

Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention  
February 20, 2020

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GUN  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
1:19 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, CHAIR  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE  
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS  
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS  
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB  
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON  
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN  
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM  
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER  
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA  
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

ALSO PRESENT: DOROTHY JOHNSON-SPEIGHT  
ALEIDA GARCIA  
ANTHONY MURPHY

- - -

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good

3 afternoon, everyone. Good afternoon.

4 This hearing is called to order. This is

5 a public hearing of the Special Committee

6 on Gun Violence. I am Councilman

7 Kenyatta Johnson, Chairman of the

8 Subcommittee on Gun Violence, and I'm

9 also joined by my Co-Chair, Councilman

10 Curtis Jones, who is also the Chairman of

11 the Committee on Public Safety. I'm also

12 joined by the Subcommittee Co-Chairs on

13 Victims and Co-Victims and Survivors of

14 Gun Violence, Ms. Dorothy

15 Johnson-Speight -- Dr. Dorothy

16 Johnson-Speight of the Mothers in Charge

17 organization and also Ms. Aleida Garcia,

18 who is also the founder of the National

19 Homicide Justice Alliance.

20 Will the Clerk please read the

21 title of the resolution.

22 THE CLERK: Authorizing the

23 Special Committee on Gun Violence

24 Prevention to hold hearings to examine

25 the effect of gun violence on victims and

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2 co-victims, as well as the resources  
3 available to them.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I would  
5 like to welcome everyone to today's  
6 Philadelphia City Council Special  
7 Committee on Gun Violence Prevention  
8 specifically addressing the issue of  
9 support services for victims, co-victims,  
10 and survivors of gun violence.

11 I want to take a moment and  
12 thank all of my colleagues for attending  
13 this hearing today. I want to take a  
14 moment to acknowledge our Majority  
15 Leader, Councilwoman Cherelle Parker. I  
16 want to acknowledge Councilwoman  
17 Katherine Gilmore Richardson. I want to  
18 acknowledge Councilwoman Kendra Brooks.  
19 I want to acknowledge Councilman Allan  
20 Domb. I want to acknowledge Councilman  
21 Isaiah Thomas. I want to acknowledge  
22 Councilwoman Cindy Bass and also  
23 Councilman Derek Green. Thank you for  
24 taking time out of your schedule for  
25 being here.

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2 Not the least I want to take a  
3 moment to acknowledge the leader of our  
4 body, who also provided support and the  
5 legislation necessary and giving me the  
6 opportunity to singly focus on this issue  
7 of gun violence in this body, Council  
8 President Darrell Clarke.

9 Can you please give my  
10 colleagues just a round of applause for  
11 their dedication and taking time out of  
12 your schedule and being here today.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Back in  
15 2017, Council President Darrell Clarke,  
16 Councilman Curtis Jones, and myself  
17 introduced a resolution authorizing the  
18 creation of this Special Committee on Gun  
19 Violence Prevention to convene research  
20 and leaders from sectors including  
21 government, law enforcement, public  
22 health, social services and, most  
23 importantly, the community to examine the  
24 issue and come up with recommendations  
25 and a strategy to address gun violence

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2 prevention.

3 I'm proud to say that since  
4 then, we have worked with the Kenney  
5 Administration to establish the growth of  
6 the Office of Violence Prevention, which  
7 is one of the largest and best resources  
8 in the nation.

9 I'm also proud to say that I  
10 have led the effort with my colleagues  
11 and our Mayor to prioritize funding for  
12 violence prevention and its response. In  
13 this fiscal year alone, we have made 12  
14 million new dollars available for  
15 violence prevention. Those funds are  
16 paying for crisis intervention teams,  
17 social services, job placement, and a new  
18 data and intelligence staff for the  
19 Philadelphia Police Department, as well  
20 as support for License and Inspections to  
21 address quality of life issues in our  
22 neighborhoods.

23 I'm especially proud to support  
24 the millions of dollars in grants to what  
25 we call boots-on-the-ground organizations

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2 that are out there day in and day out  
3 addressing the issue of gun violence.

4 The main purpose of today's  
5 hearing is to examine the effects of  
6 Philadelphia gun violence specifically on  
7 victims, co-victims, and survivors of gun  
8 violence. This hearing will give victims  
9 of gun violence the chance to voice their  
10 concerns, examine what violence programs  
11 for victims and co-victims we are working  
12 on and, most importantly, provide them a  
13 voice and recommendations to address this  
14 issue that's plaguing our city.

15 Last month in January I held a  
16 meeting with leadership from across the  
17 City of Philadelphia government to get an  
18 update on the crime and violence  
19 impacting our city and to discuss future  
20 opportunities for agencies to work  
21 together in addressing the issue of gun  
22 violence.

23 Last week I had another meeting  
24 here in the City Council Caucus Room with  
25 victim advocacy groups as well as

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2 activists, mothers, brothers, sisters,  
3 and ordinary Philadelphians who have lost  
4 friends and loved ones to gun violence.

5 This must change. As Chairman  
6 of the Special Committee on Gun Violence  
7 Prevention, I am making it my personal  
8 commitment, which I already have  
9 throughout my life, to make victims,  
10 co-victims, survivors of gun violence the  
11 most important seat at the table as we  
12 address this issue.

13 Most of you may or may not know  
14 that in 1998, I established a program  
15 called Peace Not Guns after a cousin of  
16 mine was murdered in the streets of South  
17 Philadelphia. So as a result of his life  
18 being taken, I dedicated my life through  
19 my organization Peace Not Guns of  
20 teaching young people conflict  
21 resolution, anger management, and  
22 anti-street education. So for me, this  
23 issue is personal and it's not about  
24 politics.

25 Gun violence is a persistent,

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2 growing threat to the safety and  
3 well-being of communities throughout  
4 Philadelphia and in America. As of  
5 February the 19th, 51 people have been  
6 the victims of homicide in Philadelphia  
7 so far this year, a 21 percent increase  
8 compared to this same time in 2019,  
9 according to the statistics from the  
10 Philadelphia Police Department.

11 In 2019, Philadelphia recorded  
12 355 homicides. That total marked the  
13 highest homicide count in over a decade.  
14 Almost all those homicides were committed  
15 with firearms. People of color, mostly  
16 African American youth, are  
17 disproportionately likely to be victims  
18 or co-victims of gun violence.

19 In addition to those being  
20 murdered in our city, there were also  
21 more than 1,400 non-fatal shootings in  
22 the City of Philadelphia. The victims of  
23 violence often suffer long-term  
24 disability, including paralysis, organ  
25 malfunction, and chronic pain.



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2 I want to thank the new  
3 Philadelphia Police Commissioner,  
4 Danielle Outlaw, for taking time out of  
5 her schedule and being here today to  
6 testify. I want to personally welcome  
7 you to the City of Philadelphia, but also  
8 most importantly, we are one of the  
9 cities of firsts, and so I want everyone  
10 to take a moment to give her a round of  
11 applause to be the first African American  
12 woman to be appointed to this position.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We want to  
15 thank and acknowledge our Mayor, Jim  
16 Kenney, for making the bold decision to  
17 appoint an African American woman in this  
18 position.

19 And, Commissioner Outlaw, we're  
20 going to work with you to address this  
21 issue of gun violence here in the City of  
22 Philadelphia. And most people in this  
23 room know me and know my philosophy.  
24 It's not going to take one person to  
25 address this issue. It's going to take

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2 all of us as a city to roll up our  
3 sleeves to reduce the level of gun  
4 violence that we are seeing.

5 Commissioner Outlaw is now two  
6 weeks leading into your Police  
7 Department, the fourth largest police  
8 department in the nation. I also want to  
9 congratulate you again for being the  
10 first African American to lead this  
11 department as a woman.

12 At this particular time, I want  
13 to take a moment to acknowledge a  
14 gentleman who I had the fine opportunity  
15 to meet while I was in grad school at the  
16 University of Pennsylvania, and he gave  
17 me an opportunity to work with him. He's  
18 very passionate about this issue. That's  
19 why when he became a City Councilmember,  
20 he strategically focused on becoming the  
21 Chairman of the Public Safety Committee.  
22 Because oftentimes when we see gun  
23 violence here in the City of  
24 Philadelphia, unfortunately it's in my  
25 district or his district, and as we seen

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2 last night, in Council President Darrell  
3 Clarke's district. I want to acknowledge  
4 Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. for his  
5 remarks.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 First of all, again, I join my  
9 colleague in welcoming our new  
10 Commissioner, Commissioner Outlaw, to the  
11 City of Brotherly Love and, as Katherine  
12 Gilmore Richardson has declared, Sisterly  
13 Affection for the next year and hopefully  
14 for forever.

15 I think it's important in  
16 welcoming you to Philadelphia to know  
17 that that scale of balance has to be  
18 even. It has to be even for those who  
19 are victims and those who have reformed  
20 after being convicted of crime, and that  
21 is a difficult balance that you will be  
22 required to maintain.

23 You have not -- no election can  
24 prepare you for the sound of a mother who  
25 prematurely lost their child. I was not

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2 ready for it. I did not understand what  
3 playbook to go to other than from my  
4 heart and offer my sympathies, but after  
5 we give our thoughts and prayers, we have  
6 to get up off of our knees and do some  
7 action.

8 If there were 300 whales that  
9 washed up on the shore of the Schuylkill  
10 River and were dying, every marine  
11 biologist from Jacques Cousteau would  
12 come here and try to figure out what the  
13 cause is and how to stop it. Only  
14 heretofore have we really started to  
15 marshal the kind of resources to really  
16 put forward to deal with this epidemic.  
17 So you are another piece of that puzzle  
18 that we look forward to working with.

19 Another part of this is that  
20 there are many causes of crime. So there  
21 must be many pieces of that puzzle for  
22 the solution, whether it's anti-poverty  
23 efforts or whether it's conflict  
24 resolution efforts. Whatever those  
25 things are, they come and they rest in

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2 these Chambers and with you.

3           The thing that I would say to  
4 you, that when we did our ManUp hearing  
5 about two weeks ago now, some disturbing  
6 things came out and some puzzling pieces  
7 came to be. One of them was that there  
8 might be people that are wearing the  
9 uniform engaged in some of the problem of  
10 gun violence, and I won't reiterate it  
11 here, but I want to officially say that  
12 we want that, by the time we deal with  
13 the budget, looked into, because if what  
14 was said by a credible messenger in  
15 Philadelphia is true, that erodes a part  
16 of the trust that we have to have with  
17 our Police Department. So that's a  
18 burden that we have that we are sharing  
19 with you so that we can approach it  
20 together.

21           What I would say is that one of  
22 my constituents, and I'm going to call  
23 him a friend as well, recently lost one  
24 son, then two sons, and then a grandson  
25 to gun violence in the City of

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2 Philadelphia. And that could have been  
3 the end of the story. He could have  
4 marched away and had a bitter heart and  
5 wanted revenge, which could have turned  
6 into more violence in the City, but what  
7 that individual did was forgave the  
8 individuals who took their -- I don't  
9 know if I could be that person. Dr.  
10 Speight has done that, and that is  
11 chronicled, but a part of the solution  
12 has to be that, has to be that, yes,  
13 there should be justice, but there should  
14 also at some point be forgiveness,  
15 because we can't move on, and that kind  
16 of strength that was exhibited by him was  
17 amazing.

18 So with that, I want to thank  
19 my Chair, Co-Chair for bringing this to  
20 our attention.

21 I want to thank you for taking  
22 the time, because after the pictures are  
23 taken, you got to get to work. We  
24 understand that. So welcome to  
25 Philadelphia, and let the hearings begin.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I want  
3 to just take a moment to allow two  
4 individuals who really when I established  
5 this Committee and I established the  
6 subcommittees around victims and  
7 co-victims of gun violence, they really  
8 pushed me, challenged me in terms of what  
9 we're doing as a city to address those  
10 individuals who are directly impacted.

11 For me to notice like when I  
12 get the phone call to go speak to a  
13 mother or a father because they want me  
14 to speak at their child's funeral, for me  
15 to get calls to speak at a prayer vigil,  
16 for me to get calls to be a support  
17 system when an individual has lost their  
18 lives to gun violence, these two leaders,  
19 one I call a godmother of this movement  
20 because she's been on the front lines  
21 consistently addressing this issue,  
22 nationally recognized addressing this  
23 issue. I want to turn the mic over to  
24 her to say a few remarks as we open and  
25 before we call on our panel. And then

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2 next I'm going to also call on her  
3 co-chair, who is also aggressively  
4 working on this issue.

5 And so I want to acknowledge  
6 Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight.

7 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Thank  
8 you.

9 Good afternoon, everyone, and  
10 my sincere thanks to Councilmen Johnson  
11 and Jones for this hearing. They have  
12 been committed to this issue for quite a  
13 while.

14 My 24-year-old son, Khaaliq  
15 Jabbar Johnson, was shot and killed over  
16 a parking space several years ago, but  
17 the pain is still there. And the pain of  
18 my son's death and the death of so many  
19 others in this room is what drives me  
20 every single day to get up and do this  
21 work.

22 We started Mothers in Charge in  
23 May in a small church in North  
24 Philadelphia, Zion Baptist Church, in May  
25 of 2003, and since that time, the



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2 courageous women of Mothers in Charge  
3 have been on the front lines every single  
4 day, whether we're in the prisons, in the  
5 schools, in the communities, in the  
6 faith-based communities, doing the work,  
7 whatever we can, to address the issue of  
8 gun violence. And this is not an easy  
9 task, because we're touching our own pain  
10 every single day, and it's a pain that  
11 never goes away. It's a pain that you  
12 live with every single day if you've had  
13 to bury a son, daughter or loved one to  
14 gun violence. It's not like some  
15 incurable disease. It's a conscious  
16 decision that someone has made to take  
17 your loved one's life, and it's pain that  
18 you live with every single day.

19 But what has kept me going is  
20 the courage of so many women that I've  
21 met along the way, so many that we've  
22 helped each other along the way on this  
23 journey that none of us signed up for,  
24 but it's what they have done and what  
25 we've done collectively together to make

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2 a difference in this city that keeps us  
3 all breathing.

4 So, again, I want to thank  
5 Councilmen Johnson and Jones for this  
6 opportunity, especially for those who  
7 have been impacted by violence, to be  
8 here today to share and ask questions and  
9 get a real understanding of what we can  
10 do going forward.

11 We've got to find a solution.  
12 Homicide is the leading death among  
13 African American men of color between the  
14 ages of 14 and 34. We've got to find  
15 solutions. It's an epidemic, and we've  
16 got to all work together to solve this  
17 problem. And we can.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
19 Ms. Aleida Garcia.

20 MS. GARCIA: Good afternoon.  
21 Thank you, Councilman Johnson and  
22 Councilman Jones, for allowing me to be  
23 part of this panel.

24 I want to address the  
25 co-victims of homicide that are here

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2 today and tell you that this is about  
3 you. This is about us. Today we're  
4 going to talk about what we need, what we  
5 have experienced, the things that we need  
6 to see change.

7 We, the families of murdered  
8 victims, they're looking for changes in  
9 policy, changes in attitude, changes in  
10 legislation. We want to be heard, and  
11 today is your day to be heard.

12 My condolences to everyone here  
13 that has lost a loved one to homicide or  
14 that has been a victim of an attempted  
15 homicide. Today is your day to speak.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
18 very much.

19 So before the Clerk calls the  
20 first panel, I want to thank all the  
21 officers and top brass that's here. I do  
22 want to give a shout-out and a special  
23 honorable mention to a gentleman who I  
24 work in the trenches with dealing with  
25 the issue of homicide and gun violence in

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2 my neighborhood of South Philadelphia.

3 That's Inspector Joel Dales. I just want  
4 to acknowledge him for his hard work, his  
5 dedication. I've seen him actually go to  
6 the young men who are carrying the guns  
7 in South Philly, in Grays Ferry, in Point  
8 Breeze, actually go knock on their door  
9 and say, if you don't put them guns down,  
10 we're coming for you. You want to get  
11 involved in something that's positive,  
12 then come talk to me and I'll put the  
13 resources in your hand.

14 So I thank all the top brass  
15 that's here. We thank you for your  
16 dedication, your hard work, and your  
17 service. I just wanted to acknowledge  
18 Joel Dales, because I know for a fact  
19 living in Point Breeze where I'm raising  
20 my family at, but also my life as a  
21 Councilperson, I can call him and he  
22 actually shows up and deal with the  
23 people on the ground, addressing their  
24 issues.

25 So can the Clerk please call

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2 the first panel.

3 THE CLERK: Danielle Outlaw,  
4 Vanessa Garrett Harley, Ruth Abaya.

5 (Witnesses approached witness  
6 table.)

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

8 Commissioner, if you can just state your  
9 name for the record and then begin your  
10 testimony when you're ready.

11 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Sure.

12 Danielle Outlaw, Police Commissioner.

13 Good afternoon, Councilman  
14 Johnson and other members of the Special  
15 Committee on Gun Violence Prevention. My  
16 name, as I stated, is Danielle Outlaw and  
17 I am the Police Commissioner for the  
18 Philadelphia Police Department. I am  
19 here with Deputy Commissioner -- he just  
20 stepped out -- Dennis Wilson from Special  
21 Operations, Chief Inspector Frank Vanore  
22 from the Detective Bureau, Chief  
23 Inspector Joel Dales from the Patrol  
24 Bureau, Inspector Altovise Love-Craighead  
25 from the Community Relations Unit, and I

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2 also have Commissioners Wimberly and  
3 Coulter with me.

4 First, thank you for allowing  
5 the Philadelphia Police Department to be  
6 a part of these proceedings and to allow  
7 me to identify the efforts currently in  
8 place to serve crime victims in the City  
9 of Philadelphia.

10 Please let me state at the  
11 outset that a core tenet of the Police  
12 Department's mission is to provide  
13 quality service to all residents and  
14 visitors. This includes providing  
15 quality service and compassion to the  
16 direct and indirect victims of crime  
17 throughout Philadelphia. More  
18 specifically, as stated in the  
19 Pennsylvania Crime Victims Act, the  
20 Philadelphia Police Department firmly  
21 believes that all victims of crime  
22 deserve to be treated with dignity,  
23 respect, courtesy, and sensitivity. Also  
24 keep in mind that many times crime  
25 victims are often the most vulnerable in

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2 our communities, and they deserve nothing  
3 less.

4 So please allow me to explain  
5 the systems that have been established  
6 within the Police Department to serve all  
7 victims, and then I will outline some of  
8 the additional measures we have in place  
9 to address families of homicide victims,  
10 who are the indirect victims of these  
11 crimes.

12 First, the Victim Services Unit  
13 is a centralized unit within the  
14 Community Relations Bureau that oversees  
15 the operations and training of victim  
16 assistance officers. These officers are  
17 embedded into each police district, the  
18 airport, Special Victims Unit, and the  
19 Homicide Unit. The victim assistance  
20 officers are charged with ensuring that  
21 the Department complies with the  
22 Pennsylvania Crime Victims Act by  
23 providing supportive services and  
24 connecting victims with the Victims  
25 Compensation Assistance Program.

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2 As you probably already know,  
3 the Victims Compensation Assistance  
4 Program was created in 1976 and was  
5 established as a response to the  
6 financial losses incurred by victims of  
7 crime. In preparation for today's  
8 hearing, I have come to learn that the  
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was the  
10 tenth state in the nation to establish a  
11 compensation program to help victims and  
12 their families by easing the financial  
13 burden that crime imposes upon them.

14 Individuals who are injured  
15 during a crime may be compensated for  
16 uninsured or unreimbursable medical  
17 expenses, counseling, relocation  
18 expenses, crime scene clean-up expenses,  
19 and loss of earnings. In the case of  
20 death, funeral expenses and loss of  
21 support may be compensated to those who  
22 qualify under this program.

23 On behalf of sexual assault  
24 victims, healthcare providers may submit  
25 claims for the costs associated with



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2 forensic rape examinations when medical  
3 insurance is not available or the victim  
4 chooses not to access their health  
5 insurance.

6 However, the victim assistance  
7 officers do much more than just connect  
8 the victims to the Victims Compensation  
9 Assistance Program. They will personally  
10 coordinate resources for crime victims  
11 based on individualized needs.

12 For example, victims of gun  
13 violence may require transportation to  
14 and from court and counseling for  
15 themselves and family members. While the  
16 victims of domestic gun violence may have  
17 these same needs, the domestic nature of  
18 their incident will prompt a more  
19 specific response regarding resources,  
20 such as connecting the victims to Women  
21 Against Abuse and assisting and obtaining  
22 Protection from Abuse Orders, obtaining  
23 temporary housing or possible relocation.

24 The victim assistance officers  
25 are trained in the requirements set forth

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2 in the Pennsylvania Crime Victims Act and  
3 attend monthly training sessions  
4 organized by the Victim Assistance Unit,  
5 which includes identifying best  
6 practices, service provider updates, new  
7 available resources for victims, and  
8 departmental updates. The goal of this  
9 continuous training is to constantly  
10 improve victim services and support in  
11 Philadelphia.

12 Towards this goal, the Victim  
13 Services Unit also maintains a network of  
14 victim advocates and service providers  
15 reaching beyond the borders of  
16 Philadelphia. The Victim Service Unit  
17 assists district-level victim assistance  
18 officers and guaranteeing that the  
19 appropriate resources have been provided  
20 for victims and notifies additional units  
21 or agencies of specific incidents when  
22 necessary.

23 Also the Victim Services Unit  
24 members are prepared to respond to  
25 large-scale incidents such as mass

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2 shootings to provide services and  
3 resources to communities which may have  
4 been affected and coordinate with other  
5 agencies to develop a focused response  
6 for the community as a whole.

7           These services are for all  
8 victims in Philadelphia, but we have  
9 taken additional measures when assisting  
10 the families of homicide victims.

11 Specifically, continuing on the success  
12 of a collaborative reform process with  
13 the Justice Department regarding the use  
14 of force, the Department recently  
15 contracted the Police Executive Research  
16 Forum to conduct a collaborative review  
17 of the processes and procedures in the  
18 Philadelphia Homicide Unit.

19 Consequently, over 70 recommendations  
20 were made to improve the Homicide Unit,  
21 and many of those recommendations have  
22 already been implemented.

23           Relevant to today's hearing,  
24 however, the Homicide Unit has officially  
25 codified the Next of Kin Notification

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2 process, the Release of Descendant  
3 Personal Property, the Notification of  
4 Family upon the Arrest of an Alleged  
5 Offender, and Notification of the  
6 Victim/Witness Relocation Program.

7 These standardized procedures  
8 will ensure that each and every victim's  
9 family will receive fair and consistent  
10 services. In addition to these  
11 protocols, the Homicide Unit is in the  
12 process of finalizing its Next of Kin  
13 meeting protocol, where assigned  
14 detectives and supervisors from the  
15 Homicide Unit will meet with family  
16 members to provide updates to the  
17 criminal cases but, more importantly, to  
18 let the families know that we have not  
19 forgotten their loved one and we will  
20 never stop searching for those  
21 responsible.

