

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	February 3, 2025
Action Required:	None
Presenter:	Michael Kochis, Police Chief, Misty Graves, Director of Human Services
Staff Contacts:	Michael Kochis, Police Chief Misty Graves, Director of Human Services
Title:	Report on Project Safe Neighborhoods

Background

In 2023, in response to an increase in violence in Charlottesville and Albemarle, and the shooting that took place at the University of Virginia (UVA), the President's Council stood up the Community Safety Working Group. Members of this group included leaders in the community, city and county officials, and university faculty and staff. The goals of this working group are first, to create safe and welcoming community spaces. Second, to improve access to local programs and resources. Third, to strengthen communication among residents, service providers, schools, and law enforcement. And fourth, to connect our youth with caring adults and meaningful activities.

In order to ensure these recommendations were prioritized and implemented, the Community Safety Implementation Group was established and continues to bring together city, county, and UVA for intentional collaboration. The Community Safety Implementation Group has been the governing body that serves as one backbone for focusing on the community engagement and prevention and intervention pillars of Project Safe Neighborhood.

Discussion

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a federal designation that brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement officials; prosecutors; community-based partners; and others to identify the most pressing violent crime concerns in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them.

In August 2023, the Charlottesville City, Albemarle County and University of Virginia region announced the Project Safe Neighborhood designation for the region. The emphasis on restorative justice, diversion programs, and community safety solutions, alongside innovative partnerships, sets this community's approach to PSN apart as a holistic and inclusive approach to community safety in the region.

Each PSN designation is centered around four key pillars:

- Community Engagement
- Prevention and Intervention

- Strategic Enforcement
- Accountability

On January 22, 2025, members of the Community Safety Implementation Team, US Attorney's Office, and UVA Equity Center staff hosted a press conference to update the community on PSN and its progress towards implementation. On January 28, 2025, members of the community are invited to Burley Middle School for a Town Hall and engagement activity related to PSN. The work session report will highlight the elements of PSN and the progress to implementation.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The Community Safety Working Group and Project Safe Neighborhood implementation aligns with Council's Strategic Goals of Public Safety and Partnerships.

Community Engagement

As part of the Community Safety Implementation Group's effort to center feedback and partnerships, the group hosted a series of listening sessions related to Project Safe Neighborhood.

Additionally, on January 22, 2025, members of the Community Safety Implementation Team, US Attorney's Office, and UVA Equity Center staff hosted a press conference to update the community on PSN and its progress towards implementation. On January 28, 2025, members of the community are invited to Burley Middle School for a Town Hall and engagement activity related to PSN.

Budgetary Impact

Recommendation

Alternatives

Attachments

None