Compare Notes on childhood challenges, identify kids that are predisposed to violence
- ABSS: School uniforms to help kids assimilate
- ABSS: identify younger at-risk kids and find program to get them involved. Provide transportation options for this
- ABSS: Resources for parents to use when they see trouble in their kids
- ABSS: Incorporate social skill sin curriculum and provide vocational training for young adults
- ABSS: Find a way to intervene early with potential at-risk kids
- ABSS: Conflict resolution/ restorative justice
- ABSS: Listen and educate kids and teens
- ABSS: Vocational education, strengthen the program and publicize them
- ABSS: Get mentors to help early education (tap civic organizations and faith based communities)
- ABSS: Work on drop-out rate, hire truancy officers
- Churches: Unite
- Churches: Pray Community: Identify folks who are likely to participate in violent acts
- Faith Based: stress spirituality
- Faith-Based: Non-judgmental faith based mentoring programs
- Faith Base: More volunteerism
- DSS: Support system for parents of at-risk families through community activities
- Court System/ABSS/Juvenile Justice: Apply restorative justice
- City: Offer jobs to younger adults (16-23)
- Community: Keep open dialogue with each other about incidents/ Be involved in politics/ Share information you have with others about resources

- Law Enforcement: gun buyback programs
- Gun Owners: Trained, secure guns in home to prevent
- Media: help us advertise Crimestoppers continually
- Educate about guns
- Partnering with other organizations
- Reduce gun violence