22 Along the lines of never  
23 forgetting and being ever vigilant, the  
24 Police Department launched in August of  
25 2019 a website,

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2 phillyunsolvedmurders.com, that brings  
3 attention to the many victims of  
4 homicides in the City of Philadelphia and  
5 offers a safe pathway for the public to  
6 get information to detectives.

7 Specifically, each individual  
8 unsolved murder case has its own  
9 dedicated page on the website, and each  
10 page includes a form at the bottom where  
11 users can submit tips, either using their  
12 names or anonymously. Equally important,  
13 family members of victims can contribute  
14 photos and provide reflections about  
15 their loved ones.

16 The site also includes reward  
17 information and videos released by  
18 detectives. This will allow the family  
19 members to have an outlet to reflect on  
20 their loved one so their stories are not  
21 forgotten.

22 One final note, empathy and  
23 compassion can often be lost in the heat  
24 of a crisis or in the flurry of activity  
25 that occurs in the immediate aftermath of

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2 a homicide. It was the Philadelphia  
3 Homicide Unit, and specifically  
4 Lieutenant Norm Davenport, who saw this  
5 disconnect and anguish family members  
6 were often faced with when they would  
7 appear at the hospital where a loved one  
8 had been taken. In the criminal justice  
9 world, the body of a homicide victim  
10 becomes a crime scene, and in law  
11 enforcement, we are trained to preserve  
12 the crime scene and any evidence without  
13 much thought of the family members.

14 Well, the body of a loved one  
15 is much more than a crime scene to their  
16 family, but too often family members  
17 would be prohibited from even viewing  
18 their loved ones at the hospital for fear  
19 of compromising any evidence.

20 Consequently, family members were often  
21 left helpless and distraught. Lieutenant  
22 Davenport recognized this need to assist  
23 these families, but so did the staff at  
24 Temple University emergency department.  
25 So together a Memorandum of Understanding

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2 was created between the Homicide Unit and  
3 Temple University Hospital that would not  
4 only allow all evidence to be preserved,  
5 but would also allow those families who  
6 wish to see their loved ones the  
7 opportunity to do so.

8 This may not seem like a lot on  
9 its face, but to the families it allows  
10 everything to slow down in a hectic  
11 environment and for the grieving process  
12 to begin with dignity and respect.

13 Empathy and compassion was the  
14 impetus for this collaboration, and we  
15 look forward to working with all  
16 emergency departments throughout the City  
17 to establish similar protocols.

18 As I conclude, I'd like to  
19 leave you with this: You all know that  
20 I'm new to my position, and many have  
21 asked my plans to address violent crime  
22 here in Philadelphia. This includes our  
23 efforts to serve victims of crime and  
24 their loved ones in the City of  
25 Philadelphia. And while I'm just in my

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2 second week, I want to be very clear.

3 There is a sense of urgency among us in  
4 comprehensively addressing violent crime,  
5 specifically gun violence that  
6 disparately impacts our communities.

7 Recognizing it is a flexible, living  
8 document, we will continue to work within  
9 the parameters of the Philadelphia  
10 Roadmap to Safer Communities established  
11 in January 2019 via Operation Pinpoint.

12 I believe in the very basic  
13 tenets of procedural justice, voice,  
14 neutrality, respect, and trust. I  
15 believe in the inclusion of local, state,  
16 and federal partners to assist with crime  
17 prevention and harm reduction strategies.  
18 I believe in the use of data to inform  
19 strategic deployment of resources. I  
20 also believe in clear communication and  
21 direction given to all strategy  
22 stakeholders to ensure there is no  
23 confusion regarding roles and  
24 responsibilities. I believe in the use  
25 of technology to increase efficiencies



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2 and to expand PPD's footprint while  
3 preserving the constitutional rights of  
4 all who live, work, and play here in our  
5 beautiful city.

6 It is my role to position every  
7 member of the PPD for success and not  
8 failure. I believe in consistent  
9 training and accountability to ensure  
10 optimal performance and service delivery  
11 from every member. We will be a learning  
12 organization. And I also believe in  
13 working with others to break down the  
14 silos that too often impede progress of  
15 community engagement and inclusion.

16 In closing, I look forward to  
17 working with each and every one of you as  
18 we align with the City's five-year  
19 strategic plan towards violence  
20 prevention that will afford our  
21 communities the ability to exist without  
22 the crime that we all fear. This is not  
23 an insurmountable task.

24 I also look forward to hearing  
25 from those who will be testifying today.

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2 Their stories and their insight will give  
3 us the opportunity to learn how we can  
4 improve the services that we provide.

5 This concludes my testimony. I  
6 thank you again for the opportunity to  
7 present to each and every one of you, and  
8 I do have subject matter experts from  
9 within the Police Department here with me  
10 today to answer any follow-up questions  
11 that you may have.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

14 Vanessa.

15 MS. HARLEY: Good afternoon,  
16 Chair Johnson, members of the Special  
17 Committee on Gun Violence Prevention. I  
18 am Vanessa Garrett Harley, the Deputy  
19 Managing Director for Criminal Justice  
20 and Public Safety. I want to thank you  
21 for the privilege of testifying today and  
22 allowing me to share how we are  
23 continuing to expand our work to reduce  
24 gun violence in Philadelphia as guided by  
25 our comprehensive strategic action plan

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2 entitled The Philadelphia Roadmap to  
3 Safer Communities.

4 As you know, Mayor Kenney has  
5 made reducing gun violence his top  
6 priority, and the Roadmap details how the  
7 Administration is using a public health  
8 approach to solve this problem.

9 Moreover, the Mayor has called on all of  
10 us in the Administration to reduce yearly  
11 homicides by 30 percent and shootings by  
12 25 percent by the end of his second term.

13 However, we gather today with  
14 heavy hearts given the many lives we have  
15 lost in the most recent years and in  
16 particular in just the seven weeks of the  
17 start of this new year. And while we've  
18 seen reductions in the number of shooting  
19 victims in many of the hotspots that we  
20 focused on, we know we still have an  
21 incredible amount of work to do to ensure  
22 more lives are saved, fewer people are  
23 injured, and more people feel safe from  
24 gun violence in their homes and  
25 communities.

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2 For the survivors who are with  
3 us in the room, please know that our  
4 prayers, our thoughts, and our hearts are  
5 with you, and you are one of the many  
6 reasons why we do this work, and we want  
7 nothing more than to see the day when  
8 this violence is no longer plaguing our  
9 streets.

10 We know that much of the  
11 problem stems from the free-flowing tide  
12 of illegal guns in our city and those  
13 with criminal backgrounds who are  
14 prohibited from having any access to  
15 firearms. And while we need state  
16 lawmakers to enact meaningful gun reforms  
17 and allow cities and counties to enact  
18 gun regulations, we are not shying away  
19 from our responsibilities to protect the  
20 health and safety of our residents.

21 In fact, thanks to City Council  
22 and the Committee's support, our efforts  
23 to combat gun violence were significantly  
24 boosted this fiscal year by a mid-year  
25 budget transfer of 3.88 million to the

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2 Managing Director's Office. Those funds  
3 support our work to relaunch our focused  
4 deterrence effort known as Group Violence  
5 Intervention, our new Rapid Response  
6 Team, and the enhancements to several  
7 existing anti-violence initiatives,  
8 including the Community Crisis  
9 Intervention Program and Targeted  
10 Community Investment Grants.

11 I'm going to, having submitted  
12 full testimony, in the interest of time,  
13 I will abbreviate some of the testimony,  
14 but in the time that I do have, I just  
15 want to provide brief updates on where we  
16 are with some of these initiatives,  
17 particularly those that more pertain to  
18 victims and to victim services.

19 In regard to our Rapid Response  
20 Team, we have assembled the team and are  
21 in the process of actively recruiting a  
22 coordinator that will work under the  
23 Office of Violence Prevention. The  
24 Response Team is made up of key  
25 representatives from the City who will

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2 mobilize needed services and supports to  
3 help victims, witnesses, and others in  
4 the community after an act of horrific  
5 violence occurs and the Police  
6 Commissioner and the Managing Director  
7 determine that a unified crisis response  
8 is required.

9 The resources the team will  
10 coordinate will include immediate trauma  
11 support, long-term counseling services,  
12 structural and streetscape repairs to  
13 help stabilize and restore the community  
14 impacted by the violence. Members on the  
15 team include, but are not limited to,  
16 representatives from the Office of  
17 Violence Prevention, the Philadelphia  
18 Police Department, the Department of  
19 Behavioral Health, Town Watch Integrated  
20 Services, Philadelphia Department of  
21 Public Health, Philadelphia Streets  
22 Department, and License and Inspection.

23 The expansion of the Community  
24 Crisis Intervention Program, also known  
25 as CCIP, is on track to have 64 crisis

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2 workers on board by April of this year.

3 As you know, CCIP was launched in July

4 2018 with merely nine crisis workers, but

5 thanks to the support from City Council,

6 we have scaled up and now have more

7 workers to cover more hours of the week

8 when violence is likely to occur. This

9 includes not only the Thursday through

10 Sunday shift that we started with from

11 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., but we also have

12 coverage now Monday through Saturday from

13 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

14 These crisis workers are

15 credible messengers in the neighborhoods

16 they serve, and one of their key roles is

17 to engage individuals at the highest risk

18 of gun violence in an effort to

19 de-escalate tensions before situations

20 turn violent.

21 Moreover, with the assistance

22 of the crime data and analysis provided

23 by the Police Department's Operation

24 Pinpoint, we're able to be more strategic

25 about where we are deploying CCIP and

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2 proactively reaching out to individuals  
3 that we know are at the highest risk of  
4 gun violence.

5 We have seen some drops in the  
6 number of shootings in many of these  
7 hotspot places that have been identified  
8 as part of Operation Pinpoint, and Police  
9 have credited the presence of the CCIP  
10 workers with helping to achieve these  
11 results. CCIP workers also act as a  
12 connection to City services for those in  
13 the community, but they also provide  
14 relief services to the victims of crime  
15 as well as their families.

16 We also continue to support our  
17 community partners. At the start of this  
18 year, we announced \$1 million in funding  
19 for the second round of Targeted  
20 Community Investment Grants to help with  
21 increased services and supports in  
22 neighborhoods most vulnerable to gun  
23 violence. Adding the two rounds of grant  
24 funding together, we have awarded nearly  
25 \$2 million to dozens of grassroots



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2 organizations that offer safe spaces,  
3 career skill building, sports leagues,  
4 wellness and community revitalization,  
5 and some services to victims as well.

6 These grant programs are based on  
7 research that shows how more local  
8 organizations focused on reducing  
9 violence and building stronger  
10 communities can bring down homicide and  
11 violence crime rates in major cities.

12 Funding is awarded to community-based  
13 organizations based partly on data and  
14 analysis provided by Operation Pinpoint.

15 In all, we continue to be data  
16 driven as we work to implement new  
17 initiatives and expand existing programs  
18 that we find are effective in reducing  
19 gun violence. Moreover, as we begin to  
20 undergo more formal evaluations of our  
21 work, we will continue to adjust our  
22 approach based on what the evidence shows  
23 is working and what is not.

24 As I've said at other times  
25 before, gun violence impacts all of us.

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2 We all carry the stress and the pain of  
3 this senseless violence. We're all  
4 impacted in some way by it, whether  
5 physically, emotionally, financially,  
6 personally or indirectly.

7 We know the problem has many  
8 complex angles, but there are solutions  
9 guided by data and research, informed by  
10 the community, and implemented with  
11 conviction that can make a tremendous  
12 difference. We are working towards those  
13 solutions every day. For us, this work  
14 is deeply personal, and nothing short of  
15 success is acceptable.

16 We continue to be very grateful  
17 for Council's support of our initiatives.  
18 We know that together we will create a  
19 safer, healthier, more vibrant  
20 Philadelphia for all who work, live, and  
21 play in our great city.

22 Thank you for your time today.  
23 I'll be happy to respond to any  
24 questions, along with the help of some of  
25 my content experts.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 Ruth.

4 DR. ABAYA: Good afternoon. I

5 am Dr. Ruth Abaya, the Injury Prevention

6 Program Manager for the Philadelphia

7 Department of Public Health.

8 Councilpersons Johnson and Jones,

9 Committee members, and also especially to

10 the victims and co-victims of crime who

11 are present here today, thank you so much

12 for inviting me to speak with you.

13 We are all here because we have

14 witnessed in our various roles throughout

15 the City the damage that firearm violence

16 inflicts on Philadelphia communities.

17 Despite our collective commitment to

18 reducing firearm violence, from our

19 government and community leaders to

20 healthcare communities and the everyday

21 citizens of Philadelphia, violence still

22 plagues our streets.

23 In 2019, Philadelphia suffered

24 309 firearm-related deaths and 1,154

25 injuries, and each death or injury causes

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2 untold trauma and traumatic effects on  
3 the families and communities that are  
4 affected.

5 We are also here because we  
6 don't believe this is a problem without a  
7 solution. Programs and policies that  
8 target firearm violence have been  
9 demonstrated to reverse trends such as  
10 these throughout the country. We are  
11 here because we believe that Philadelphia  
12 can be the next success story.

13 As I stated, I am the Program  
14 Manager for the Injury Prevention Program  
15 at the Philadelphia Department of Public  
16 Health. This new program housed within  
17 the Division of Chronic Disease and  
18 Injury Prevention is focused on  
19 approaching firearm violence as any other  
20 public health challenge. To this end,  
21 our program has a number of overarching  
22 goals.

23 The first goal is using data to  
24 fully understand the scope of the  
25 problem, where it happens, and whom it

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2 affects. Our injury prevention  
3 epidemiologist works at the Delaware  
4 Valley Intelligence Center with the  
5 Police, working with them to use the data  
6 to understand how gun violence occurs in  
7 Philadelphia streets. This partnership  
8 has been positive and fruitful, as the  
9 combined law enforcement and public  
10 health lens adds further insight into  
11 what we know about shootings and  
12 homicides.

13 One of our primary goals in our  
14 analytic work is to develop a dashboard  
15 developed on relatively realtime  
16 description of firearm violence trends,  
17 and this analysis includes shootings and  
18 injuries and deaths and ER visits, but  
19 also additional contextual factors and  
20 social determinants of health that we  
21 know coincide with gun violence.

22 Another goal is a comprehensive  
23 understanding of risk factors and  
24 protective factors in firearm violence.

25 This work spans a number of current

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2 initiatives and requires a commitment to  
3 data sharing and integration, as well as  
4 some cross-agency collaboration.

5 There are many violence  
6 reduction efforts on the ground in  
7 Philadelphia, and we hope to bring  
8 knowledge of how violence prevention  
9 efforts, in addition to other  
10 programmatic efforts that are geared at  
11 minimizing antecedents to violence, are  
12 capturing those at highest risk. This  
13 will enable us to look as a city at what  
14 works. As the foundation of this work,  
15 we're hoping to develop a comprehensive  
16 database for firearm victims that tells  
17 us more about them than their basic  
18 demographics. It tells us a much more  
19 complete story about who they are, where  
20 they came into contact with City  
21 services, and where those could have been  
22 points of prevention.

23 We have convened a firearm,  
24 homicide, and non-fatal injury review  
25 team which bring many key elements of

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2 City government and violence prevention  
3 organizations into the same room. This  
4 collaboration creates a unique  
5 opportunity to do two things - look at  
6 the same data together so we can learn  
7 from the perspective of our colleagues  
8 and review in-depth cases of firearm  
9 victims to ground our work in human  
10 experience and learn from those  
11 individuals how opportunities for  
12 intervention can be used to save lives.  
13 This group has identified data and  
14 information sharing as a barrier to  
15 assisting those most at risk for  
16 violence, a challenge, but not an  
17 insurmountable one.

18 Another primary goal of our  
19 program is to advocate for policies that  
20 are known to work, both on a local level  
21 and in the Commonwealth. We know that  
22 common sense gun laws make a difference,  
23 and Philadelphia has made attempts to  
24 pass legislation to save lives, but has  
25 been prevented from doing so due to

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2 preemption on the state level. We're  
3 committed to strongly advocating for  
4 policies that we already know work, that  
5 have been proven in multiple cities  
6 throughout the country, and that the  
7 people of Philadelphia deserve. We also  
8 aim to measure over time the effect that  
9 policies can have on violence in  
10 Philadelphia.

11 None of this work can be done  
12 without our partnerships within and  
13 outside City government. Our work has  
14 the greatest potential to thrive when we  
15 resist silos and work together with  
16 others who have the same vision. I have  
17 been privileged to work alongside the  
18 City's Office of Violence Prevention on  
19 the Roadmap to Safer Communities, with  
20 our colleagues at the Police Department,  
21 and also on recent efforts to implement  
22 group violence intervention here in  
23 Philadelphia.

24 In addition to this work, I am  
25 a pediatrician in the emergency



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2 department at CHOP. Those I see injured  
3 by guns are children. Regardless of age,  
4 however, violence is always a tragedy,  
5 and our goal is to see it erased from  
6 Philadelphia streets. We know what would  
7 bring us closer to that day, and we hope  
8 to take steps, along with our partners  
9 here in this room, to achieve that goal.

10 Thank you for giving us the  
11 opportunity to speak this afternoon, and  
12 I'd be happy to respond to any questions.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

14 Councilman Curtis Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 Some of these questions or  
18 these topics aren't for today, but they  
19 are for when we go through the arduous  
20 task of deciding our budget. So this is  
21 to give you a heads-up of things that we  
22 might be looking at. We will not  
23 abdicate our responsibility to pony up  
24 our share of dollars towards the solution  
25 as well. So I don't want you to think

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2 we're going to give you some type of  
3 mandate without finance. So we're going  
4 to tell you that from the beginning.

5 One of the things we did  
6 recently and what we're looking at is  
7 closure rates. One of the things for  
8 victims is closure and the fact that for  
9 too long sometimes, the loss of a loved  
10 one is compounded by the fact that the  
11 perpetrator is still out there.

12 Twofold questions to look at.  
13 One, we went to the Realtime Crime  
14 Center, the DVIC, and took a look at the  
15 apparatus there. It is impressive,  
16 600-plus cameras by the City, also with  
17 another couple of thousand if we include  
18 universities, PHA, SEPTA and others.  
19 What is missing, in my opinion -- and I'm  
20 going to look for your opinion during the  
21 budget time -- is how do we take cameras  
22 from apprehension of criminals to  
23 prevention of crime. And one of the  
24 solutions is live eyes on a virtual  
25 patrol in hotspots in Philadelphia to

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2 prevent and to apprehend.

3 So that is something we'd like  
4 you to look at. Don't need a complete,  
5 you know, 40-page report on it now. I  
6 want to give you time to unpack, but when  
7 you come back, we're going to look for  
8 some of that.

9 The second thing that I am  
10 hoping that you will take a look at is  
11 the relocation policy. Now, that is not  
12 just your responsibility, but it is also  
13 the District Attorney's responsibility as  
14 well. We put more money as Council into  
15 witness relocation, but I wonder -- and  
16 this is before your watch. There is a  
17 hotel, which will remain nameless, that  
18 we keep our witnesses in. The problem  
19 was, in one homicide case the witness to  
20 the homicide was kept at the hotel. When  
21 they walked out the door, the perpetrator  
22 was coming for another case. There was a  
23 proximity issue. And what I would hope  
24 that you'll take a look at is working  
25 with PHA, Philadelphia Housing Authority,

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2 and HUD to create a reciprocity where we  
3 will build ten houses in other areas, use  
4 them for a time for witness relocation,  
5 sell them, get the proceeds and build ten  
6 others a couple of years later somewhere  
7 else so that those people who would do  
8 harm to witnesses don't know where they  
9 are.

10 So between PHA and HUD, we'd  
11 hope you'd take a look at how we can  
12 bring that to scale so that we create  
13 courageous witnesses. In North Philly,  
14 South Philly, and parts of West Philly,  
15 it is like a small village, and although  
16 there was a crime committed, you still  
17 have to come outside, you share this  
18 corner store, your family member goes to  
19 church with their family member or the  
20 masjid. So we have to create a little  
21 bit of space so that, A, retaliation  
22 doesn't happen and, B, that witnesses  
23 feel comfortable that they can speak  
24 their truth and not run the risk of their  
25 family members or themselves being hurt.

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2 No disrespect to the law  
3 enforcement, but when you pull up to  
4 somebody's house in the car and knock on  
5 the door and say, hey, I'm here to get  
6 your information and the perpetrator  
7 might be on the same block, it doesn't  
8 take Dick Tracy to figure out that you  
9 are cooperating. We have to be a little  
10 more mindful of that, otherwise we lose  
11 witnesses.

12 So I'm looking for a plan that  
13 deals with some of those issues so that  
14 we can create more closure so that we can  
15 create stalwart witnesses that aren't  
16 afraid of retaliation. All right?

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

19 Before I turn it over to Dr.  
20 Speight, I just had one question for  
21 Vanessa. I know you talk about the  
22 collaborators who all meet. To date, is  
23 the District Attorney part of that  
24 collaboration? Because that's the only  
25 name I didn't hear when you mentioned the

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2 group of individuals you all meet with.

3 MS. HARLEY: For the Rapid  
4 Response Team or just in general?

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just in  
6 general. When you meet with the Managing  
7 Director's Office and that whole  
8 collaborative -- we talked about this the  
9 last time we had this hearing, and I just  
10 wanted to see if there's any progress to  
11 make sure all of us are meeting and we're  
12 all on the same page exchanging  
13 information. I just wanted to see if you  
14 have a representative begin meeting in  
15 your monthly or weekly meetings around  
16 just issues, because that was the only  
17 thing that wasn't mentioned.

18 MS. HARLEY: I do believe that  
19 we are making some progress. We are  
20 meeting routinely with the District  
21 Attorney himself and others in his  
22 office, particularly around going forward  
23 with the gun violence initiative, the GVI  
24 program. We have also extended an  
25 invitation to the District Attorney to

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2 join the executive implementation team  
3 for the Philadelphia Roadmap for Safer  
4 Communities.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Has that  
6 invitation been accepted?

7 MS. HARLEY: Well, the meeting  
8 will be coming up. I will be able to let  
9 you know.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
11 very much.

12 Dr. Johnson-Speight.

13 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Thank you  
14 all for your testimony. I'd like to  
15 address my first question to the  
16 Commissioner. First of all, welcome to  
17 Philadelphia. Mothers in Charge looks  
18 forward to working with you.

19 We've had lots of good contact  
20 with Lieutenant Davenport, been working  
21 with him over the years. Last week  
22 across the hall in the Caucus Room, there  
23 were maybe about 60 or 70 victims in the  
24 room. So many of their stories and  
25 testimonies spoke to the fact that

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2 oftentimes they are not able to reach the  
3 homicide detective or get some type of  
4 response from them when they call several  
5 times. I wanted to know how that's being  
6 addressed.

7 Are there any directives that  
8 specifically say when and how the contact  
9 should be made to families? Because we  
10 have some homicide detectives that are  
11 like family members to oftentimes the  
12 victims and then sometimes there are  
13 police officers and homicide detectives  
14 that have no contact whatsoever. And I'd  
15 like to quickly share a personal story of  
16 mine. Some of the folks in the room have  
17 heard this before, but my son was killed  
18 in December of 2001. In July of 2001,  
19 Justin Donnelly, he was 19 years old, was  
20 murdered. The person that murdered  
21 Justin lived not far from where he was  
22 murdered, and he used to walk his  
23 pit bull in the neighborhood and people  
24 saw and knew who he was and he had  
25 murdered Justin, including the family



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2 member, and the family members would call  
3 the homicide detectives or the assigned  
4 homicide detective, with no response. So  
5 this person was not arrested or was not  
6 picked up or anything, and five months  
7 later, the same person that murdered  
8 Justin Donnelly at 19 five months later  
9 murdered my son.

10 Ruth often says that maybe had  
11 that homicide detective been responsive  
12 to her, that maybe Ernest Odom would have  
13 been arrested and my son would still be  
14 alive today.

15 So we've been having an ongoing  
16 conversation with the homicide detectives  
17 about the response to families when  
18 there's been a homicide. We've done a  
19 lot of work. Mothers in Charge even  
20 compiled something called the Next of Kin  
21 based on Commissioner Ramsey that was  
22 here before.

23 I just want to read you this  
24 real quickly, because it kind of speaks  
25 to what we're feeling as victims, and

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2 this is called A Mother's Cry.

3 To the homicide detective  
4 assigned to the murder case of my child,  
5 thank you for the work that you've been  
6 assigned to do. My child was a special  
7 light of my life, the center of my world,  
8 and I, therefore, hold you to an  
9 extremely high standard.

10 I may not know the inner  
11 workings of the criminal justice system,  
12 but I am more than eager to learn or  
13 understand all that I can. I too want to  
14 see the murder solved that has torn our  
15 life apart.

16 I really need you to understand  
17 that I may call you at my worst moment  
18 when the pain of my child's death is too  
19 much to bear and I'm desperately seeking  
20 information about the investigation. I  
21 may yell or curse, but please know that  
22 my anger is not about you. It is a  
23 reflection of my pain.

24 I want you to know how much I  
25 respect the work that you do. I'm sure

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2 it cannot be easy to be surrounded by  
3 stories of untimely death and violent  
4 death each day, day in and day out. I'm  
5 grateful that you and your department are  
6 actively pursuing any and all leads.

7 I also know your job is not to  
8 comfort me, but maybe you can direct me.  
9 Please give me the facts of my case or  
10 even call when there's no news or  
11 information to report. A call to remind  
12 me that you're working on my child's case  
13 lets me know that you care, and it gives  
14 me a sense of relief to know that  
15 something is being done. It is more  
16 painful not to hear from you at all than  
17 to receive an update that the status is  
18 still the same.

19 I hope that you and I are able  
20 to meet where we are in a positive way,  
21 because we share the same goals. We both  
22 want the responsible person and  
23 individual apprehended and brought to  
24 justice. We both wish that my child had  
25 never been murdered.

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2 I thank you for your commitment  
3 to this community and your work to make  
4 our city safe for all of us. Sincerely,  
5 a mother of a homicide victim.

6 Again, a directive that is  
7 something in place that we can refer to  
8 or that we know is there that says the  
9 homicide detective must reach out to this  
10 family on a given timeframe.

11 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: So, one,  
12 before I let Chief Vanore come or  
13 Inspector Vanore come and give an update  
14 on the PERF recommendations that I  
15 reference, I want to acknowledge the pain  
16 here in this room, and I've said it many  
17 times before. As a mother of two sons,  
18 21 and 18, I don't know what I would do.  
19 I would be inconsolable, so I couldn't  
20 imagine.

21 With that said, all I can do is  
22 put myself in the shoes of each of you  
23 and make sure that any decisions that we  
24 make are informed by that very passion  
25 and emotion that I feel if it were to

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2 happen to my loved ones.

3 With that said, I will turn it  
4 over to give an update on where we are  
5 policy-wise and directive. And I also  
6 add too it's sad that we have to have  
7 something in writing to acknowledge the  
8 basic rights of humanity, but I also  
9 understand that everyone in this room  
10 won't necessarily be sitting in these  
11 same seats 10 years, 20 years from now,  
12 and it's important that we have something  
13 to memorialize what's the right thing to  
14 do so it's the same thing moving forward  
15 and it's consistent.

16 So I appreciate what you  
17 shared. Thank you for sharing that with  
18 me. And I will turn it over.

19 INSPECTOR VANORE: Sure.

20 Good afternoon. My name is  
21 Frank Vanore. As the Commissioner said,  
22 I'm the Chief Inspector of the Detective  
23 Bureau. So first I want to say the  
24 Homicide Unit as well as all the  
25 investigative units in the Police

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2 Department are my responsibility, and I  
3 can tell you this: There's no excuse why  
4 an investigator shouldn't get back to a  
5 family member when a message is left. I  
6 can tell you there's no excuse.

7 Absolutely none. And in this day and  
8 age, I'm going to do everything in my  
9 power. I know Captain Jason Smith, he's  
10 doing everything in his power to  
11 implement these, as you're hearing about,  
12 these recommendations that we had a study  
13 done on what we are lacking to really  
14 improve the way we're investigating.

15 So some of the things we're  
16 doing is trying to utilize something as  
17 simple as e-mail. You got to understand,  
18 some of these detectives are  
19 investigating, they're in court, and  
20 every now and then they have to sleep.  
21 So when that message gets left, we have  
22 to make sure that message gets to them.  
23 So sometimes it's not the detective  
24 that's assigned's fault. It's somebody  
25 else's fault that might have answered the

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2 phone that day and said, sure, I'll give  
3 him the message and that message never  
4 got relayed.

5 So we got to do a better job  
6 with that. We got to document that, and  
7 that's something we're working on every  
8 day. But some of what you have to know  
9 is, I talked to somebody right here in  
10 this room today. I hear a lot of  
11 stories. There are a lot of dedicated  
12 men and women in that unit and they live  
13 and breathe those investigations, I can  
14 tell you that, and they know everything  
15 about them, and if you called them right  
16 now, they could recite where you're at on  
17 that case.

18 So believe me, we're going to  
19 do everything we can to open that  
20 communication up and get that word back  
21 to the families.

22 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: And one  
23 last thing I would like to add. I would  
24 like to see some members of this  
25 community that have experienced the death

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2 of a loved one be a part of the  
3 decision-making that you all are going to  
4 implement and policies that you're going  
5 to create, that we need to have a voice  
6 at the table. I hope you will consider  
7 that.

8 INSPECTOR VANORE: I agree.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Ms. Aleida  
10 Garcia.

11 MS. GARCIA: I think we're  
12 still going to need you for my question.

13 Commissioner Outlaw, welcome to  
14 Philadelphia.

15 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank  
16 you.

17 MS. GARCIA: We look forward to  
18 working with you.

19 I have a lot of the same  
20 concerns as Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight  
21 just shared. My son, Alejandro  
22 Rojas-Garcia, was shot and killed on  
23 January 24th of 2015. It took about a  
24 month and a half before they apprehended  
25 the suspect, and that person is now



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2 serving life in prison.

3 Our story, as tragic as it is  
4 in a sort of Twilight Zone kind of way,  
5 we were lucky. For me to say we were  
6 lucky, it is kind of like a very strange  
7 thing, right, coming out of a homicide.  
8 But that month and a half, almost two  
9 months where I didn't know who had killed  
10 my son was more horrible than I can even  
11 express, and many of the mothers that are  
12 sitting behind you here today are living  
13 that pain on a daily basis.

14 We could walk to a supermarket  
15 and I can stand in line and not know if  
16 the person right next to me is the  
17 killer. Like it's a horrible, horrible  
18 way to live.

19 So I want to direct my question  
20 to both of you in terms of what I have  
21 experienced and what I'd like to see or  
22 what many of us have discussed that we  
23 want to see in the Homicide Unit.

24 I was fortunate to have Officer  
25 Sherrie Daniels come to my home. She is

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2 now -- now Latanya Acevedo is the officer  
3 in her place, and I cannot say more  
4 positive things about them. They were --  
5 they are amazing people.

6 I think that what she did as  
7 far as filling out the victims  
8 compensation forms for me and submitting  
9 them took so much off of me, because when  
10 we get a pack of papers, we're not in the  
11 mental capacity at the time to fill them  
12 out. So that's one really good thing.

13 I think that what I'd like to  
14 see for the Homicide Unit is more support  
15 for the detectives, because it seems to  
16 me that we need to have a system where  
17 the unit is reaching out to victims'  
18 families on a systematic basis. In other  
19 words, are they reaching out -- in the  
20 first three months, how many times should  
21 they reach out? Should they reach out  
22 once a week or two times a week? We have  
23 to have a system.

24 We need improved technology for  
25 these detectives, something as simple as

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2 each having a work cell phone that is  
3 linked directly to some of the tip lines.  
4 It seems to me something very simple. I  
5 mean, we have all kinds of apps and all  
6 kinds of things that can be applied.

7 Now, we're in City Council  
8 right now, so I would ask City Council to  
9 consider the resources for this sort of  
10 spending. Getting a cell phone, a work  
11 cell phone for detectives doesn't seem to  
12 me to be a lot of money, and yet this is  
13 something they need, because I know that  
14 they write the message on a piece of  
15 paper and throw it in a bin and hope that  
16 maybe it gets to them, and sometimes  
17 there's really important information that  
18 people are trying to contribute. So we  
19 often say that the community is not  
20 speaking up, but when we do speak up, who  
21 listens?

22 I'm also concerned of the  
23 amount of intelligence that we have in  
24 the communities in areas where there are  
25 high numbers of homicides and shootings

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2 as far as what's going on. So that's  
3 like -- I don't know. I'm not a law  
4 enforcement professional, but I'm  
5 assuming that you have undercover agents,  
6 that you have intelligence on the  
7 streets, and how is that supplying  
8 information to the Homicide Unit?

9 We have had high percentages of  
10 unsolved cases in the last few years. We  
11 have high numbers of homicides. 356 was  
12 last year. So I just think that's just  
13 really important.

14 And to your point,  
15 Commissioner, about the victims  
16 compensation, I believe that that's  
17 something that the Homicide Unit's  
18 victims officer could really help with if  
19 she had the support in terms of a team of  
20 people that worked with her, a team that  
21 would help to call back the families,  
22 that would help to set up the next of  
23 kin.

24 The last few years we've seen  
25 an increase in the next of kin. It went

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2 from being every few years to being about  
3 two nights a year. But, again, it does  
4 not replace the contact with -- you're  
5 probably wondering if there's a question  
6 in here somewhere, right? But I guess my  
7 question would be, what's your plan for  
8 this?

9 INSPECTOR VANORE: Sure. So  
10 some of the stuff you talked about when  
11 it comes to technology, it's also part of  
12 the recommendation, that we really  
13 increase our technology, and one of the  
14 things that we've done, if you've  
15 noticed, our clearance rate is not as  
16 high as I'd like it to be, but in 2019,  
17 it went from what it was in '18, it was  
18 around 42 percent, it went up to 52  
19 percent. Currently we're holding at a  
20 clearance rate of about 61 percent today.

21 Now, what effects is that? We  
22 have more detectives in the Homicide Unit  
23 that we were able to put in there over  
24 the last year, about 19 additional and  
25 two different promotion settings. Some

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2 of those detectives were more skilled at  
3 the forensics that we use now, video,  
4 cell phone.

5 A very small number of  
6 homicides are solved with witnesses now.  
7 More are solved with technology, with  
8 science, and some of these younger, more  
9 skilled detectives are really, really  
10 good that replaced our veteran detectives  
11 that left, are really good at putting  
12 that technology together.

13 So one of the things this  
14 recommendation had is to expound -- to  
15 really open that up in our Detective  
16 Bureau, and we're going to try to do  
17 that. Right now we're leveraging all our  
18 partners, State Police, Secret Service,  
19 the FBI, to help us with things like cell  
20 phone forensics, and we're doing our own  
21 and we're trying to get to the backlog.  
22 Some of those very simple things like a  
23 tower dump to show who is at a location  
24 could solve a case. That takes two to  
25 three months for me to get back in some

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2 cases. So it's very, very difficult to  
3 do.

4 So we have detectives working.  
5 We have to have probable cause to get  
6 that information. So it's a lot of work  
7 to solve one case.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I have a  
9 question in terms of resources for your  
10 Homicide Unit. So what's the total  
11 number of detectives in the Homicide Unit  
12 working cases for the City of  
13 Philadelphia?

14 INSPECTOR VANORE: I'm not sure  
15 I have the exact number of the unit.  
16 There's a sufficient number now in the  
17 unit that work it. Obviously the more  
18 homicides we get, the caseload management  
19 could be difficult to get.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's my  
21 point. So it would be good that -- we'll  
22 follow up with the Administration  
23 regarding this issue and also you,  
24 Commissioner, in terms of -- we talked  
25 about the budget process, because we're

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2 in a state of crisis right now. We're in  
3 a state of emergency, and our budget  
4 should dictate that type of attitude with  
5 a sense of aggressiveness to make sure,  
6 at a minimum, in that unit, right, that  
7 you have the necessary resources where  
8 detectives aren't burdened by the  
9 caseload. And obviously if the homicide  
10 rate is going up, caseload is getting  
11 larger. Things fall through the cracks.  
12 People get burned out. Because it's a  
13 profession as well and people have lives,  
14 right?

15 And so we would like to have a  
16 real frank conversation, what does that  
17 look like from a resource standpoint,  
18 because manpower helps solve the  
19 homicides, also the partnership with the  
20 community. Because the more we establish  
21 the relationship between the community  
22 and the Police, people will be more  
23 comfortable us sharing information to  
24 help get these homicides solved.

25 And so we will want to have a



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2 real frank conversation about that,  
3 Commissioner, offline just to really  
4 figure out how we can be supportive and  
5 really -- like this is not politics.  
6 None of us are here -- I know certainly  
7 not myself -- just for the sake of just  
8 being here, but really aggressively  
9 addressing this issue.

10 You're not in this alone. As  
11 elected officials, it's our  
12 responsibility, but also you have the  
13 community is standing here as well saying  
14 that they demand this of us as elected  
15 officials, and we represent the people.  
16 We work for the people, to be quite frank  
17 with you, and we have to take that same  
18 aggressive approach in getting these  
19 homicides solved.

20 And so that's all part of the  
21 conversation we would like to have  
22 offline just to see are we doing  
23 everything possible to address this  
24 issue.

25 Ms. Aleida Garcia.

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2 MS. GARCIA: Vanessa Garrett,  
3 this is for you to answer. So one of the  
4 things that I think that is very  
5 important for victims' families is  
6 information. I looked on the  
7 Philadelphia city website for information  
8 as far as where to go, what to do if I'm  
9 a co-victim of a homicide, and it's  
10 really limited.

11 I'm asking you if you could  
12 possibly do something about updating with  
13 it, because you have all this new  
14 information, that you could somehow  
15 update the website so that we can just --  
16 if someone asks like where do I go for  
17 this or that, that they could -- that  
18 there would be a place for them to not  
19 only to go to but to click on and that  
20 would kind of lead them to another  
21 website that would give them information.

22 Also in terms of relocation, I  
23 just wanted to say that that's a big  
24 issue amongst victims and family members  
25 for the same reason that Councilman

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2 Johnson outlined. So that's another  
3 issue that I think that we need more  
4 information on.

5 I know that in years past,  
6 victims of domestic violence would go to  
7 the top of the Section 8 list, for  
8 example, because there was a crisis and a  
9 need for relocation. I think the family  
10 of a victim of a homicide should also  
11 have that priority.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. HARLEY: So you make an  
14 excellent point. We are in the process  
15 of working on the website and updating  
16 it, and we're also working on and  
17 finalizing a resource guide that will  
18 both be in hard copy, but will also be  
19 posted on the website that will tell you  
20 various resources that you will be able  
21 to access in the community and in the  
22 City, period, for various not only just  
23 victim services, but where you will go  
24 for general information as well.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

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2 I want to acknowledge two of my  
3 colleagues. First I want to acknowledge  
4 Councilwoman Helen Gym for being here,  
5 and I also want to acknowledge one of the  
6 Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee on Victims  
7 and Co-Victims of Gun Violence,  
8 Mr. Anthony Murphy, who is the head of  
9 Town Watch.

10 I'm going to acknowledge right  
11 now Councilwoman Helen Gym, then  
12 Councilman Allan Domb. I do want you to  
13 be somewhat brief in your remarks, but  
14 straight to the point, because we have --  
15 today is about the advocates, just to be  
16 quite frank. They gave me a directive of  
17 wanting to come and have a voice here  
18 about specifically -- there's a lot of  
19 issues when you deal with the issue of  
20 gun violence, but we're specifically  
21 zeroing in on victims, co-victims, and  
22 survivors of gun violence and making sure  
23 they have a voice and a seat at the  
24 table.

25 Councilwoman Helen Gym.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you  
3 very much, Mr. Chairman, and I want to  
4 thank this fantastic Subcommittee and  
5 Committee members for really committing  
6 to this.

7 I also want to join my  
8 colleagues in welcoming Commissioner  
9 Outlaw to the City of Philadelphia, and  
10 we look forward to working very closely  
11 with you, but especially to the folks in  
12 this audience who came out, who are  
13 united in grief and a desire to see  
14 things done so very differently, grateful  
15 for everybody's presence.

16 So I think in pursuit of what  
17 the Chairman said, I am interested in the  
18 Rapid Response Team. I understand that  
19 the Police Department will pursue and the  
20 District Attorney will pursue a  
21 particular procedural path that I  
22 definitely think we heard could be  
23 improvement on, but I'm interested in the  
24 City end, and in particular -- because  
25 there's something about the Police

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2 Department, the District Attorney that  
3 has that path, but on our end as a city  
4 that is trying to heal communities, raise  
5 our young people, and give folks the  
6 confidence that in some of their worst  
7 moments they're not going to be alone,  
8 I'm interested in your Rapid Response  
9 Team.

10 So walk me through the first 24  
11 to 48 hours after you're alerted of a  
12 shooting or a homicide where the Rapid  
13 Response Team kicks into gear.

14 MS. HARLEY: Okay. So the  
15 decision as to whether or not the Rapid  
16 Response Team will be deployed will be a  
17 combined decision between Police  
18 Commissioner and the Managing Director,  
19 given circumstances surrounding the  
20 shooting. But once a decision is made  
21 that that team will be deployed, a phone  
22 call is made either to myself -- and I  
23 have with me Shondell Revell, who is the  
24 Executive Director of the Office of  
25 Violence Prevention and will be heading

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2 up the Response Team.

3 We immediately deploy the  
4 Community Crisis Intervention Team that  
5 is known in that area and community to  
6 assist with any needs, immediate needs,  
7 that the community may have on the ground  
8 that night. We do not deploy other folks  
9 that night. We try not to, simply  
10 because we know that the Police have to  
11 be able to maintain their scene and we  
12 don't want too many people trampling  
13 there and contaminating the evidentiary  
14 scene.

15 But a phone call will be held  
16 that very next morning with my RRT folks  
17 on the phone call and some assessments  
18 will be made as to what that community  
19 may need. We will also have folks out  
20 there talking to the community members so  
21 that they can identify to us what they  
22 think they may need.

23 Now, some things may be obvious  
24 that we can see or that the Police can  
25 tell us. If the lighting is poor, we may

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2 have Streets there to put up additional  
3 lighting. If there are some abandoned  
4 homes or something that we need to try to  
5 immediately get to because we think it  
6 may have been used in the enterprise or  
7 just for environmental reasons, we may  
8 address that.

9 DBH, though, is a key part of  
10 that team. The Department of Behavioral  
11 Health will be employing Network of  
12 Neighbors, because all of these  
13 communities are traumatized or these  
14 secondary or vicarious trauma through the  
15 violence, and services will be offered to  
16 those family members and they will  
17 determine what their appropriate level of  
18 services is.

19 If it involves a young person,  
20 School District is also a part of that  
21 team, and we may be talking to both  
22 School Safety as well as the climate  
23 officers and others about what the  
24 deployment of everything from grief  
25 counseling to whatever else the



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2 student or if the victim is a young  
3 person, they may need and/or sometimes  
4 they have siblings who are in different  
5 schools. So trying to coordinate around  
6 that and just any kind of service that we  
7 think we may be able to provide that the  
8 family may need at that time. And then  
9 we have ongoing follow-up conversations  
10 and meetings.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: So in the  
12 interest of time, because I want to  
13 respect the fact that we have a long list  
14 and some of my other colleagues may want  
15 to ask questions, I think what I wanted  
16 to say was what can a victim expect to  
17 get from the City? I know that the City  
18 will kick into gear. I have no doubt  
19 that people will be extraordinarily busy.

20 I guess what I tend to hear  
21 sometimes and what I think we heard last  
22 week a little bit was that the victim  
23 themselves, what do they actually get to  
24 see. And I don't think you have to  
25 answer it here, but I think it's part of

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2 the question. Because, again, from a  
3 city perspective, we are always busy, we  
4 are out there, we're talking, we're  
5 collaborating, we're doing all this  
6 stuff. We're communicating, da, da, da,  
7 da, da. But I think what we sometimes  
8 miss is that the victims themselves, the  
9 innocent family that's grieving, that's  
10 angry, that has children who are going to  
11 go to school and are going to talk about  
12 this and don't have any other resources,  
13 what can they expect to get in the 24, 48  
14 hours? Who are the first City agencies  
15 that are non-PPD or District Attorney  
16 related that will contact them? Will we  
17 give them direct services or are they  
18 just going to be referred, which I think  
19 we're very good at case management.  
20 We're good at telling people, here's a  
21 card, go call them, but we're not good at  
22 making sure they actually get what they  
23 need, and that that connection kind of  
24 misses things for people, because in a  
25 moment of grief, you need people to come

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2 to you directly.

3 And I appreciate the  
4 assessments, because I think they're  
5 really important, but I hope that as we  
6 have some more conversations -- and I  
7 think this is where victims and  
8 especially the upcoming panelists will be  
9 so helpful to the City -- is that you  
10 will tell us which agencies came to you  
11 from the City first, what did they offer,  
12 was it useful, what agencies do you wish  
13 had picked up the phone and called you  
14 first, and maybe we can get a little bit  
15 better that way. And I think it's not to  
16 say that there's not going to be a back  
17 and forth, but that's something that I'm  
18 interested in and certainly from the  
19 victims' perspective, I would like to  
20 hear who contacted you first, what did  
21 they say, and who should have contacted  
22 you first. And I think we'll get --  
23 we'll find a better way to make sure that  
24 our Rapid Response Team is particularly  
25 reacting to actually what victims and

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2 families say that they want and need.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Councilman Domb.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,  
7 Councilmember Johnson, and thank you to  
8 Councilmember Jones for co-hosting this  
9 Committee and having it today.

10 And I want to thank everyone  
11 who is participating today and especially  
12 the new Commissioner. Welcome to  
13 Philadelphia. And realize that you've  
14 only been here two weeks, so --

15 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Almost.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Almost two  
17 weeks. And thank you for taking the job,  
18 by the way. This is not an easy job.

19 Philadelphia Inquirer  
20 reported -- I'm going to be brief --  
21 crime is the number one issue in the City  
22 of Philadelphia. Number one issue. We,  
23 along with you, have that obligation to  
24 attack that in every way we can, whether  
25 it's the victims or stopping the crime.

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2 And so really my message is brief.

3 Whatever tools you need, if you need to  
4 hire more police, if you need more  
5 technology -- I heard you speak about  
6 technology -- if you need more cameras,  
7 if you need drone systems, whatever you  
8 need, you need to come to us, and we  
9 should be supportive of it.

10 So thank you, and good luck.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Thank  
13 you.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 Dr. Speight.

16 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: This is  
17 for Deputy Managing Director. Thank you  
18 for all that you're doing on this issue,  
19 especially to support oftentimes that is  
20 given to many of the community  
21 organizations of late, but we don't seem  
22 to be putting a real dent in what is  
23 happening. As stated earlier, the  
24 numbers are even increasing more than  
25 they did even last year.

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2           There are some models out  
3 there. Because Mothers in Charge is a  
4 national organization, I get to travel  
5 across the country, and there's some  
6 organizations in certain cities across  
7 the country that are doing things that  
8 have a model that is working. They've  
9 seen a real reduction in the number of  
10 homicides, up in California being one of  
11 them. We have a chapter in San Francisco  
12 and LA.

13           What is the City of  
14 Philadelphia doing in terms of looking at  
15 models that have the data that support  
16 the reduction in homicides?

17           MS. HARLEY: So we are  
18 definitely trying to look at what's out  
19 there in terms of evidence-based programs  
20 and best practices. We have -- I  
21 actually just came from Detroit last  
22 night looking at one of their models in  
23 terms of what they're doing. We're doing  
24 some peer-to-peer with other cities.

25           One of the examples is the gun

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2 violence intervention or Group Violence  
3 Intervention as it's called, GVI, that we  
4 are getting ready to embark on, and we  
5 know that it has had success in other  
6 jurisdictions. So we do peer with other  
7 partners.

8 We do have my senior director  
9 of the Office of Violence Prevention is  
10 here, Theron Pride, and he is sort of our  
11 national expert, as he was in the Obama  
12 Administration for those eight years  
13 doing this type of work in terms of  
14 what's out there. So we do do that level  
15 of research, and we have talked to and  
16 have met with many criminologists and  
17 others who do this kind of work.

18 For our CCIP team, we are now  
19 working with Gary Slutkin and the Cure  
20 Violence model. It's kind of that model  
21 already, but to have some additional  
22 training done for those folks. But  
23 desperately we are looking for whatever  
24 we think may work and will continue to  
25 look and are always open to ideas that

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2 others may be able to bring forth.

3 So you're traveling, if you see  
4 some models that you think may be  
5 feasible, certainly open to talking about  
6 them. As I know you are embarking on  
7 LIPSTICK, one of the models that they're  
8 doing in Boston and other stuff. So  
9 definitely open to whatever else you may  
10 see.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 Councilwoman Bass and then  
14 Councilman Green, and then we'll call our  
15 next panel.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 Good afternoon, everybody. I  
19 want to first start out by welcoming our  
20 new Commissioner. Welcome to  
21 Philadelphia. And I'd like to give a  
22 thanks to all of your officers and the  
23 leadership here for the Philadelphia  
24 Police Department that are in attendance.  
25 And because all politics is local, I want



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2 to also thank in the 14th District  
3 Captain Smith, the 35th District Captain  
4 Zimmerman, in the 39th Captain Ginaldi,  
5 our Northwest Inspector Beaufort, and of  
6 course Chief Inspector Dales, who is my  
7 buddy here. We go way back. I know  
8 exactly what you mean in terms of the  
9 effectiveness, because we just had a  
10 meeting just this week about some issues  
11 in my district, and there's just so much  
12 concern.

13 Crime is the number one issue  
14 really in Philadelphia among most  
15 Philadelphians. People feel very  
16 concerned. It's a time like none other,  
17 as far as I know, and I'm someone who was  
18 born and raised in the City of  
19 Philadelphia and know how rough of a city  
20 this can really be, but I have to say it  
21 just feels that we need some help. We  
22 desperately need some help.

23 From our meeting the other day,  
24 one of the things that occurred to me and  
25 we talked about it in the meeting is

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2 regarding the tools that are in the  
3 toolbox for the Philadelphia Police  
4 Department and what is needed. And so  
5 some of the things that came out of our  
6 meeting were the discussion around  
7 loitering, a discussion around the quick  
8 turnaround on arrest. So someone is  
9 arrested and then they're turned back  
10 around and it feels like five minutes  
11 later they're right back where they were  
12 doing exactly what they were doing. And  
13 so we issue these CVNs, but to what end?  
14 Because we're not collecting on them as  
15 the City of Philadelphia.

16 So the whole system really  
17 needs some help. A lot of people feel  
18 like, oh, well, it's okay to purchase  
19 marijuana. There's nothing wrong with  
20 marijuana. Well, I have to tell you in  
21 the Northwest, in Germantown, most of the  
22 gun violence, the violence that we see is  
23 around marijuana sales, and even to the  
24 point where we had someone who was  
25 delivering marijuana who ended up being a

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2 victim of homicide who was in a more  
3 affluent neighborhood and who was -- I  
4 told the folks in the meeting, you're  
5 inviting that kind of activity into your  
6 neighborhood by ordering sort of like a  
7 drug delivery, if you will.

8 And so these are the kind of  
9 things that I think that we need to  
10 address. I'd just ask that as you all  
11 are doing your assessment, that you think  
12 about what are the tools that you need in  
13 terms of legislative adjustments that we  
14 can make around loitering. We know that  
15 you can't just move people off the  
16 street, but the idea that you have 20  
17 people standing outside of a corner  
18 store, it's inviting a particular  
19 activity. It's inviting some of the  
20 things that we see in our neighborhoods  
21 that are not positive.

22 When we see that the quick  
23 turnaround on arrests on people over and  
24 over and over again -- I'm not talking  
25 about a one-off. I'm talking about

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2 you're picking up the same people day  
3 after day after day or you're issuing  
4 them a ticket. Something has to give  
5 here. We have to do something  
6 differently.

7 And so to that end, I just say  
8 as you all do your assessment, just to  
9 really let us know what it is that we can  
10 do legislatively to be of assistance.

11 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're  
13 welcome.

14 Councilman Green.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Chair.

17 I want to thank the members of  
18 the Special Committee. I also want to  
19 thank and welcome Commissioner Outlaw  
20 here to the City of Philadelphia as well  
21 as members of the panel.

22 I'll be very brief. Today's  
23 hearing is really to focus on victims and  
24 their issues, and so I'll keep my  
25 questions to that regard.

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2 As I was listening to one of  
3 our Special Committee members,  
4 Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, talk about  
5 the issues of technology and victims not  
6 getting information, hopefully when we  
7 get to the budget process, some of the  
8 information will be provided in the  
9 budget testimony coming back to City  
10 Council so we can hear about how you're  
11 making sure information and you have all  
12 the tools and resources that you need to  
13 better communicate with victims.

14 But as I was listening to the  
15 testimony, I have to draw back on my  
16 experience as a former Assistant District  
17 Attorney, and often the first contact  
18 that victims have come from Victim  
19 Services. And so when I heard about the  
20 website that the Police Department  
21 started August 2019,  
22 phillyunsolvedmurders.com, and then, Ms.  
23 Garrett Harley, you talked about the  
24 website you're creating, that's two  
25 different websites, and from a victim's

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2 perspective, you're all the City. I  
3 mean, so we have to kind of get away from  
4 these different silos.

5 So is there any possibility  
6 that those either websites -- I know from  
7 the Police Department, some things you  
8 maybe cannot collaborate, but from a  
9 victims perspective, having one place to  
10 go to will be a lot helpful. So I think  
11 we need to have more collaboration and  
12 less silos.

13 So could you talk about that  
14 possibly and other collaboration?  
15 Because from a victim perspective, not  
16 knowing which website to go to for  
17 information is challenging when they're  
18 dealing with a very struggling situation  
19 when they've been the victim of crime or  
20 dealing with family members who have  
21 victims of crime.

22 MS. HARLEY: I think the  
23 website that I was referring to is  
24 slightly different. It is about  
25 enhancing the Office of Violence

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2 Prevention website with general  
3 information about the work that we're  
4 doing in trying to combat the violence in  
5 the City as well as potential places to  
6 go for resources. But we certainly could  
7 look into how, at a minimum, we could at  
8 least put where they're linked so that  
9 they're easily navigatable between the  
10 two different websites.

11 But I certainly respect what  
12 you're saying in terms of making it  
13 easier, user friendly, and not going in a  
14 silo so that people are able to get the  
15 information that they need readily  
16 available.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chair.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
20 very much.

21 Could the Clerk please call --  
22 first and foremost, thank you for your  
23 testimony. Appreciate it.

24 Can the Clerk please call the  
25 next panel.

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2 THE CLERK: Terrell Bullock,  
3 M'kiyah Martin.

4 (Audience member speaking out.)

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

6 Commissioner, if you don't mind. That's  
7 okay.

8 She's sitting right there, sir.  
9 She's not going anywhere. All right,  
10 Mr. Crawford.

11 Would the Clerk please call the  
12 next panel.

13 (Witnesses approached witness  
14 table.)

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just state  
16 your name for the record and please  
17 begin.

18 MR. BULLOCK-WALLINGTON:  
19 Terrell Bullock.

20 MS. MARTIN: M'kiyah Martin.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You can  
22 begin.

23 MR. BULLOCK-WALLINGTON: Thank  
24 you.

25 Once again, as I already



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2 stated, my name is Terrell

3 Bullock-Wallington. I am a high school

4 senior at the Thomas Edison High School

5 and student advocate within the School

6 District of Philadelphia.

7 Thank you to all the people of  
8 the Special Committee on Gun Violence  
9 Prevention for the opportunity to share  
10 my story and concerns today before you,  
11 before Council and citizens today.

12 I am a Philadelphia native,  
13 born and currently being raised in the  
14 City of Brotherly Love. I believe that  
15 life is about truth, power, and  
16 perspective. The truth about gun  
17 violence is that the number of victims,  
18 99 to be exact, taken by gun violence all  
19 under the age of 17 over the 2015 to 2019  
20 year is way too high.

21 The perspective taken on this  
22 by many citizens is that it is a Philly  
23 norm and we just accept this reality, and  
24 "watch your surrounding" has become our  
25 riddle for ignoring the situation at hand

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2 while staying out of the way. Even so  
3 much so that it has shifted the greetings  
4 in our daily dialogue. An example, when  
5 we are departing from family or friends,  
6 instead of "I'll see you later" or "see  
7 you soon," instead we feel the need to  
8 say "be safe" after every conversation.

9 I'm grateful that as an  
10 individual, I have never stared down the  
11 barrel of a gun or had to duck and hide  
12 as bullets flew through my living room  
13 window. However, unfortunately, this  
14 cannot be the testimony for all.

15 I reside in Hunting Park, North  
16 Philadelphia and the common gunshots  
17 heard daily are almost as norm as if the  
18 traffic light was changing from red to  
19 green. Just two blocks from where my  
20 family resides, a young man was shot to  
21 death with his infant son wrapped in his  
22 arms over a simple argument.

23 Another time, I can recall a  
24 close friend who is like a brother to me,  
25 his door was shot at twice with his

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2 family inside, without any knowledge of  
3 why anyone would want to do this.

4 Thankfully no one was physically harmed  
5 in this particular incident. However, it  
6 does not justify this immoral act.

7 I often ponder what if the  
8 first incident was just two blocks north.  
9 It could have been my family in danger,  
10 or if the family of my friend was sitting  
11 in close proximity to the window.

12 I believe the issue of gun  
13 control is not to be reactive by putting  
14 new laws in place; however, to be  
15 proactive by putting programs in place.  
16 An example, programs such as gun safety  
17 classes in our public schools to teach my  
18 generation how to prevent conflict that  
19 may cause someone to want to react in a  
20 violent way or also including how to  
21 defend yourself in a situation where you  
22 are held at gunpoint. It won't solve the  
23 crisis in its entirety. However, it  
24 would be seeds planted to grow a tree of  
25 safety.

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2 I spoke on truth. I spoke on  
3 perspective. The power in this action is  
4 to move forward. With that being said, I  
5 am currently working with the School  
6 District of Philadelphia to put on a  
7 youth summit called RISE, which means to  
8 rewrite, to inspire, to strengthen, and  
9 to engage. That will focus on gun  
10 violence and what students can do to  
11 create change. And this will take place  
12 on March 12th at the School District of  
13 Philadelphia building.

14 For a safe Philadelphia is the  
15 best Philadelphia. I believe that it is  
16 time to love to the full potential of our  
17 name, for we are not a city of murder but  
18 instead the City of Brotherly Love.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
21 very much.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Next I'm  
24 going to introduce a constituent of mine  
25 who recently had the opportunity to

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2 attend the State of the Union address.

3 Unfortunately for the person who runs our  
4 country, but fortunate for her to be with  
5 our U.S. Senator, Bob Casey. And so I'm  
6 going to ask for Ms. M'kiyah Martin to  
7 state your name for the record and start  
8 your testimony.

9 MISS MARTIN: My name is  
10 M'kiyah Martin. Good afternoon to  
11 everyone, City Council, parents, and  
12 fellow youth speaker. I would like to  
13 share my testimony from the State of the  
14 Union.

15 My name is M'kiyah Martin, as  
16 stated. I am 14 years old and I attend  
17 W.B. Saul High School for Agricultural  
18 Sciences, and I am here today to speak on  
19 behalf of gun violence.

20 First off, I would like to  
21 thank Senator Casey for giving me the  
22 opportunity to be his guest at the State  
23 of the Union address. I am truly  
24 grateful, because I'm able to see where  
25 it takes me.

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2 Anxiety, depression, grief,  
3 suicide, simple unhappiness, loss of  
4 jobs, lack of attention, and lack of  
5 concentration are only some of the  
6 symptoms of gun violence survivors. When  
7 you look at me, what do you see? A  
8 doctor? A lawyer? A teacher? Or a  
9 marine? Or do you see the next gun  
10 violence victim?

11 I would like to grow up and see  
12 where the future takes me. I hope it's  
13 not because of the color of my skin or  
14 the street that I grew up on that you  
15 don't see that I have a dream, and it's  
16 not a dream about freedom, however it may  
17 seem. It's about peace in my community.

18 I don't want to wake up every  
19 day and see a different person taken from  
20 me; not just me, also their brothers and  
21 sisters and uncles and cousins and  
22 mothers and fathers.

23 It's not about me -- it's not  
24 about you or me. It's about the gun  
25 violence in my community, and I'm not

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2 scared to wake up, but I'm scared to go  
3 to sleep, because just how many more do  
4 you see -- just how many more do you have  
5 in store for me to see? Rasul Benson,  
6 Suhail Gillard, Tanier Boram, and the  
7 many others who have lost their lives to  
8 senseless gun violence, they all had  
9 dreams just like me, but they don't get  
10 the chance to fulfill them because  
11 unfortunately their lives were cut short.

12 This matter is important to me,  
13 because our lives are valuable, and our  
14 generation is becoming extinct due to all  
15 this gun violence. I wanted to share my  
16 message because it touches a place in my  
17 heart knowing that all these people are  
18 being taken from their families.

19 I don't want to be another -- I  
20 don't want this to be another  
21 listen-and-forget thing. I hope this  
22 message sticks to you, because something  
23 needs to be done immediately.

24 Again, my name is M'kiyah  
25 Martin. I'm 14 years old, and I want to

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2 say thank you to Moshef (ph) Elementary  
3 and my mother, my father, my aunts,  
4 cousins, brothers, sisters.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Councilman  
9 Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: We should be  
11 encouraging you to talk about your  
12 future, about what college you might want  
13 to go to or what sport you want to play.  
14 It is sad to hear that this is your  
15 day-to-day reality, and it is incumbent  
16 upon us to figure a way to make it better  
17 for you so that that anxiety doesn't --  
18 you don't have to live with that every  
19 day.

20 It is not normal, and we don't  
21 want to make it normal, and we won't  
22 accept it to just be the way our kids  
23 have to grow up in Philadelphia. We have  
24 to figure a way when -- it is abnormal  
25 when kids get desensitized to the point



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2 where they play around teddy bear  
3 memorial funeral piles of teddy bears.  
4 That's not normal. And to that degree,  
5 we have failed you, and we want to do  
6 better.

7 So thank you for your bravery.  
8 Thank you for your testimony so we can  
9 hear from you.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just  
11 also want to echo the sentiments of  
12 Councilman Curtis Jones. We commend the  
13 two of you for your courage and, most  
14 importantly, your leadership.

15 For your youth summit that  
16 you're going to do around this issue, I  
17 think that's great. Again, prior to me  
18 becoming an elected official, I started  
19 my program Peace Not Guns, because I took  
20 some pain that I had and some anger and  
21 decided to be a beacon of hope inside the  
22 neighborhood, the same neighborhood I'm  
23 living in right now. So I commend you  
24 for the summit.

25 We should be wrapping our arms

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2 around this young man. I'm sure our  
3 education advocate, Councilwoman Helen  
4 Gym, you should have a conversation with  
5 her after this, because she's very  
6 passionate about the issue of education  
7 and also, most importantly, making sure  
8 we're empowering our young people, but we  
9 want to support you in that initiative.

10 And, M'kiyah, you just keep up  
11 the great work.

12 We see a great future with the  
13 two of you. Thank you for taking time  
14 out of your schedule for being here.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Will the  
18 Clerk please call the next panel.

19 THE CLERK: Rosalind Pichardo,  
20 Felicia Pendleton, Williesha  
21 Robinson-Bethel, Stanley Crawford.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:  
23 Mr. Anthony Murphy.

24 MR. MURPHY: Terrell, before  
25 you go, because you made a recommendation

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2 in your statement in reference to gun  
3 safety classes. My question is, at what  
4 age do you think that would be  
5 appropriate?

6 MR. BULLOCK: To answer your  
7 question, I believe the 8th grade school  
8 year is that time where people are just  
9 finding themselves as a student  
10 discovering what they want to do, how  
11 they want to lead, and it's also a time  
12 where they're transitioning from being in  
13 middle school, the elementary school  
14 phase, and going over into that high  
15 school experience. So it is imperative  
16 that they should not have to necessarily  
17 wait until they cross over into their  
18 10th or 11th grade year, but know that  
19 they can do something, know that there is  
20 actions to be taken before they cross  
21 over so they can take that information  
22 with them into their high school  
23 experience.

24 MR. MURPHY: And just one other  
25 question. In reference to other things

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2 you mentioned, what about anger  
3 management? Because you said teach them  
4 about preventing the escalation of  
5 arguments. So the gun safety at 8th  
6 grade. At what age would you say anger  
7 management?

8 MR. BULLOCK: I believe anger  
9 management, it should start about maybe  
10 even in the 3rd grade.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Well, my  
12 son, he better start at three. He's my  
13 youngest.

14 MR. BULLOCK: I say so because,  
15 you know, we often talk about what  
16 happens in the school and we often even  
17 hear about the school-to-prison pipeline,  
18 but I believe there's something more  
19 imperative than that, and it's called the  
20 home-to-prison pipeline, and I think we  
21 could set up an agenda where we start  
22 talking to people at that nine-year-old  
23 age and that eight-year-old age and ask  
24 them, what is causing you to act out,  
25 what is causing you to be upset, what is

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2 causing you to want to retaliate against  
3 a peer.

4 MR. MURPHY: Thank you, sir.  
5 Truly send my love to you.

6 MR. BULLOCK: Thank you so  
7 much.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 And for the professionals, I  
10 just ask you just to bear with us. We  
11 just wanted to make sure -- we don't want  
12 to hold the Commissioner all day, but we  
13 wanted to make sure also that -- and the  
14 sole purpose why we're here is for the  
15 advocates to talk about their issues and  
16 have their voices heard. So we just ask  
17 for the professionals just to bear with  
18 us just for a moment as we have this  
19 panel move forward. Thank you very much.

20 (Witnesses approached witness  
21 table.)

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Please  
23 state your name for the record and begin  
24 your testimony.

25 MS. PENDLETON: Good afternoon,

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2 everyone. My name is Felicia Pendleton.

3 First, I would like to thank everyone on  
4 the panel, the Councilman, for holding  
5 this special victims hearing.

6 The United States Department of  
7 Justice Office of Crime uses the term  
8 "co-victim" for families of murder  
9 victims. Therefore, I would like to  
10 start by saying I am a co-victim.

11 Ninety-five percent of  
12 co-victims feel like we have been  
13 overshadowed and swept under the rug by  
14 juvenile lifers and reform. Millions and  
15 millions of dollars that goes towards  
16 crime prevention and reentry, which we  
17 believe it should, we also believe that a  
18 portion should go towards victims and  
19 co-victim services.

20 There are 100 organizations in  
21 Philadelphia that reflect parts of the  
22 awareness of reentry, but rarely about  
23 victims. We are asking the City of  
24 Philadelphia to keep the same energy  
25 provided for those mentioned above and

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2 consider the victims.

3 Sixty percent of murders go  
4 unsolved. We would like every homicide  
5 to be investigated as if it was a  
6 high-profile case. We are asking  
7 detectives for immediate responses  
8 pertaining to all victims due to the lack  
9 of inconsistency.

10 It is now 51 days into the new  
11 year and we are equal to or less than one  
12 murder per day. That is a large amount  
13 of homicide victims in a short period of  
14 time, which brings upon the trauma  
15 impacted on their families.

16 As of today, a huge number of  
17 victims that still -- sorry. There is a  
18 huge number of victims that still resides  
19 in a hostile environment where they may  
20 be traumatized or re-victimized. We are  
21 asking for a specialist to be appointed  
22 to those victims, for a relocating  
23 assistant, and to improve and revise  
24 services already available.

25 And, last, a victim should

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2 never find out of a release of a  
3 perpetrator in a disheartening manner.  
4 The Offenders Relief Notification  
5 Service, which is supposed to contact you  
6 if the offender in your case comes up for  
7 parole, has been released from prison,  
8 escaped or has been moved. We ask that  
9 those that service -- those services to  
10 be reviewed, modified, and serve the  
11 exact purpose that it stand for. Let's  
12 turn the disconnect between victims and  
13 co-victims with the City of Philadelphia  
14 into a community effort to rebuild a  
15 connection.

16 I also want to say that I'm not  
17 just a co-victim. I am a fighter, and I  
18 will continue to fight until there's the  
19 last breath of me. My son murder was  
20 solved, but that doesn't mean that I'm  
21 not going to stand behind the mothers and  
22 the families of victims that has not --  
23 murders that have not been solved yet.  
24 And I don't want to leave here today as  
25 just another conversation. This



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2 shouldn't just be another conversation.

3 I'm over the conversation. Work has to

4 be done. We have to do the work. We

5 need people behind us to assist with the

6 work.

7 We matter. The victims matter.

8 The co-victims matter. We need to rally

9 behind the co-victims, because if it

10 wasn't for the victims, if it wasn't for

11 the survivors, what else would we do? We

12 have to stand behind one another, not

13 just reform, not just juvenile lifers.

14 If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be in

15 the position that we are in today.

16 We have to do better as a

17 community with empathy, being trauma

18 informed. It's -- this situation has

19 turned into politics. The people that's

20 supposed to support us has turned their

21 backs on us, and it's insulting. Why do

22 we have to work so hard as co-victims?

23 We are crying, barely could get up, half

24 behind sleeping, can't eat, barely

25 function, just pushing through day by

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2 day. Why are we doing this on our own?

3 It shouldn't be this hard. It really  
4 shouldn't be.

5 That concludes what I have to  
6 say.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
8 Felicia.

9 Yes.

10 MS. PICHARDO: My name is Roz  
11 Pichardo with Operation Save Our City. I  
12 just wanted to share a little bit why I'm  
13 here today.

14 I am a survivor of an attempted  
15 homicide, but also lost my boyfriend,  
16 Talvird Jackson, to murder. Case is  
17 unsolved. The person who murdered my  
18 boyfriend only served 15 years in prison,  
19 and I was never notified. The way that I  
20 was notified was, I saw him across the  
21 street.

22 Four months after his release,  
23 he murdered again, a woman by the name of  
24 Maria Serrano from Reading, PA. That was  
25 in 1994. He is currently serving a life

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2 sentence with no possibility of parole,  
3 after having to be re-victimized by the  
4 state to have testified against him and  
5 facing him once again in the courtroom  
6 that didn't protect me to begin with.

7 In 2001, I lost my identical  
8 twin sister to suicide. She suffered  
9 from mental illness, but was allowed  
10 access to a firearm even though she  
11 suffered from mental illness. So in that  
12 aspect, the system is completely broken,  
13 and my mom continues to mourn the loss of  
14 my sister.

15 In 2012, my little brother,  
16 Alexander Martinez, was shot to death on  
17 the streets of Philadelphia. They robbed  
18 him of his items and then took his life  
19 as my nephew, Justin, watched in fear.

20 The ripple effect that gun  
21 violence has had on my life has been  
22 overwhelming, and even a year after my  
23 brother death, my dad was gone because it  
24 was too much to bear for his heart.

25 So what is the City doing to

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2 help us, us doing the work and constantly  
3 being traumatized by the work that we  
4 have to do day in and day out working  
5 with families of homicide victims or even  
6 living in the streets of Kensington, as I  
7 feel like an EMS worker or a crisis  
8 responder. As a resident, I'm plugging  
9 up gunshot wounds, reversed 275 overdoses  
10 in my community. That is unacceptable,  
11 and this city is broken and we need to  
12 figure out how to fix it.

13 So I'm hoping, I'm praying that  
14 the new Commissioner can create some  
15 change for me, for my family, for my  
16 people, for our people, and for the City  
17 of Philadelphia, because we need it.

18 And if you guys don't know, as  
19 we sat in this room, an officer in  
20 Kensington was shot at and nearly killed  
21 while we sat in this room. Right up the  
22 street from where I live, an officer  
23 almost lost his life again.

24 The City is broken. What are  
25 we going to do about it?

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Crystal  
3 Arthur, then Stanley Crawford.

4 MS. ARTHUR: Good afternoon.  
5 Thank you for having me. My name is  
6 Crystal Arthur and my son, Christian  
7 Hamilton Arthur, was shot on July 15th,  
8 2017, and on July the 16th, 2017, he  
9 succumbed to his gunshot wounds he  
10 sustained.

11 Ever since my son, Christian,  
12 was murdered, I have dedicated my life to  
13 caring for mothers and families of  
14 homicide victims. I am an active member  
15 of Moms Bonded by Grief, which serves  
16 mothers in the Philadelphia metro area by  
17 giving them hope and help that they need  
18 to heal.

19 I am a mother who has been hurt  
20 in the worst way, and those who have lost  
21 children to gun violence have been at the  
22 forefront in the fight against gun  
23 violence, and we want to see change. We  
24 want families to be safe in their own  
25 homes and in their community. We want to

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2 be able to raise our children without  
3 having to worry that they will be victims  
4 of gun violence.

5 But the reason I'm here today  
6 is because I am a co-victim of homicide.  
7 Homicide co-victims are people who have  
8 lost a loved one to homicide, including  
9 family members, other relatives or kin or  
10 families of the deceased.

11 There is evidence from several  
12 nationally representative household  
13 surveys that show approximately one in  
14 ten Americans will lose a loved one to  
15 homicide during their lifetime,  
16 especially amongst the black and Latino  
17 communities. Individuals are more likely  
18 to lose a loved one to homicide and also  
19 face more barriers to support services in  
20 response.

21 Each year, over 21,000 people  
22 die due to homicide in the United States.  
23 Every homicide leaves behind family  
24 members and loved ones whose lives will  
25 never be the same as a result, as I know

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2 for myself. As a homicide co-victim, I  
3 face a range of psychological harms,  
4 including post-traumatic stress disorder,  
5 depression, and prolonged and complicated  
6 grief.

7 Due to the increased risk of  
8 prolonged grief and other psychological  
9 harms, this is what I believe co-victims  
10 need:

11 Co-victims, we need access to a  
12 variety of early interventions, which are  
13 often not readily available to us. There  
14 are relatively few services specifically  
15 addressing homicide co-victims' complex  
16 needs and even fewer have been evaluated.

17 We need Restorative Retelling,  
18 which is a group therapy program that has  
19 been shown to promise and improving  
20 victims' psychological well-being, and we  
21 need that ASAP.

22 We also need a wrap-around  
23 service and long-term care to fully  
24 address homicide co-victims' needs, like  
25 bereavement interventionalists, including

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2 help negotiating media and criminal  
3 justice systems.

4 One intervention that is needed  
5 involves a distress management program,  
6 which is psychoeducation coping skills,  
7 how to deal with trauma, processing,  
8 reviewing the traumatic experience and  
9 explain its meaning, promotion of healthy  
10 grief.

11 The field also need to improve  
12 evaluation to determine which services  
13 are most effective for co-victims as well  
14 as for different subgroups of co-victims.

15 The co-victims need  
16 policymakers and practitioners to focus  
17 their efforts on addressing the needs of  
18 homicide co-victims while also providing  
19 tailored responses for vulnerable  
20 populations in communities that may be at  
21 heightened risk of co-victimization and  
22 its ensuing consequences.

23 As the field continues to  
24 develop, the knowledge base and  
25 availability of services for homicide



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2 co-victims needs to expand to better  
3 respond to their unmet needs and support  
4 co-victims' long-term well-being and  
5 recovery.

6 And I thank you for hearing me  
7 out today.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
9 Crystal.

10 Stanley Crawford.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr.  
12 Chairman, if we could ask a couple of  
13 questions, maybe we can --

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Sure.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead,  
17 have a seat, Mr. Crawford.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Ms.  
19 Pendleton, thank you for your testimony  
20 today. How long has it been since your  
21 son was murdered?

22 MS. PENDLETON: On March the  
23 2nd, it will be four years.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: And as a  
25 co-victim, do you consider your surviving

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2 son also a co-victim?

3 MS. PENDLETON: Repeat that.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you

5 consider your surviving son also a

6 co-victim? It was his brother.

7 MS. PENDLETON: Yes, and my

8 daughter as well.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: How are they  
10 doing?

11 MS. PENDLETON: Their main  
12 concern be me. They are some of the  
13 strongest young people that I've seen in  
14 my life. Their concern is, is mom  
15 eating, is mom going to get up today, or  
16 they could sense something is wrong  
17 because those days, they are more  
18 attached to me than normal.

19 We just celebrated my son's  
20 24th birthday on Monday. He would have  
21 been 24 Monday, and the attachment that  
22 my 17-year-old son had with me that day  
23 is like he could just sense that  
24 something just wasn't right with me,  
25 which it wasn't.

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if you  
3 don't mind me asking or sharing this, how  
4 far was, in the number of blocks, was the  
5 perpetrator of the crime?

6 MS. PENDLETON: Walking  
7 distance. I still have a home in walking  
8 distance. The home is in North  
9 Philadelphia. In order for me to get to  
10 my mother's house, I have to pass the  
11 perpetrator's family's house. I share  
12 the same supermarket, the same avenue  
13 with the perpetrator's family. I  
14 actually went to school with the  
15 perpetrator's mother.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: I wanted the  
17 folk to hear from the Police Department  
18 that kind of proximity issue.

19 MS. PENDLETON: Very close.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Very close.

21 When you were questioned, how  
22 were you approached by the police? Did  
23 they come directly to your house? Did  
24 that cause a problem?

25 MS. PENDLETON: I was

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2 approached by detectives in the hospital.

3 Their main concern was my son's phone.

4 Their main concern was getting my son's  
5 phone unlocked. That was their concern.

6 But fortunately the detective that took  
7 over the case, he communicated with me  
8 all night long. Within 24 hours my son's  
9 murderer was arrested. They knew who  
10 they were looking for. He was on the run  
11 after killing three other people prior to  
12 my son, and he was 15 years old when he  
13 murdered my son.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: I want to  
15 elaborate one other thing. Was he a  
16 part -- how do I put this? So what was  
17 your son's murderer's living situation?

18 MS. PENDLETON: His living  
19 situation --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Was he a  
21 part of a group -- the term "crash  
22 dummy."

23 MS. PENDLETON: He was  
24 absolutely a crash dummy.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Would you

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2 explain that?

3 MS. PENDLETON: A crash dummy  
4 is someone that is recruited by an older  
5 fellow to do the dirty work. He was a  
6 gun. They called him No. 9, because a  
7 nine millimeter is the gun that he walked  
8 around carrying.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And so that  
10 individual lived in a household that was  
11 kind of shepherded by older guys?

12 MS. PENDLETON: Where he was  
13 picked up at, they said that the house  
14 was like a squatter house. He was the  
15 youngest person in the house. His  
16 co-victim that was also involved in my  
17 son's murder was 20 years old -- I'm  
18 sorry; his co-defendant.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just  
20 wanted the Police to hear what we're  
21 dealing with in neighborhoods and  
22 particularly neighborhoods that are  
23 closely bonded. I know in South  
24 Philadelphia you can see blocks away, and  
25 often the issue and one of the spillovers

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2 is that the reason why we don't even have  
3 block parties in the City as much anymore  
4 is because of that close proximity. Your  
5 block may be fine, but a block over and a  
6 block over the other way there may be an  
7 issue, and I just wanted to get that  
8 across to people.

9 Thank you, Ms. Pendleton.

10 MS. PENDLETON: You're welcome.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

12 Mr. Crawford, please begin your  
13 testimony.

14 MR. CRAWFORD: My name is  
15 Stanley Crawford, and a lot of people in  
16 this room know me. You know, I see a lot  
17 of our sisters and women here testifying,  
18 but trust me, when a murder occurs, it  
19 affect the brothers the same way, because  
20 at the end of the day, like I testified  
21 about my son, I loved my son and my son  
22 loved me.

23 Seventeen months ago my son was  
24 shot in the head, in the right chin, and  
25 his chest while he was getting ready to

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2 enter my daughter's house. So when my  
3 daughter and my grandson came down, they  
4 seen my son shot in the head on the  
5 ground in front of their house.

6 I always say -- I come from a  
7 large family, man, and I -- like the new  
8 Commissioner and all these police bodies  
9 that's in this room right now, Imma tell  
10 you my experience.

11 My son got murdered 17 months  
12 ago. My son murder is still unsolved.  
13 They know who killed my son. It ain't  
14 like they don't know who killed my son.

15 As I sit here right now today,  
16 I can honestly say I'm tired. I am tired  
17 of going around trying to get somebody to  
18 hear what I'm saying. And at this point,  
19 I don't even want to talk to nobody no  
20 more, because it's fallen on deaf ears.  
21 We sitting in here again right now this  
22 afternoon, yesterday four people got shot  
23 at 10th and Thompson. I was just  
24 informed that the young lady,  
25 19-year-old, died. So while we going

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2 through this philosophical, analytical  
3 process, people are dying, and nobody is  
4 hearing it.

5 I got some statistics. The  
6 year my son got murdered, it was 351  
7 murders. Sixty percent of them went  
8 unsolved. I did the math. That's 211  
9 people that don't know who killed their  
10 loved ones. You do that multiplication  
11 by 100, because each one of us have at  
12 least 100 people or more that loved us,  
13 that comes out to 21,000 people in the  
14 year that my son died that don't have an  
15 answer to who killed they babies.

16 I am told by the Police -- I  
17 had articles and research that I had  
18 done -- sometime it depends on the  
19 enthusiasm of the detective in reference  
20 to getting your loved one's murder  
21 solved. The detective that they assigned  
22 to my son at the beginning -- and I got  
23 it documented -- told the neighbors, the  
24 family is not cooperating. Then tells  
25 the neighbors, be careful because it will



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2 happen again. This is the detective that  
3 they assigned to my son case.

4 I'm sitting here 17 months  
5 later still trying to get somebody to do  
6 something other than blow smoke up my  
7 rear-end. And at the end of the day, you  
8 know -- I'll be honest with you guys.

9 The real reality of it is, and like I  
10 shared at Christian Stronghold, let me go  
11 out here and kill one of them Temple  
12 students right now. I bet you a dollar  
13 to a doughnut that won't be an unsolved  
14 murder. Let me go kill a prominent  
15 person right now today and I bet you a  
16 dollar that murder is going to get  
17 solved. Let me kill a police officer and  
18 one hour I'm in jail.

19 What I'm saying to you guys and  
20 plus the Police Department, I believe  
21 that the reason why our babies is not --  
22 murders is not being solved, because of  
23 their racism and because of the color of  
24 our skin.

25 When that Chief Inspector son

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2 got killed, in two or three days that  
3 murder was solved. So I'm not sitting  
4 here -- and I say this to myself and I  
5 say it to you guys. I will not sleep at  
6 night, I will not give up the fight until  
7 those who murdered my son is brought to  
8 justice. I can't look in the mirror and  
9 I can't be honest with nobody if I say to  
10 myself -- I don't care how much money I  
11 got. I don't care what goes on. That  
12 doesn't mean anything.

13 I tell people like I see it.  
14 If you got, especially like the male  
15 population -- and I hear people  
16 complaining to me about they son. If you  
17 got a son, love him. And I loved my son  
18 irregardless of his ill repeat behavior,  
19 because that was my son. And I'm saying  
20 to everyone that's here, and I'm speaking  
21 mostly to those of us who are the  
22 victims. I'm not even speaking mostly to  
23 you guys. The victims, we have to come  
24 together and advocate for our loved ones,  
25 because ain't nobody going to do it

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2 better than us.

3 That's all I got to say.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Crawford.

7 Can the Clerk please call the  
8 next panel.

9 Thank you for your testimony.

10 Oh, one question. I'm sorry.  
11 Ms. Aleida Garcia.

12 And, Crystal, we need a copy of  
13 your testimony. So if you can follow up  
14 with my office and make sure what you  
15 just testified about, we get a copy of  
16 it. There were some recommendations we  
17 want to take a look at that you talked  
18 about.

19 MS. GARCIA: Two things.  
20 Before you leave, before you leave, I  
21 just want you to each offer up a  
22 solution, one quick solution, and then  
23 I'd like to ask the gentleman a question.  
24 A quick solution. You gave a lot of  
25 solutions, so thank you, but if there's

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2 one thing that you would want to ask for  
3 today, what would it be?

4 MR. CRAWFORD: Well, what I  
5 would ask for is for the Philadelphia  
6 Police Department and the law enforcement  
7 of this city to stop giving us excuses  
8 about solving our loved ones' murder. I  
9 cringe every time I hear somebody on  
10 these microphones say that the reason why  
11 our loved ones' murders is not solved is  
12 because no snitching. That's putting the  
13 onus back on us to solve our own loved  
14 ones' murders.

15 If you got a homicide detective  
16 unit that can't solve murders, you need  
17 to clear it out and get those who can.  
18 Don't give us excuses about the workload.  
19 Don't give us all of these excuses.

20 Listen, if I'm in the murdering  
21 business, Philadelphia is a good town to  
22 be in, because if you got a 60 percent  
23 unsolved murder rate and I'm in the  
24 murdering business like she's saying,  
25 then why would I be afraid if a 2017 --

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2 2007 to 2017 there was 45 percent  
3 unsolved murders. That came out to 1,578  
4 unsolved murders. So if the Philadelphia  
5 Police Department that we pay to do a job  
6 ain't doing their job, then the  
7 higher-ups need to go to them and say,  
8 unless you do this job, you're fired. If  
9 I was in a job and I wasn't able to do my  
10 job, they would fire me today or  
11 tomorrow. They wouldn't say I have to go  
12 somewhere else to get this thing solved.  
13 And I'm telling you, the Philadelphia  
14 Police Department, the Homicide Detective  
15 Unit either need more people or need an  
16 assessment, because if they telling us  
17 that they can't solve the murders, then  
18 you in the wrong business.

19 MS. GARCIA: You just mentioned  
20 that you were talking about organizing  
21 other victims. I support that. Do you  
22 have something that you're doing right  
23 now?

24 MR. CRAWFORD: Well, I didn't  
25 want to speak too much. I got the

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2 black -- I organize the Black Male  
3 Community Council of Philadelphia. We do  
4 work in the City. Also I'm in the  
5 process of organizing families of  
6 unsolved murder victims, because we got  
7 to help ourselves.

8 MS. GARCIA: Absolutely.

9 MR. CRAWFORD: Ain't nobody  
10 coming to our rescue.

11 MS. GARCIA: Thank you.

12 Felicia and Roz, could you also  
13 offer one ask or one solution.

14 MS. PENDLETON: Well, one thing  
15 that I asked is for the City of  
16 Philadelphia community members, everyone,  
17 let's get to these youth before they get  
18 behind the gun, because after they commit  
19 a murder, their life is done. That's all  
20 I ask for.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
22 very much for your testimony.

23 Can the Clerk please call the  
24 next panel.

25 THE CLERK: Chantay Love, Kevin

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2 Bethel, Karyn Lynch, Keziah Cameron.

3 (Witnesses approached witness  
4 table.)

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Before we  
6 get started, Chantay, I would like for  
7 you to start us off. I just want to  
8 acknowledge and say welcome back to the  
9 leadership of our former Deputy  
10 Commissioner, Kevin Bethel, which I have  
11 110 percent confidence that he'll do a  
12 great job in working with our young  
13 people with the Philadelphia School  
14 District. As the Captain of the 17th  
15 Police District, we worked hand in hand  
16 day in and day out addressing the issues  
17 of homicides in South Philadelphia. He  
18 also took on one of the young men in the  
19 neighborhood as a mentee, which he didn't  
20 have to do because he has his own family  
21 to take care of.

22 And so it's always good to see  
23 you. Captain, you're also a former  
24 co-chairman of Councilman Jones' Criminal  
25 Justice Reform Committee, and so welcome

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2 back.

3 And I also want to acknowledge  
4 Ms. Karyn Lynch, who worked with me up at  
5 Graterford Prison. You went up to  
6 Graterford Prison with us to talk about  
7 how we can support the lifers and  
8 supporting us in this movement beyond the  
9 walls and getting to our young people so  
10 they don't pick up guns, and letting them  
11 know what the reality is in the event  
12 that they are sent to prison for doing an  
13 act of crime and violence. And so I  
14 thank you as well.

15 And with that being said, Ms.  
16 Chantay, we know your work. You'll talk  
17 more about it, but I just wanted to  
18 acknowledge these two individuals because  
19 I've worked with them as well in a  
20 capacity and don't get to see them too  
21 often.

22 Chantay, can you please start,  
23 please. Just state your name for the  
24 record and begin your testimony.

25 MS. LOVE: Hello. My name is



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2 Chantay Love. I'm the Program Director  
3 and one of the founders of EMIR Healing  
4 Center, which stands for Every Murder is  
5 Real. I want to thank you, Councilman  
6 Johnson, Councilman Jones, my sisters in  
7 this fight, Dr. Dorothy Speight and  
8 Aleida Garcia, my brother Anthony Murphy.  
9 And I want to -- I have a sorrow thank  
10 you that we're here together gathering to  
11 have this discussion, but I know that it  
12 is necessary. And to my sisters and  
13 brothers behind me who have been in this  
14 fight not only to heal but to prevent and  
15 intervene, I stand here with you that  
16 this moment of journey and time has not  
17 gone unnoticed, unacted on with change  
18 and change moving forward.

19 So EMIR Healing Center was  
20 started March 26th, 1997. He was my  
21 brother. He was shot seven times in the  
22 back, and upon that, what we sought and  
23 what we were looking for was some help.  
24 And what we found out in the City of  
25 Philadelphia, that there was a clear

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2 disconnect for victims of homicide as  
3 well as City workers, City agencies and  
4 those components, which I think that a  
5 lot of us don't realize is why you see so  
6 many survivor groups have started up.

7 And so we have the unfortunate  
8 thing of doing this 20 years, working  
9 with victims of homicide, communities  
10 impacted by homicide, schools, as well as  
11 other entities, and what we've seen and  
12 what we have noticed is that the  
13 disconnect is still there.

14 I will tell you briefly what  
15 some of the things when we were looking  
16 for help did not occur and why you see  
17 why we have created EMIR Healing Center,  
18 which is a trauma-informed and wholistic  
19 approach to healing families and  
20 communities. We've offered individual  
21 advocacy, case management, victims  
22 compensation, counseling, trauma-informed  
23 services, family counseling, healing  
24 circles, conflict resolution, nutrition  
25 assistance, crisis intervention, on-scene

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2 crisis response, referrals to other  
3 services, education about the criminal  
4 justice system, navigation through the  
5 legal system, emergency food, behavioral  
6 health and medical support, wellness  
7 programs, yoga, zumba, specialized  
8 healing through arts, and I can go on and  
9 on.

10 What I'm saying to you is this,  
11 is that community engagement and  
12 community partners and community  
13 grassroot groups have responded and are  
14 working together, have been doing it for  
15 the lack of connection of City group,  
16 City agencies and support of City.

17 We are a network, a powerful  
18 network, of individuals and groups that  
19 are fighting not only to heal, but to  
20 intervene and to prevent. And what we've  
21 noticed and recognized is that we keep  
22 having this same conversation about  
23 solutions that we are driving, we are  
24 pushing, we are moving and solutions  
25 that -- the refusal of us at the table,

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2 and that if we don't have the equity of  
3 grassroots and community groups at the  
4 table, you will not be successful. You  
5 have not been successful. It's not  
6 successful.

7 It is the pulse leaders and the  
8 people that not only mend the group, not  
9 only protect the community, not only hug  
10 the community, not only wipe the tears of  
11 the community, it is those men that stand  
12 up there for their community. And if  
13 they're not at the table as you make  
14 policy and legislation and make budget  
15 decisions, we're not successful. And if  
16 we're going to be a City of Brotherly  
17 Love and Sisterly Affection, it is  
18 imperative that you bring us to the  
19 table, that we have what we call equity  
20 of resources, equity of ideas, and true  
21 partnership and true collaboration.

22 We had the unfortunate part of  
23 serving for over 500 families impacted by  
24 homicide. That's just families. And we  
25 have the unfortunate thing to say that we

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2 connect with community groups and when we  
3 attempt to connect to City agencies, too  
4 often the best practices of the best  
5 people that look like us and represent us  
6 and understand the culture and the pulse  
7 of the community, without any support  
8 from the City.

9 We will continue to do this,  
10 like some of my partners will continue,  
11 because the City that we live in is too  
12 important. We no longer wish to say  
13 there was once a black man, because we  
14 are at that state where our whole race is  
15 being wiped away.

16 The sense of emergency and the  
17 crisis that is needed, not only is the  
18 comprehensive plan needed, but it needs  
19 to be executed with all of us.

20 What if, what if the Blueprint  
21 for a Safer Philadelphia that EMIR  
22 Healing Center launched the first meeting  
23 of community members, what if that plan  
24 included community members? What if we  
25 had a system that required points of

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2 budget that departments had community  
3 input? What if? What if I gathered the  
4 partners that I have and we all got  
5 together and began to mend the heart,  
6 intervene and prevent? What if the  
7 faith-based leaders, the law enforcement,  
8 education, human services, mental health,  
9 medical services, block captains, pulse  
10 leaders, community leaders, returning  
11 citizens, prison system, the District  
12 Attorney's Office and the Police  
13 Department, what if there was a true  
14 collaboration and partnership that looked  
15 at the impact of victims and the pain of  
16 that? But also reverse that, that all  
17 know that homicide and suicide is the  
18 ultimate destruction of not only life,  
19 but the possibilities, the dreams, and  
20 opportunities, is that if we need to  
21 reverse that and shut that down.

22 It is at that peak that a  
23 person has picked up a gun and decided  
24 that they will kill another person or  
25 blow they own brains out. It is the pain

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2 of having an environment that is not  
3 equal, to have an environment that we got  
4 to change. We're talking about  
5 relocation.

6 I've had the unfortunate thing  
7 to have to call people to move people, to  
8 move them, and playing chess to make sure  
9 we as community partners, we've analyzed  
10 the neighborhoods, can they go here, can  
11 they go there, who do I reach out to do  
12 this, who do I reach out to do that, and  
13 none of them are City. You understand?  
14 And that when we can meet with City  
15 partners in the bureaucrat of trying to  
16 get included to save a city, the red tape  
17 and the communication sucks.

18 We can't no longer do that. I  
19 won't do another 20 years saying the same  
20 conversation. I will add to the work  
21 that I need to do. I will bridge the gap  
22 with my partners. I will fight for some  
23 of those things. I will continue to do  
24 that. I will help uplift and empower the  
25 people that have been impacted. But

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2 guess what? I will challenge those  
3 leaders who say that they want to do what  
4 they do and want to do it well, that you  
5 come to the table, that you don't make  
6 policy decisions without us.

7 Thank you.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL:

9 Councilmember, I appreciate the  
10 opportunity. I wore so many hats in  
11 here. So I'm trying to figure out what  
12 hat am I wearing today. Today is my hat  
13 with the School District, as you know. I  
14 joined the School District three months  
15 ago as a Senior Advisor to Dr. Hite on  
16 school safety. Many of you know I did  
17 formerly serve as the Deputy Commissioner  
18 in the Philadelphia Police Department  
19 overseeing the Chief of School Safety.

20 For the interest of time, I'm  
21 not going to sit here and read testimony  
22 to you, as we've talked about that  
23 before.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just state  
25 your first and last name for the record.



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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETHEL: My  
3 first name is Kevin. Last name is  
4 Bethel, B-E-T-H-E-L.

5 So my purpose here today is to  
6 kind of talk about how we as the School  
7 District on our part from the school  
8 safety respond to the violence that we  
9 have in the community. One of the things  
10 that we've set up -- and I can just  
11 acknowledge the Philadelphia Police  
12 Department, not because I was there but  
13 because of where I'm at now and the  
14 continued support they give us. Every  
15 time there's an incident in the community  
16 of violence, we are allowed, through the  
17 Police Department, to be a part of their  
18 secure network that alerts us that an  
19 incident has occurred in the community.  
20 Once that alert comes over to us, we have  
21 investigators that are working 24 hours a  
22 day, seven days a week who gather that  
23 information, distill it down, able to  
24 identify what students, if that person is  
25 a student, that youth is a student.

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2 Because the School District goes up to 21  
3 years of age, we go all the way up to  
4 individuals of 21 years of age.

5 Once we have that information  
6 and we have a very good, clear indication  
7 what school they're at, we then pass that  
8 information over to Karyn Lynch for her  
9 purposes of activating their trauma  
10 response.

11 But let me back up. I can tell  
12 you, I think I'm looking over in the  
13 corner, and one incidence just recently,  
14 I got a call from Commissioner Coulter, a  
15 call from Commissioner Wimberly, a call  
16 from Commissioner Wilson, a call from  
17 Chief Dales, a call from Chief --  
18 everyone was calling me because of an  
19 incident around the youth. And so there  
20 is a strong relationship between the  
21 Philadelphia Police Department. It is no  
22 question that they care. I mean, those  
23 calls that I would get that night and  
24 those days were one of heartfelt desire  
25 to make sure that the kids are serviced.

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2 And so part of that protocol and that  
3 process is to move that information over  
4 to Karyn Lynch for her team, who can  
5 activate the trauma.

6 One of the things I also wanted  
7 to share with you is, one of the things I  
8 want to look at with the Police  
9 Department and was kind of something I  
10 talked about before I left was Handle  
11 with Care, and I believe Commissioner  
12 Outlaw probably is aware of this program.  
13 I haven't presented it to her at this  
14 point, but hopefully will. And more of  
15 the work is on our side, whereas the  
16 process where whenever there's a  
17 traumatic event in the community where we  
18 see a school-age child involved, there is  
19 a notification that comes to us at the  
20 School District where we can then  
21 activate and give that information to  
22 Karyn Lynch and her team to be able to  
23 know when a child walks into the door,  
24 regardless of whether there's trauma  
25 around homicide or any violence -- many

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2 of our kids, as you know, live in toxic  
3 stress every day. So just walking into a  
4 kid whose parents are being arrested for  
5 a domestic violence incident, being able  
6 to say, hey, you know, in the morning  
7 Kevin is going to walk through the door,  
8 we're not going to give the information  
9 of what happened, but he may or she may  
10 be a little different this morning  
11 because something they saw overnight or  
12 in their daily lives. And I think a part  
13 of that process is something that we feel  
14 is going to be very advantageous for us.

15 I did make a note to mention  
16 the summit, but I think my young men kind  
17 of promoted the summit around me, but I  
18 am supporting that with the team to kind  
19 of be a part of that process,  
20 particularly the data. And, again, the  
21 Police Department was kind enough to give  
22 us a lot of data to be able to use that  
23 information to move our process part.

24 So for the purpose of this  
25 process today, I'll pass it over to Karyn

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2 Lynch to kind of pick up the back end of  
3 what they do once we notify them that  
4 there is an incident that happened in the  
5 community.

6 MS. LYNCH: Thank you.

7 For the record, my name is  
8 Karyn Lynch. I am Chief of Student  
9 Support Services with the School District  
10 of Philadelphia, and I am here on this  
11 terrible topic to really share what it is  
12 that we do on an ongoing basis.

13 First, I will share that we're  
14 extremely pleased to have Kevin Bethel  
15 with the School District. Kevin does not  
16 promote as much his child-centered,  
17 child-focused perspective, which is  
18 something that he has been involved with  
19 for some time now. The Arrest Diversion  
20 Program has been something that has  
21 helped many of our young people receive  
22 services that are absolutely essential,  
23 and partnering with him in the past and  
24 moving forward partnering with him, I  
25 think and the Superintendent knows is

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2 going to be a great opportunity.

3 As Kevin highlighted, the  
4 process that we use when there has been a  
5 serious incident was in fact, I think,  
6 brought to us by the Police Department  
7 several years ago, and it's really, as he  
8 pointed out, intended to ensure that  
9 school-based leaders and school-based  
10 staff are well aware when a child walks  
11 through the room of a circumstance that  
12 may have happened in their family, in  
13 their community, in their home. We  
14 receive, as he said, white papers that  
15 gives all types of demographic  
16 information so that we can see whether or  
17 not there is a sibling that has been  
18 involved that might not be at the  
19 student's school but at another school.  
20 We can do the outreach that's essential  
21 to ensure that counselors, psychologists,  
22 individuals from CBH, if necessary, are  
23 all involved in the process of supporting  
24 the student, other students that might be  
25 in the school, supporting siblings, as I

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2 pointed out, and in the event that there  
3 are adults that have been impacted, our  
4 EAP program, Employee Assistance Program,  
5 is available for the staff that we have.

6 We have grown in our response,  
7 our understanding of trauma, particularly  
8 chronic trauma and delayed trauma. We  
9 have provided training to our principals,  
10 our school-based staff, and that's an  
11 ongoing process that we have. And I  
12 think it's really important to know that  
13 we are working very, very actively with  
14 other City agencies. I mentioned CBH,  
15 the Police Department, but also DHS,  
16 Parks, Recreation in order to make  
17 certain that where our students are,  
18 we're able to help them.

19 I thank you for the  
20 introduction that you offered. You  
21 mentioned the time that we went to  
22 Graterford. I want to highlight for you  
23 that just this -- next week we're going  
24 to Phoenixville, because we're doing  
25 training there.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Say that  
3 again for the record. You're going  
4 where?

5 MS. LYNCH: Yes. We are going  
6 to Phoenixville, that the effort has not  
7 ended, that it continues on, that we have  
8 parents that are unable to have direct  
9 contact with their children on a daily  
10 basis, and so we're providing training.  
11 And we've been up a couple of times and  
12 we're going up again next week.

13 I also wanted to give a  
14 shout-out for my colleague who came with  
15 one of the students today, Tyler  
16 Williams, who is actively involved in the  
17 summit, who works with young black men  
18 across the City, and he is working on the  
19 Superintendent's advisory group to ensure  
20 that young people have someone that is in  
21 their schools and in their lives that  
22 actively looks to them and develops good  
23 relationships.

24 And, finally, I really want to  
25 point out, one of the moms highlighted



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2 that other options are absolutely  
3 essential. We have a process within our  
4 Opportunities Network where young people  
5 who are above a certain age can come back  
6 to school and receive an education. And  
7 I want to highlight that we have, since  
8 mid December, had 1,162 individuals who  
9 have approached our reeducation program,  
10 our reentry so that they can obtain an  
11 education and complete their educational  
12 experience.

13 We know that the vulnerable  
14 population that we talk about is between  
15 the ages of 16 and 34. And so within  
16 that age group, almost 850-plus of the  
17 1,162 are within that age group, and 51  
18 percent of them are men of color. And so  
19 that's really important to point out,  
20 because they're coming back, they're  
21 trying to get an education, and they're  
22 finding other opportunities.

23 So I will leave it at that.

24 Thank you so much.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

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2 Young lady.

3 MS. CAMERON: Good afternoon.

4 Am I okay here?

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes. Go  
6 ahead.

7 MS. CAMERON: My name is Keziah  
8 Cameron and I am the newly appointed  
9 Director of Victim Services with the  
10 District Attorney's Office. This is my  
11 first time appearing before the Council,  
12 so I appreciate the invitation. And I am  
13 here because victims matter basically.  
14 They matter to the Administration, they  
15 matter to the DA, and they matter to me.

16 I've been with the District  
17 Attorney's Office and Victim Services for  
18 the past 17 years as a victim advocate in  
19 all different units, and this is the  
20 first time that I have felt that there is  
21 an opportunity to actually provide victim  
22 services to victims and witnesses walking  
23 through the system.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: That's  
25 under Seth and Lynne Abraham. This is

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2 your first time feeling that under 17  
3 years?

4 MS. CAMERON: 17 years.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: For the  
6 record.

7 MS. CAMERON: I'm not saying  
8 that we didn't do our jobs before, but  
9 this is a turning point. This is an  
10 opportunity to enhance, to become more  
11 accessible to people to -- we provide  
12 direct services to victims and witnesses  
13 that are walking through the criminal  
14 justice process. And many other services  
15 were mentioned here today, but for me,  
16 our most important job is to be the voice  
17 of the victim while they are in that  
18 process.

19 They were victimized by a  
20 choice of another and then thrown into a  
21 system that is both complex and  
22 confusing, which feels like it is  
23 designed to take power away from you, and  
24 our job as advocates in the DA's Office  
25 is to give that back, give some of that

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2 back, as much as of it as we can. And I  
3 recognize that we have a lot of work to  
4 do convincing people that this is what we  
5 are here for, but this is what we are  
6 here for. This is my mission, because  
7 for 17 years, I have looked at mothers in  
8 the face and held their hands while they  
9 waited for juries to come back and waited  
10 for questions, or even come because their  
11 car was stolen and it's so traumatic to  
12 them, but the person they got on the  
13 phone, it's just another car theft.

14 Everybody matters, and we have  
15 the unique opportunity to be their person  
16 in that office. We cannot always  
17 guarantee that the outcome will be what  
18 it is that you want it to be, but my goal  
19 is to make sure even if it's not the  
20 outcome you hope, that you know that your  
21 voice was heard, considered, and  
22 advocated for whenever that decision was  
23 made.

24 We started working -- I reached  
25 out to a lot of our community partners,

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2 like EMIR, who are doing that grassroots  
3 work, who have those ties in the  
4 community, and extended the offer of  
5 friendship and collaboration and  
6 partnership, the communities, agencies  
7 that we are already working with, trying  
8 to strengthen those ties, because the  
9 more they know about what we do, the more  
10 we know about what they do, the better we  
11 can help victims and witnesses.

12 We have tried to make our  
13 advocates more accessible to victims and  
14 witnesses so you don't just have a work  
15 number to call. We have given all of  
16 them cell phone numbers and provided  
17 e-mail addresses to everyone so they can  
18 reach out directly, not just get a voice  
19 mail or get bounced around 40 different  
20 times.

21 We have also implemented a  
22 three-system approach with Philadelphia  
23 Cares and our Community Engagement Unit.  
24 Philadelphia Cares is a peer crisis  
25 response team, and all of our peer

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2 responders are victims of a traumatic  
3 crime. Any crime is traumatic, but they  
4 have gone through that themselves, and  
5 they are trained in crisis response. And  
6 we work closely with the Police  
7 Department to get notifications of every  
8 homicide and non-fatal shooting involving  
9 juveniles, and our Peers Crisis Team  
10 responds to every single homicide in the  
11 City regardless of whether or not there  
12 is an arrest. They provide counseling.  
13 They attend the ME's Office with the  
14 family if they'd like, and they provide  
15 resources and services, and they also  
16 work closely with the community-based  
17 agencies to make referrals.

18 Our Community Engagement Team  
19 responds to every non-fatal where there's  
20 a juvenile involved. They work closely  
21 with us to provide services to the  
22 families.

23 You mentioned the shooting last  
24 night. Our Community Engagement Team was  
25 there on site with the victim and just

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2 trying to change the image to allow the  
3 community to know we are trying. We know  
4 that we have a long ways to go before you  
5 can look at us and trust us, but you will  
6 see it through our work.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

8 MS. CAMERON: The last thing I  
9 would just say is, we are also trying to  
10 start at the bottom. A lot of people  
11 mentioned our children. This is normal  
12 for them, and they don't realize that  
13 that is trauma in itself. So going to  
14 the schools, talking to the children  
15 about gun violence, talking to them about  
16 trauma, talking to them about grief,  
17 letting them know that that is okay.

18 The resource hubs that we have  
19 have been amazing, and we've had an  
20 amazing response from the community.  
21 Every month we go out to one of the  
22 communities that are most affected by gun  
23 violence and we offer a resource hub  
24 where you can not -- you can find not  
25 only active employers, people looking to

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2 hire on the spot, victim services,  
3 housing. The Philadelphia Police  
4 Department is always there with victim  
5 advocates. Our community-based agencies  
6 are always there, all-around resources,  
7 because we recognize you can give  
8 somebody a job, but if you don't address  
9 the issues that keep them from getting to  
10 that place in the first place, then it's  
11 not helpful. You need an all-around  
12 approach to our communities to make a  
13 difference.

14 And I am excited about the  
15 opportunity to work with so many of these  
16 people in this room and encourage anyone  
17 who would like us to be part of their  
18 effort or just talk about what we are  
19 doing, to reach out to me.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 Ms. Garcia, do you have a  
22 question?

23 MS. GARCIA: I have a question  
24 about Philly Cares, Ms. Cameron. You  
25 said that Philly Cares reaches out to



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2 every homicide?

3 MS. CAMERON: Yes.

4 MS. GARCIA: So explain to me

5 or walk me through exactly how that

6 works.

7 MS. CAMERON: So we get the

8 notifications from the Police if there is

9 a homicide or if there's a shooting and

10 if there's family on the scene. We will

11 respond to the scene if there's family on

12 the scene. If they were not able to

13 identify family, we get the information

14 the next day from the Police of the

15 identified family, and generally if we

16 don't respond to the hospital or the

17 scene, we will accompany the family to

18 the Medical Examiner's Office that next

19 day and go from there.

20 We provide immediate crisis

21 response in the first 72 hours, meaning

22 we check in. We go with them to the ME's

23 Office. We help them make funeral

24 arrangements. We answer questions that

25 they don't know that they have. We are

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2 there as their support, not to tell them  
3 how they should feel, but just to be the  
4 person that stands beside you and says, I  
5 am here.

6 And then after the 72 hours,  
7 there is a 45-day window where we do  
8 follow-up once a month or more, if it's  
9 needed, to make sure that they are  
10 connected with any resources that they  
11 need, to check in and ask how they're  
12 doing, to provide counseling resources.  
13 If there's an arrest, then they bring in  
14 the homicide victim advocates to let them  
15 know who their coordinator is going to be  
16 and to give them that information on how  
17 that is going to proceed.

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I had a  
19 question. What's the amount of staff  
20 that works with you? Because I know -- I  
21 asked this of the Police as well, because  
22 I know we're in a crisis right now as a  
23 city, right? And obviously you have more  
24 homicides, then the type of manpower  
25 that's dedicated to addressing the

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2 homicides and addressing the additional  
3 amount of victims and victim families  
4 that are going to be coming through the  
5 District Attorney's Office, obviously  
6 that's going to increase because you have  
7 more court cases.

8 What's the number of staff that  
9 you have dedicated to working on this?

10 MS. CAMERON: So Cares  
11 currently has 20 staff, two full-time  
12 District Attorney Office staff and 18  
13 peer responders. Most of them have a  
14 dedicated city, but all will respond when  
15 needed. We have four homicide victim  
16 witness coordinators that work in the  
17 District Attorney's Office that are  
18 responsible for the cases coming through  
19 the system. We also partner with  
20 families of murder victims to staff the  
21 courtrooms for the preliminary hearing  
22 rooms. So every family member is  
23 represented. Cares has a court liaison  
24 as well that goes to court on Cares cases  
25 and provides support in the courtroom.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 Ms. Chantay Love, I just want  
4 you to state for the record -- we talked  
5 about in the roundtable discussion  
6 regarding equitable resources, right?

7 MS. LOVE: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And there  
9 was an example given that when the  
10 killings took place -- and obviously we  
11 don't want to see any killings anywhere  
12 in America, but there was a level of  
13 support in Sandy Hook. I think it was  
14 Ms. Dorothy that mentioned the level of  
15 support that came into the Sandy Hook  
16 School. There was so much that you had  
17 to turn away, so much support. And then  
18 you went and gave an analogy of the type  
19 of support that the victim advocacy  
20 groups are receiving from the City of  
21 Philadelphia. Do you want to elaborate  
22 and kind of exemplify how that  
23 conversation went at the roundtable  
24 discussion, please.

25 MS. LOVE: Which part of it?

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2 Give me more.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: The amount  
4 of resources and support that comes  
5 from --

6 MS. LOVE: Oh, okay. So the  
7 question that was posed was that there  
8 are survivor groups and community groups  
9 that are doing this work, and my question  
10 was how many of them are being funded by  
11 the City. 90 percent of their budget, no  
12 one stood up. 80 percent of their  
13 budget, no one stood up. 70 percent of  
14 their budget, no one stood up. 60  
15 percent of their budget, no one stood up.  
16 I went down to 10 percent of their  
17 budget, and no one stood up. And I  
18 brought that to say that when I say  
19 equity at the table, there is enough for  
20 us to spread it around for those that are  
21 doing the work to be supported and that  
22 we come together to give them that  
23 support.

24 Some of them are doing work  
25 that -- they may not do the extent or the

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2 magnitude or create a comprehensive  
3 center like myself and my other  
4 colleagues, but they should be supported  
5 if they want to have a support group.  
6 They should have the basic needs to do  
7 that. They should be able to be  
8 connected to the other City agencies so  
9 that we are capturing the people. They  
10 should be able to be at the table to  
11 discuss if the process is working and if  
12 it's not, and then should also be  
13 comfortable when I say "supporting," that  
14 sometimes you just can't take the lead.  
15 Sometimes support means that you support  
16 the community as they do it, not that you  
17 do it.

18 And I think that that's the  
19 part that's missing, and I'm hoping that  
20 this dialogue and all of us coming  
21 together is that we have a different one.  
22 Because the community groups are talking.  
23 They are networking. And so how do we  
24 get elected officials to say this needs  
25 to be in the budget line, this needs to

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2 be in the budget line, and if they are --  
3 if that is in the budget line, how do  
4 organizations tap into that.

5 I'm fortunate that I have some  
6 state funding, but I don't have City  
7 funding.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
9 Thank you very much for your panel.

10 And so we only have -- we have  
11 some public comments and then I think  
12 it's, before the public comments, I think  
13 one or two panels. I know we definitely  
14 have another panel, but our stenographer  
15 has to take a quick bathroom break, a  
16 five-minute bathroom break and then we'll  
17 get to the next panels.

18 So I ask everyone just to be  
19 patient. This is a critical issue that  
20 we're facing. So for me, it may take a  
21 little time.

22 (Short recess.)

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
24 We're going to call this meeting back to  
25 order. We want to keep our panels moving

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2 forward.

3 Can the Clerk please call the  
4 next panel.

5 THE CLERK: Victoria Wylie,  
6 Jaleel King, Jalil Frazier, Tyrone  
7 Shoemaker.

8 (Witnesses approached witness  
9 table.)

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We're  
11 going to go and ask for the -- we're  
12 going to go ahead and get started. Can  
13 you please state your name for the record  
14 and begin. And I want to acknowledge one  
15 of my constituents. I have to state that  
16 for the record because she's a  
17 hard-working young lady. She's also a  
18 teacher and has been on the case around  
19 this issue since we met through your  
20 organization regarding your brother. And  
21 so I'm honored just to see you in this  
22 capacity from a leadership standpoint  
23 being here, Ms. Victoria Wylie. So you  
24 can start and then introduce your  
25 panelists. Just state your name for the



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2 record.

3 MS. WYLIE: Good afternoon,  
4 Special Committee, Kenyatta Johnson,  
5 Chair, and everyone here fighting to end  
6 this vicious disease that's plaguing our  
7 city. My name is Victoria Wylie and I am  
8 the Founder and President of the Donte  
9 Wylie Foundation, a non-profit  
10 organization that works tirelessly to end  
11 gun violence in Philadelphia.

12 I'm honored to be given the  
13 opportunity to speak on the behalf of the  
14 voiceless, but it's nothing honorary  
15 about preparing your loved one for their  
16 final resting when someone snatches them  
17 away.

18 On June 17th, 2008, my heart  
19 shattered into pieces at a time when I  
20 was supposed to be celebrating and just  
21 enjoying life. I had just graduated from  
22 high school and had been preparing to go  
23 away to college. I was forced to say  
24 goodbye to my brother, Donte, someone I  
25 loved immensely, who had just began the

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2 journey of fatherhood, an ambitious and  
3 fearless entrepreneur, with the spirit  
4 and smile that could brighten any gloomy  
5 room, a young man who wasn't afforded the  
6 opportunity to watch his daughter grow up  
7 and make good on his many investments.

8           Unfortunately, I was forced to  
9 lose a piece of me to realize we can't  
10 afford to lose a promising generation.  
11 This unfortunate tragedy ignited the  
12 flame in me that is centered around  
13 healing the hearts and minds of those  
14 impacted by gun violence, directly and  
15 indirectly. It is what pushed me to  
16 dedicate my life to educating young  
17 people and restoring our village, the  
18 very thing that loved on me when I was a  
19 child.

20           Many believe the solution to  
21 gun violence will be discovered by a  
22 genius at Harvard. Some believe there  
23 isn't a solution. I believe the solution  
24 is in the hands and hearts of all of us.  
25 It will happen when we truly love thy

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2 neighbor.

3 We will realize we can't afford  
4 to be a reactive system, but a proactive  
5 one, especially in the world that thrives  
6 off violence, when we equip our schools  
7 to educate our children and families;  
8 when we support our teachers, school  
9 administration, and personnel and making  
10 resources readily accessible; when we  
11 listen to the parent that cries for help  
12 because they notice their child's risky  
13 behaviors; when we support and mentor  
14 young parents who just don't have an  
15 idea; when we are active and involved  
16 with young people in the community; and  
17 when we resource our communities with  
18 services and people really doing the work  
19 and not profiting from someone's pain.

20 I propose a heart of personal  
21 state and federal government to change  
22 gun laws and accessibility. It's easier  
23 to get a gun than it is a driver's  
24 license. Restoring the community's trust  
25 with the Police by reestablishing beat

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2 officers in all PAL centers and real  
3 community policing; more emotional  
4 support and therapeutic supports in  
5 schools and communities such as Outward  
6 Bound and EMIR Healing Center; exposing  
7 young people, their families, and their  
8 parents to opportunity, whether it's  
9 educational, career, athletic or personal  
10 choice. There are options.

11 Uplifting and resourcing  
12 families so they no longer just survive  
13 but thrive; 24-hour crisis and trauma  
14 response teams and centers that train  
15 communities and parents with how to deal  
16 with traumatic situations; schools and  
17 community conflict resolution and  
18 understanding the power of words.

19 These are just a few of the  
20 things, in my opinion, that could help us  
21 prevent the 51 homicides as of yesterday  
22 in our city. It will give our children a  
23 chance. It will begin to embody the  
24 mantra of our city, the City of Brotherly  
25 Love and Sisterly Affection.

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2 Thank you. I have some of the  
3 survivors in my support group here to  
4 talk about their experience.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: What's the  
6 name of the support group?

7 MS. WYLIE: We just call it  
8 Survivor Support. It's through the Donte  
9 Wylie Foundation.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
11 I know the doctor.

12 DR. WILSON: Good morning -- I  
13 mean, good afternoon. We've been here  
14 for a while. My name is Dr. Jonathan  
15 Wilson. I'm a part of this support  
16 group. I'm so happy that it exists. I  
17 would like to just extend a great thank  
18 you, a big thank you to the civic and  
19 political leadership in the room for  
20 having this hearing and giving us an  
21 opportunity to speak.

22 You may be interested to know  
23 that I've been shot four different times  
24 and I still have three bullets in my  
25 body. I know what it feels like to lay

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2 on the ground with a slow leak. And it  
3 also brings me great joy to see that the  
4 City is working to reduce gun violence in  
5 our community.

6 I do have one issue. As a  
7 doctor in education who is committed to  
8 prevention and making sure that other  
9 people don't go through what I've been  
10 through, if it's their fault or their  
11 neighbor's fault, we need more programs  
12 in our community. We actually have some  
13 programs, but from what I understand,  
14 there's not really enough money to go  
15 around.

16 So in addition to being a part  
17 of this group, I'm also the Executive  
18 Director of the Fathership Foundation,  
19 which is a community-based 501(c)(3)  
20 operating in West Philadelphia and  
21 Southwest Philadelphia. The only grants  
22 that we've been able to respond to is the  
23 one from the Office of Violence  
24 Prevention.

25 I just want to put a little bug

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2 in your ear that there needs to be more  
3 Philadelphia agencies, City agencies  
4 offering money. I just came out of a  
5 meeting with them before I came here, and  
6 they basically said, you have a great  
7 proposal, we just didn't have enough  
8 money to go around.

9 So if there's anything that you  
10 guys can do as civic and political  
11 leaders to free up more money from  
12 different City departments, I think that  
13 would really help us.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
15 Young man.

16 MR. FRAZIER: How you doing?  
17 My name Jalil Frazier. I was shot 2018  
18 January 11th in a barbershop robbery. I  
19 was shot three times, once in the chest,  
20 once in the back, and my leg.

21 I've been getting by. We  
22 started this support group. I started  
23 talking to different guys just like me,  
24 seeing some of them that's not doing  
25 nothing, then I see some that's doing

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2 more. But the one thing that I think  
3 that we all struggling with is like the  
4 help-wise. It's not enough help because  
5 it's not enough voices. It's a lot of  
6 paralyzed people, but they not talking.  
7 So if I talk, everybody have to talk or  
8 we not going to get no help.

9 I push my wheelchair down the  
10 street or the sidewalk. It's messed up,  
11 and you be crashing into dips and popping  
12 wheelies, and I'm like, man, we can't  
13 even get a good push. But you can't get  
14 no help if you don't say nothing. So  
15 there's so many people out here that's  
16 like this, but it's not enough of them  
17 talking.

18 So my only issue is like it got  
19 to get better. Like I understand a lot  
20 of people getting shot, but like it's a  
21 lot of people paralyzed. It's a lot of  
22 people pushing wheelchairs out here.  
23 There's a lot of people that need  
24 assistance and help, and I just want to  
25 be the voice. We need help. I need



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2 these sidewalks fixed or we got to stay  
3 in the house.

4 MR. KING: Hi. My name is  
5 Jaleel King. I was shot in 1984 at the  
6 age of eight and was probably one of the  
7 youngest victims of gunshot -- of gun  
8 violence in the City at the time. I've  
9 been in the City ever since and have seen  
10 some of the changes that have been made  
11 and some of the things that still have a  
12 long way to go. And I understand that  
13 today we're talking about violence, but  
14 we're not talking about what's left  
15 behind in a lot of cases, and the three  
16 of us are examples of some of the things  
17 that are left behind, as well as the  
18 things that are left behind in relations  
19 to what Victoria has been dealing with as  
20 well, as well as many of the mothers and  
21 fathers, you know, who have spoken before  
22 us. And a lot of the issues that seem to  
23 come up when it comes to people with  
24 disabilities is certain assumptions of  
25 what we are and what we aren't.

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2 A lot of us have families.

3 Some of us have aspirations, and quite  
4 frankly, for me and my situation, I don't  
5 quite understand how I feel as though  
6 I've done everything right and still have  
7 very little to show for it in relations  
8 to the struggles and trying to be  
9 positive and things like that.

10 Case in point, I came up for my  
11 Section 8 and ended up losing it because  
12 I couldn't find housing. I was told that  
13 just get whatever, but "whatever" meant  
14 that I would have to imprison myself in a  
15 house that wasn't made for me under the  
16 circumstances. And there's a lot of  
17 gentrification going around in my  
18 neighborhood as well, which really  
19 doesn't benefit anyone with a disability,  
20 let alone those who live in the  
21 neighborhood and suffered through what  
22 they have gone through in relations to  
23 looking at the neighborhoods getting  
24 better as things go forward.

25 With that said, a lot of us

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2 then suffered from PTSD, which isn't  
3 talked about within our neighborhoods,  
4 which then adds to another level of  
5 violence where people feel as though they  
6 have to carry a gun in order to protect  
7 themselves, not necessarily for any  
8 particular violent need, but purely for  
9 protection.

10 The question I often ask myself  
11 is, well, how the hell do they get the  
12 guns? Where are the guns coming from?  
13 Because no one seems to ask that  
14 question. It's not us. We have no power  
15 being black people, people of color as a  
16 general. We have no power. It's the  
17 same idea, well, where are the drugs  
18 coming in? Same question I have is where  
19 are the guns.

20 There are 300-plus million  
21 people in America, and this country  
22 somehow or another sells more guns than  
23 there are people, and we still don't ask  
24 the question of where are the guns coming  
25 from, how are they getting here, and how

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2 are we not adjusting to those types of  
3 things beyond the needs of what happens  
4 to people who are then victimized and  
5 lives are changed based on the violent  
6 acts of those who do want to do harm,  
7 unfortunately, or are caught up in the  
8 crossfire.

9 In my case, I was outside as a  
10 child watching somebody light up  
11 firecrackers and the neighbor decided to  
12 come outside with a sawed-off shotgun.  
13 To this day, I still have buckshot in my  
14 body. I deal with the idea of whether or  
15 not lead poisoning is having any effect.

16 Considering everything that  
17 I've been through for the past  
18 30-something years, I'm doing quite well,  
19 but I could be doing better if the City  
20 would help, you know, from parking,  
21 sidewalks, and obviously housing.  
22 Housing is a big deal, as well as just  
23 having some type of way of being able to  
24 work without being penalized, you know.

25 In my case, I live in

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2 subsidized living. If I make \$2, they  
3 want to take 3. So what's the point?  
4 And then it affects my healthcare as well  
5 as other benefits.

6 But these are just things that  
7 other people have to deal with,  
8 unfortunately. I don't know what else to  
9 really say in relations to that, but we  
10 decided to come together. Jalil started  
11 the group in order to help bring more  
12 people together and hopefully have a  
13 little more camaraderie in relations to  
14 what we have to deal with on a day-to-day  
15 as we try our best to live our best life.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Well, a  
17 couple things I would like to do as a  
18 follow-up, and oftentimes in this  
19 discussion around gun violence -- and I'm  
20 happy that you actually came to share  
21 your story and not for the sake of just  
22 sharing it but so we can look at what are  
23 our concrete issues to address in  
24 supporting you.

25 And so, Vanessa, is it okay if

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2 we do a follow-up, right? Because I know  
3 separate from your office, there's also  
4 the Office of Disability and really  
5 seeing what the status of that office is.  
6 I know there's been some transition,  
7 there's been some changes, but what's  
8 their action plan around victims of gun  
9 violence who are disabled, particularly  
10 when it comes to issues like housing,  
11 because that's something concrete that I  
12 know for a fact that we can have an  
13 impact on as a city. It's just where is  
14 the willpower at to actually make it  
15 happen.

16 And the other thing in terms of  
17 the -- rather the sidewalks and things  
18 along those lines can also be addressed,  
19 but some concrete things that I know that  
20 we can at least take a look at what our  
21 policies are around the issues of  
22 housing, and I'm quite sure there's other  
23 issues of support that we can take a look  
24 at.

25 So I will follow up with the

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2 Office of Violence Prevention head and  
3 your group, Victoria, at least to have a  
4 sit-down, frank conversation to see --  
5 because we talk about the homicide,  
6 because that's obviously like the main  
7 issue that's bringing our city down, but  
8 also I have countless friends -- just  
9 lost a cousin "Fatty" maybe two years  
10 ago, right? He got shot when we were  
11 young, right, and he succumbed to his --  
12 it was an infection. He was paralyzed  
13 for years, but he had an infection and  
14 complications. And he was in Magee,  
15 right? And I used to work with him  
16 regarding issues to make sure he had  
17 access and support and the proper type  
18 nurses and the proper care to help him  
19 out.

20 And so this is something I'm  
21 very sensitive to as well. So we want to  
22 be supportive from that aspect, and thank  
23 all of you for taking time out of your  
24 schedule and putting your testimony on  
25 the record.

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2 Councilman Curtis Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 We asked the question about  
6 closure rates for fatal shootings, but we  
7 should also request the closure rates for  
8 non-fatal shootings as well. We're going  
9 to have that hearing and we'll ask those  
10 kinds of questions of the Police  
11 Department, the District Attorney's  
12 Office as well.

13 The other thing that I would  
14 have is, so have you had to go through  
15 the Inglis House? Have any of you went  
16 that route for rehab?

17 DR. WILSON: I went to -- I  
18 actually went to Magee. They were  
19 excellent. I was there for about maybe  
20 two to three months, had to teach me how  
21 to use a wheelchair, get in and out of a  
22 car, all those things. It's a really  
23 intimidating process, but they pushed me  
24 through it.

25 So I think the services are



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2 there. Sometimes it's about navigating,  
3 and that's why it's so good to have the  
4 support groups, because I can show him  
5 something that he might not have known,  
6 he can show me things that maybe he  
7 didn't know where a certain service or  
8 provider is. I think that's good.

9 But I wanted to get back to  
10 this funding thing.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before you  
12 do that, the question I have is, is there  
13 in the victims compensation package  
14 something that deals with adaptable  
15 housing?

16 DR. WILSON: I'm not sure if  
17 there's a connection between the two, the  
18 housing and that program, but I do know  
19 that they do have -- the program is in  
20 place for victims as far as when they get  
21 shot. Cooperating with the police, that  
22 makes you eligible for that compensation  
23 that --

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we don't  
25 have to answer it here, but one of my

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2 specific questions will be in this is, if  
3 someone is a victim of gunshot which  
4 causes them mobility issues, that is the  
5 house that they came from then outfitted  
6 with a lift or at least a ramp?

7 MR. KING: No. I mean, it's an  
8 outright no. There are people right now  
9 who are struggling with being stuck in a  
10 house after having traumatic issues, such  
11 as being victims of violence. The answer  
12 is no. There's never any help, and if  
13 there is help, you got to jump through a  
14 million and one hoops, and by the time  
15 you're done, you're so exhausted that you  
16 don't even know your left from your  
17 right.

18 So the answer is no. You got  
19 to relocate.

20 DR. WILSON: I would argue  
21 there are services there. There are  
22 social workers there. My issue would be  
23 navigating. You have DBR. You have  
24 Department of Labor to put you back to  
25 work. There are a lot of things

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2 available. I think that's why our group  
3 is important.

4 I would say it's not a no. I  
5 would say there are services available.  
6 You have to really get lucky and get a  
7 really good case manager to help you  
8 navigate. But a lot of people going  
9 through, to speak from my experience, go  
10 through a lot of mental issues with  
11 losing their abilities, grieving, the  
12 loss of your limbs, and they're just not  
13 in the emotional space to go out and look  
14 for or ask the right questions to a  
15 caseworker or social worker, especially  
16 when you're used to being independent.

17 MS. WYLIE: If I could say, I  
18 think if resources and services aren't  
19 accessible, they aren't available. The  
20 hoops and loops and channels that many of  
21 the people that I interact with through  
22 our support group have to go through to  
23 get a basic answer is ridiculous. So the  
24 answer may not be no, but like Jalil  
25 said, the challenges that you go through,

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2 you just shut down. You're like, you  
3 know what, I'll figure this out. You  
4 wait. You wait. Someone tells you to  
5 call another person, someone tells you to  
6 call this person, do this, do that. You  
7 have jumped through multiple hoops to get  
8 an answer to a question.

9 So the answer may not be no.  
10 There are things out there, but are they  
11 accessible for them? And they're not.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.  
13 Thank you for that.

14 MR. FRAZIER: There is a  
15 waiting process. When I first came home,  
16 I was told I was going to get a ramp and  
17 I was told I was going to get like all  
18 this stuff. I came home April. I didn't  
19 get anything. I was calling my brother  
20 to come help me out the house when I  
21 needed to get out of the house. I had my  
22 friend carry me out the house. I was  
23 sleeping in the living room because I  
24 couldn't get upstairs. Like I just  
25 really had to relocate, and I had just

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2 moved there before my accident.

3 So there may be help, but it's  
4 a waiting process and it's more like, how  
5 long can you wait? When you wait and you  
6 in a new situation, it start making you  
7 like depressed, because you can't do the  
8 stuff that you're used to doing. So you  
9 have to make your own moves and your own  
10 choices by your own self. And then by  
11 the time the help come, you're already  
12 relocated already. So now it's like do  
13 you go backwards or do you just go  
14 forward?

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 Councilwoman Kendra Brooks.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yeah. I  
18 want to add that I was actually doing  
19 some investigation on accessible housing  
20 here in the City, and we have a shortage.  
21 There's not enough wheelchair-accessible  
22 housing in the City all together. So  
23 even if someone was homeless or coming  
24 from out of the hospital, we have nowhere  
25 for them to go. Because not only is

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2 there aren't enough stock, the  
3 affordability of places that are  
4 accessible is excessive. And I would  
5 like to follow up with these guys,  
6 because we're still doing some  
7 investigation on accessibility on streets  
8 as well as housing, so I would like to  
9 follow up.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
11 very much for your testimony and, again,  
12 Victoria, we'll follow up with the Office  
13 of Violence Prevention. We also want to  
14 look at and have a conversation with the  
15 Office of Disability.

16 I think Councilman Jones always  
17 says this. You will know a person's  
18 priority based upon their budget and how  
19 they're spending their resources and  
20 their funding. So we want to examine at  
21 least the Office of Disability and see  
22 what's that level of investment, and that  
23 will tell you the level of priority that  
24 these issues are here in the City of  
25 Philadelphia, as well as doing a

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2 follow-up with Councilwoman Kendra  
3 Brooks, because we talk about housing,  
4 right, and we fight for affordable and  
5 workforce housing, but I also have to be  
6 quite frank, like we're experiencing a  
7 boom right now when it comes to housing.  
8 The issue is, are we making this a  
9 priority, because we got gentrification  
10 not only in South Philadelphia in Point  
11 Breeze and Grays Ferry where I live, but  
12 Wynnefield. Pastor Wallace talking about  
13 the Northwest. You talk about  
14 Brewerytown, you talk about Squilla's  
15 district in East Passyunk.

16 And so at the end of the day,  
17 part of the aggressive conversation we  
18 have to have on the City side is how are  
19 we making this a priority in terms of the  
20 overall plan when it's development --  
21 when these development projects are  
22 coming down the pike and are coming to  
23 Council asking for support. And so we'll  
24 definitely do a follow-up.

25 Thank you very much for your

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2 time and your testimony.

3 Will the Clerk please read the  
4 next panel.

5 THE CLERK: Hans Menos,  
6 Kathleen Reeves, Caterina Roman, Jonathan  
7 Davis.

8 (Witnesses approached witness  
9 table.)

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Again, we  
11 want to thank all of our advocates,  
12 service providers for patience. It's a  
13 very, very long day but, most  
14 importantly, an important discussion and  
15 conversation that needs to be had. So we  
16 thank everybody for your patience and  
17 just sticking it out.

18 Could you please just state  
19 your name for the record and let's begin.

20 MR. MENOS: Good afternoon.  
21 I'm Hans Menos from the Philadelphia  
22 Police Advisory Commission. You all have  
23 my testimony, so I'll be brief. There's  
24 a lot of issues that I want to discuss,  
25 but I thought that we could just cut to a



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2 lot of the points.

3 So, yes, we do welcome the new  
4 Police Commissioner. We're excited about  
5 the new leadership and the changes she  
6 can bring. However, the PAC over the  
7 last two and a half years, and in many  
8 cases much more time, have observed some  
9 issues that we think can improve.

10 I'll break those down to two  
11 different kind of issues. One is  
12 structural issues and the other is  
13 barriers to service. One of the ones  
14 that we highlight the most is the  
15 complaints for improper service. As this  
16 Council is aware and as most folks in the  
17 City --

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're  
19 talking fast, bro. You got to slow down.  
20 Go ahead.

21 MR. MENOS: So one of the  
22 issues that we observed the most is the  
23 complaints for improper service. Those  
24 are complaints when folks contact the  
25 Police Department and are ultimately not

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2 given the service they want. The two  
3 areas that we have seen that the most  
4 frequently, as you all know, there's a  
5 Homicide Unit. Folks contact the  
6 Homicide Unit and they are dismissed,  
7 belittled, ignored. Their calls are not  
8 returned. So those are challenges that  
9 we have addressed at the Police  
10 Department.

11 Other issues that we observed  
12 is the control room, the literal room  
13 where the Police Department receives  
14 phone calls, where they get a phone call  
15 and, again, folks feel belittled,  
16 ignored, their questions aren't answered.  
17 And typically these are folks who have  
18 had some contact with the Police already  
19 and are looking for follow-up on their  
20 victimization or looking for follow-up to  
21 understand what their options are, what  
22 they can do.

23 Some specific cases include  
24 most recently victims of domestic  
25 violence who are trying to understand how

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2 they can navigate the situation; a  
3 witness to a homicide who contacted the  
4 Police trying to get their belongings  
5 back and trying to make themselves  
6 financially whole, because some of the  
7 belongings was cash and how they were  
8 treated.

9 Other issues that I know you  
10 all are aware of are continuity. What I  
11 mean by that is, a captain who is  
12 policing a district, it often takes  
13 victim service providers and folks in the  
14 community months, if not a year, to  
15 really solidify that relationship. In  
16 that time, that captain has then moved,  
17 with no notice to the community, to the  
18 service providers or even to the captain.  
19 And so what ends up happening is, these  
20 victim service providers or  
21 community-based organizations have to  
22 again work to rebuild that relationship,  
23 only for that to happen to them again and  
24 again. And we've met with victim service  
25 providers and organizations -- and I'm

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2 sure that some of you all have  
3 experienced this as well -- that are  
4 frustrated by the lack of care that goes  
5 into transferring a captain or a district  
6 leader when that person remains in the  
7 employment of the Police Department, and  
8 that can be done more carefully and more  
9 thoughtfully.

10 Victim services officers do  
11 exist in the Police Department. They do  
12 great work and they are passionate folks,  
13 and I applaud the Police Department for  
14 having them present. In my opinion,  
15 they're not centralized, and I'll define  
16 centralization just because I think that  
17 we disagree -- not we, but the Police  
18 Department disagree on what that would  
19 look like.

20 The Police Department  
21 understands being data driven. They  
22 understand large levels of oversight.  
23 They do this through CompStat. They do  
24 this through a lot of their other work.  
25 Victim Services doesn't have that kind of

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2 back-end accountability. There's no data  
3 that says how many victims did you serve.  
4 There's no data that ties it on a monthly  
5 basis to say this is what's occurring and  
6 what has your strategy been. And there's  
7 no back-end accountability to really hold  
8 folks accountable and say this is our  
9 philosophy and our strategy in this area  
10 of the City. This is the victimization  
11 that's increasing here and there, and  
12 really bringing that level of what I  
13 would call a CompStat for Victim Services  
14 present. So that isn't there, and I  
15 think it can be done. I think other  
16 cities do do that.

17 Under the challenges that --  
18 this is all ad hoc. Right now I'm  
19 telling you about what my organization  
20 experiences, but there hasn't been a  
21 resident survey in the City of this size  
22 that focuses on the Police Department in  
23 the time that I'm aware of. Other police  
24 departments lead the charge in  
25 understanding how residents are receiving

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2 their services, what residents need, what  
3 victims are feeling. And our Police  
4 Department has not led the charge on  
5 that, so as a result, we're constantly  
6 making decisions outside of the ability  
7 to really understand what we've collected  
8 in terms of data. A survey that focuses  
9 on how the residents of Philadelphia, in  
10 a very detailed fashion, experience the  
11 Police Department, including Victim  
12 Services, would be helpful.

13 So overall I think we  
14 understand that -- we've talked a lot  
15 about the erosion of public trust with  
16 the Police Department. I think there's a  
17 lot of accountability, but we understand  
18 that a lot needs to be done. Right now  
19 there is a police officer who is still  
20 working here that ended the life of a  
21 Philadelphia resident outside of policy  
22 and was not held accountable by the  
23 Police Department. How are folks  
24 supposed to believe that they're going to  
25 access justice if this person is still a

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2 police officer? These are the types of  
3 things that the Police Department needs  
4 to understand wholistically.

5 We also have officers that  
6 posted some of the most expansive  
7 expressions of hate in the Plain View  
8 Project that I've ever seen that are  
9 still police officers and were brought to  
10 a broken PBI process that didn't hold  
11 them accountable. And so residents of  
12 the City are forced to say, is there two  
13 different standards of justice. And that  
14 makes it difficult for them to believe  
15 that they're going to be able to access  
16 that justice.

17 So that really brings me to the  
18 idea of people who are victimized by  
19 police. As I mentioned, internal and  
20 external accountability are really  
21 important. And so when a police officer  
22 is the perpetrator of a crime or does  
23 victimize somebody, as I mentioned,  
24 they're brought to a broken PBI process  
25 where a victim is not protected by the

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2 Department adequate and is ridiculed and  
3 cross-examined by PBI -- by FOP  
4 attorneys. That's a problematic place.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I am with  
6 you, bro, right? I just want to focus on  
7 clearly where you were going back to  
8 supporting the victims, cops that have  
9 CompStat. There's no accountability  
10 for -- because I get all the other  
11 issues. The reason why these advocates  
12 are pushing me on this particular issue  
13 is because that's like the zero end  
14 focus. And I know if we don't trust  
15 them, then that will be hard to still  
16 interact with the community. So I get  
17 that part, but if we can just zero in on  
18 just the victims and how they're treated.

19 MR. MENOS: I will.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Because I  
21 get the police accountability part. What  
22 they did on Facebook and all that is  
23 totally wrong. I don't condone any of  
24 it.

25 MR. MENOS: I know you don't.



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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: But if we  
3 can just zero in on family members and  
4 how they need to get their act together  
5 around that, if you don't mind.

6 MR. MENOS: I'm right there  
7 with you. I was making the connection,  
8 but I hear your point.

9 So let me move on to the idea  
10 of the perfect or deserving victim.  
11 There's a lot of folks in the City who  
12 are treated as if their victimization  
13 matter is based on the way that they  
14 react to it and what the circumstances  
15 that that victimization are. Those folks  
16 discuss that with us on a regular basis.

17 Victims of human trafficking or  
18 victims of gun violence are often defined  
19 about their true victimization based on  
20 what involvement they had. So I think  
21 some recognition of that is helpful. And  
22 when it comes to victims compensation,  
23 that's a big piece of that. Compensation  
24 often requires that the Police define  
25 that you were not a part of that

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2 victimization, and that's problematic and  
3 I think needs to be rethought in this  
4 city and frequently in this country. So  
5 I do appreciate you refocusing me on  
6 that.

7 For solutions, I do think that  
8 this City and this Police Department can  
9 focus more on proactive outreach to  
10 victims. There are models around the  
11 country that do this. Each victim gets a  
12 proactive outreach, not just violent  
13 crime, not just fatal shootings, but each  
14 victim of a burglary or anything else  
15 that occurs gets proactive outreach.  
16 It's a big lift, but it's doable, and  
17 there are models out there.

18 Councilwoman Brooks is no  
19 longer here, but she mentioned something  
20 about child victims, and I think that a  
21 co-response for child victims is another  
22 model that has occurred around the  
23 country. Co-response means that social  
24 workers team with police and are  
25 dispatched in the same manner that police

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2 are dispatched to scenes to address the  
3 unique victimization or the unique trauma  
4 that children experience. That  
5 victimization, I won't have to explain to  
6 you, this group affects them throughout  
7 their life course. It's toxic for them.  
8 As we've mentioned already, it's brought  
9 to school, and it is an important thing  
10 to focus on.

11 So I'll wrap up and just say  
12 that we have a lot to focus on, a lot of  
13 great work being done in the City. We  
14 have a new Police Commissioner that we're  
15 all very excited about, but I think we  
16 have some tangible areas of the Police  
17 Department and the City that we could  
18 focus on today to really improve the  
19 service to victims.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're  
22 welcome. And I'm not going to do any  
23 more comments until we get through the  
24 panel. And just so you know, just for  
25 the record, I wasn't minimizing you going

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2 into the variety of different other  
3 areas, right, but I like how you zeroed  
4 in on specifically like -- and I was  
5 thinking in my mind there is no CompStat  
6 data-driven process for victims of gun  
7 violence. That's the level of attention  
8 to detail that I think that probably  
9 could enhance the system, but that was  
10 right on.

11 MR. MENOS: And I'll say there  
12 are police officers in the Police  
13 Department that understand that  
14 intrinsically and really want that, and I  
15 think we'd find partnership on that  
16 issue, because they get that as much as  
17 you seem to get that, as much as I get  
18 that.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
20 Please state your name for the  
21 record and begin your testimony.

22 DR. REEVES: Good afternoon.  
23 My name is Kathleen Reeves. I am a  
24 pediatrician at Temple University.  
25 Councilman Johnson, Councilman Jones,

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2 members of the Committee, and especially  
3 victims and co-victims of violence that  
4 are here today, thank you for the  
5 opportunity to speak with you.

6 So I also oversee the program  
7 Cure Violence Philadelphia out of Temple  
8 University. Cure Violence is a national  
9 model that addresses violence as a public  
10 health epidemic. It's committed in  
11 practical ways to supporting victims and  
12 co-victims of violence throughout  
13 everything that it does. It's a model  
14 that works across this country, in New  
15 York City, in parts of Baltimore, in  
16 areas in New Orleans, and in other  
17 cities. It decreases violence and it  
18 increases the likelihood that victims are  
19 going to get services and opportunities.

20 Philadelphia has its own  
21 chapter, and we have been shown as Cure  
22 Violence Philadelphia to decrease  
23 violence in areas in North Philadelphia.  
24 We saw a 30 percent reduction in  
25 shootings between 2011 and 2014. There

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2 were hundreds of people who were victims  
3 and co-victims who got services because  
4 of the outreach of our workers.

5 Cure Violence as a model  
6 requires community partners. Community  
7 is the most important part of what we do.  
8 We have to be able to work with  
9 government, and we must have credible,  
10 trained, and supported messengers. All  
11 of our outreach workers offer victim  
12 services to everybody they engage. Cure  
13 Violence and Cure Violence Philadelphia  
14 also have hospital responder programs and  
15 school programs that directly support our  
16 victims.

17 So I think one of the things  
18 we've really heard today is that none of  
19 us can solve this alone. We can't leave  
20 it to our communities to solve it alone.  
21 We as universities and health systems  
22 cannot solve it alone. And I think you  
23 as government, state or city, can't solve  
24 it alone. The cities who have done this  
25 well have done this together. I believe

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2 that's what we need to do.

3 It's wonderful that the City of  
4 Philadelphia embraces violence as a  
5 public health crisis. That will greatly  
6 increase our likelihood to support our  
7 victims. And I know they value Cure  
8 Violence as a model.

9 However, the current programs  
10 that take place in the City, like CCIP,  
11 though based on some of the components of  
12 Cure Violence, haven't implemented all of  
13 the important parts of the model.

14 So I'm a pediatrician, and I  
15 spend a lot of my time treating people  
16 and families who suffer from disease and  
17 trying to support them and their  
18 families. Everything I do is based on  
19 information from often other institutions  
20 and other cities who have tried things  
21 that either have or have not worked. So  
22 when we find something that works, when  
23 we find a cure, say a treatment for  
24 cancer, and let's say that cancer  
25 treatment in its protocol includes five

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2 medications, none of us would use only  
3 three of these knowing five were needed.  
4 All five were necessary if we were going  
5 to get the result that was seen in the  
6 other communities.

7 We believe as a university and  
8 as folks committed to this problem, we  
9 can help with that. So what I would ask  
10 is you consider supporting a program  
11 where the community, where the City with  
12 CCIP and Group Violence Intervention  
13 programs, and Philadelphia Cure Violence  
14 work together with a protocol already  
15 known to work to decrease violence and to  
16 better support victims, and then evaluate  
17 how that really worked in Philadelphia in  
18 a community.

19 We want to support the  
20 community members committed to this. The  
21 ground roots people know the most about  
22 what to do. We should be helping  
23 community groups get grants. We should  
24 be helping community groups evaluate what  
25 they're doing, and fit their expertise



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2 into what the models that are known to  
3 work show. There isn't a model out there  
4 that is shown to work that doesn't have  
5 community central, not a single one. But  
6 we have to make these models victim  
7 centric, just like we talk about  
8 healthcare being patient centric.

9 We were very excited to hear  
10 even just today that the City and the  
11 Office of Violence Prevention is working  
12 directly with Cure Violence and  
13 Dr. Slutkin. We are an official site of  
14 Cure Violence. Dr. Slutkin sees us as  
15 one of his strongest sites. We talk to  
16 them on a weekly basis. We have monthly  
17 calls with them. And we've talked a lot  
18 to the City and to Cure Violence about  
19 bringing these resources together.

20 We are all on board of bringing  
21 resources we have to make that happen.  
22 This would be a great way to move  
23 forward. Temple University is committed  
24 to being part of the solution. We  
25 believe we can leverage our resources as

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2 the City's university to better support  
3 victims. Our outreach workers have at  
4 their fingertips our health system, our  
5 social services, our workforce  
6 development, our GED education, our  
7 behavioral health therapy, our  
8 trauma-informed programs in schools. All  
9 of these are at the fingertips of our  
10 outreach workers.

11 So if we had Coronavirus strike  
12 Philadelphia tomorrow, the government,  
13 the City government, the state  
14 government, our universities, our meds  
15 and eds, and our community would come  
16 together and address it like a public  
17 health epidemic. The cities who have  
18 seen a decrease in violence have done  
19 that. I believe that's what we have to  
20 do. I believe our victims and our  
21 co-victims of violence deserve that. And  
22 I truly believe if we do that, we will  
23 create the peaceful neighborhoods that  
24 everyone who is in this city deserves.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you

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2 very much, Ms. Reeves.

3 Next.

4 PROFESSOR ROMAN: Hi. I'm

5 Caterina Roman. I'm an Associate

6 Professor in the Department of Criminal

7 Justice at Temple University. I thank

8 you again. I met many of you a few years

9 ago in my capacity as an evaluator of

10 some of the programs we've talked about

11 today, but today I want to talk about

12 something different. I want to draw on

13 findings of a U.S. Department of

14 Justice-funded study that I conducted to

15 examine the help-seeking behavior of

16 victims of street crime.

17 Help-seeking is

18 problem-focused, planned behavior

19 involving the interpersonal interaction

20 between the victim and the social service

21 and the healthcare professional. I am

22 putting forward this testimony today in

23 collaboration with Jonathan Davis all the

24 way over there on my left, Executive

25 Director and CEO of Central Division

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2 Victim Services. I want to just turn it  
3 to him for a quick second to introduce  
4 himself and then I'll tell you more about  
5 my study findings.

6 MR. DAVIS: Hello, and thank  
7 you for having me here today. I would  
8 have to say I'm a community-based victim  
9 service organization serving North  
10 Central Philadelphia as well as Center  
11 City. Recently the two agencies, Center  
12 City Crime Victim Services and North  
13 Central Victim Services, has merged to  
14 form Central Division Victim Services.  
15 We now serve the 6th, 9th, and 22nd  
16 Police Districts in Philadelphia.

17 Part of the reason that we  
18 partnered with this research project was  
19 to get a better understanding on how  
20 victims access Victim Services in hopes  
21 that we could build capacity within our  
22 agency to be able to reach victims a  
23 little bit quicker and a little bit more  
24 efficiently and provide the direct  
25 services they need in a timely fashion.

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2 Just to get an understanding of  
3 the gaps that we have in Victim Services,  
4 in the Fiscal Year 2018 and '19, in the  
5 22nd Police District there was close to  
6 8,500 crime victims reported in that  
7 district. Of those, North Central Victim  
8 Services only were able to reach 510 with  
9 two full-time employees and two part-time  
10 employees. So there was a need for  
11 capacity and to be able to respond and  
12 coordinate and connect.

13 I have to say the one thing  
14 that I heard clear across and I agree  
15 with 100 percent, the community-based  
16 agencies and the citywide agencies and  
17 Victim Services work very well hand in  
18 hand. I would urge or suggest to the  
19 Committee is how do we partner with City,  
20 community-based agencies, all of the law  
21 enforcement entities, not just  
22 Philadelphia Police, as well as  
23 educational institutions to be able to  
24 serve all of the crime victims within the  
25 City.

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2 I can tell you I work through  
3 partnership, and a prime example is we  
4 just over the last five years, we created  
5 a program through Temple Trauma Center to  
6 be able to respond to victims that come  
7 into the Trauma Center at Temple  
8 Hospital, and initially it was a referral  
9 program. That referral program has grown  
10 to now we have been able to secure  
11 funding to have five dedicated advocates  
12 in the hospital, in the Trauma Center,  
13 that can respond to families and their  
14 trauma as they're coping with learning  
15 that their loved one has been shot or  
16 they've lost a loved one.

17 We are the point to the sword,  
18 and if you see us as community-based  
19 agencies, we are that initial contact to  
20 victims of crime in our community. It is  
21 our job then to make sure that they  
22 secure those additional resources as we  
23 work in partnership with each other. It  
24 has to be a coordinated effort in order  
25 for this to be successful. And I think

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2 with the efforts of City Council, this  
3 panel, and the continued discussion, we  
4 could be successful with this.

5 Thank you.

6 PROFESSOR ROMAN: So we turned  
7 to Jonathan and his colleagues because we  
8 wanted make sure that our study was  
9 culturally competent and it was grounded  
10 in the issues that are impacting our  
11 communities. And I know many of you  
12 often think that a lot of academics do  
13 their studies and then they end up  
14 sitting on a shelf. I know as an  
15 academic that that can happen. So we  
16 really tried to think about framing the  
17 study so it can be useful to communities.

18 So the idea behind the study  
19 was to give voice to victims of violent  
20 crime who typically do not walk through  
21 the door of Victim Services and community  
22 health clinics, those who tend to avoid  
23 the police and often hospitals. We  
24 wanted to hear about their injuries from  
25 violent crime and better understand why

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2 they did seek service or why they didn't  
3 seek services after.

4 I wrote the grant because I had  
5 heard from Jonathan and his colleagues  
6 that so many young males and females  
7 involved in street assaults and gun  
8 violence are very underserved, will not  
9 walk through the doors for many years.

10 Jonathan talked about the gaps.  
11 That was 6 percent of violent crime  
12 victims, of crime victims, don't end up  
13 in Victim Services. So what we did  
14 starting in January 2018, we went out and  
15 recruited 103 victims of street crime  
16 between the ages of 18 and 40 who resided  
17 in Philadelphia and had been seriously  
18 injured in the City in the previous 12  
19 months. Street crimes, when I'm talking  
20 about that, means predatory crimes that  
21 tend to occur in the street, in the park.  
22 I think most of you know what we're  
23 talking about, robbery, aggravated  
24 assault. So I'm excluding domestic  
25 violence.



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2 Of 103 male and female victims  
3 we interviewed and surveyed, 16 were  
4 non-fatal shooting victims. So the  
5 findings I'm going to talk about now  
6 include the whole sample, the whole 103,  
7 because the issues and findings relative  
8 to that subset of gunshot survivors with  
9 regard to getting in the door to Victim  
10 Services was very similar.

11 So we found that 72 percent  
12 labeled their victimization incident  
13 distressing or severely distressing, but  
14 across the entire sample, only 16 percent  
15 received any type of victim service in  
16 the period between their incident and the  
17 victimization and our study. Only 7  
18 percent received mental health treatment  
19 related to the injury. And 15 percent  
20 received general counseling.

21 There is a statistically  
22 significant association between those who  
23 got victim services and then those who  
24 received mental health treatment. This  
25 is important, because it means that

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2 opening the door to victim services  
3 increased the odds of getting additional  
4 treatment services and, in this case,  
5 mental health treatment.

6 So why did so few victims  
7 receive victim services? First of all,  
8 only half of our sample were involved in  
9 an incident that had a police response,  
10 either at the scene or in the hospital.  
11 Having a police respond, not  
12 surprisingly, increased the odds of  
13 receiving victim services.

14 When we asked the victims about  
15 why they didn't access or receive  
16 victim-related services, this includes  
17 basic victim assistance, assistance with  
18 their case, accompaniment to court, and  
19 victims compensation, not knowing the  
20 service existed was the most reported  
21 reason victims didn't access services.  
22 The overwhelming majority of victims  
23 reported they didn't know about victim  
24 services. A whopping 72 percent stated  
25 they didn't know what victims

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2 compensation was.

3 In fact, there were only a few  
4 other reasons reported. We handed them a  
5 list of 15 why they didn't get services.  
6 A few were didn't need the services or  
7 didn't have time. Four percent said they  
8 didn't trust the government or the  
9 police. So if you look at just that 50  
10 percent of our 103 that had a police  
11 interaction, the majority of those were  
12 not informed about their rights as a  
13 crime victim or given information about  
14 victim services. They did not know they  
15 could be eligible for victim  
16 compensation. Most of those did not know  
17 about the services, indicated they would  
18 have accessed or tried to access the  
19 services if they could.

20 During the police interaction,  
21 13 percent indicated they were telling  
22 the truth that they did not know anything  
23 about who assaulted them, but they  
24 indicated the police didn't believe their  
25 stories, and victims reported to us that

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2 the police officers' attitude turned sour  
3 and disrespectful, assuming the victim  
4 was purposely not cooperating. These  
5 victims reported their interaction with  
6 the police as very negative.

7 Still talking about these  
8 victims that had a police response,  
9 victims who first met the police in the  
10 hospital reported their interaction as  
11 extremely negative and were particularly  
12 upset. They indicated the police were  
13 not compassionate about their trauma and  
14 seemed more intent on obtaining  
15 information about the case.

16 Here's an example from one  
17 respondent when we asked him about the  
18 police response at the hospital. He  
19 said, I'm trying to tell them I don't  
20 know nothing, because I really didn't  
21 know nothing. And they was trying to  
22 tell me like mother f'er, you know who  
23 shot you. And I was really being  
24 sincere. So they was mad at me  
25 basically. They probably thought I was a

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2 drug dealer. I just got shot. I was a  
3 drug dealer. Sweet, dude. I ain't  
4 trying to rat on anybody when it wasn't  
5 even that. I didn't know what the F to  
6 think. It was the first time I ever got  
7 shot.

8 We have other stories like this  
9 that suggest that first responders come  
10 to the scene with biases, many inherent,  
11 about victims who have offense histories.

12 You mentioned this, Hans.

13 This is harmful to the victim  
14 and their help-seeking, because police  
15 have great discretion -- you mentioned  
16 this also -- in what they write on the  
17 police report about their interaction  
18 with the victim. A report of the victim  
19 not cooperating with the police will  
20 likely lead to the victim being excluded  
21 from these very needed government-funded  
22 services.

23 What do these findings mean?

24 Well, not knowing about victim service is  
25 a huge barrier. Low-hanging fruit here.

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2 This seems something that policymakers  
3 can easily tackle.

4 And first responders play a  
5 very important role in help-seeking for  
6 victims of violent and gun crime, in that  
7 positive, compassionate on scene and  
8 hospital interactions may go a long way  
9 in improving both access to services and  
10 victim cooperation.

11 Relatedly, it appears, but we  
12 cannot confirm with the data that we  
13 have, the first responders may not be  
14 handing out the needed information on  
15 victim services because they believe the  
16 victim is not deserving or is  
17 uncooperative.

18 Overall -- I'm getting to my  
19 conclusion -- we need ways to get the  
20 word out about the rights of crime  
21 victims and that government-funded  
22 services exist that can help reduce the  
23 trauma from gun violence and other types  
24 of violent victimization.

25 Jonathan told you about his

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2 stats and how victim service agencies are  
3 trying to piecemeal and do the best that  
4 they can to get people to walk through  
5 the door and to reach out to them.

6 I just want to end up with a  
7 few very specific recommendations. I  
8 want to point out that I think Jonathan  
9 mentioned that North Philly Temple Trauma  
10 Response Program, which is for  
11 individuals that come into the hospital  
12 that are already through and admitted to  
13 the hospital. Then we have the programs  
14 that Dr. Reeves talked about for  
15 individuals that are in the emergency  
16 room and the emergency department, but  
17 who may not get admitted. Linking them  
18 to credible messengers is so key here.

19 So in specifics in terms of  
20 recommendations, I would suggest increase  
21 City funding to neighborhood-based victim  
22 services. Current funding sources, we  
23 hear, we know, do not meet the level of  
24 need, and we have to think about  
25 sustainability. They're writing these

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2 incredibly innovative grants that have  
3 two-year periods, three-year periods, not  
4 knowing if when that grant period is over  
5 there will be a way to sustain that.

6 What do you do to those wonderful  
7 credible messengers who had been  
8 employed?

9 Improve coordination between  
10 the Police Department and  
11 neighborhood-based services. Increase  
12 police and first responder training on  
13 crime victims' rights and the  
14 availability of services. Implicit bias  
15 training can facilitate compassionate  
16 response upon arrival to the scene.  
17 Compassionate interaction between  
18 responders and victims will help citizens  
19 see the police as legitimate. Recent  
20 studies support this. Victims will  
21 cooperate more and there will be all  
22 kinds of downstream benefits. The  
23 criminal justice system, we know this,  
24 cannot fully function without victim  
25 cooperation. It's that cycle we can work



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2 on.

3 Last, facilitate communication  
4 between entities that support crime  
5 victims. Dr. Reeves mentioned this. It  
6 would be wonderful to have a City staffer  
7 to help with that collaboration to keep  
8 abreast of everything that's going on and  
9 reduce the service overlap. Improve  
10 these linkages and provide a central  
11 place for everyone to know what's going  
12 on and who is doing what.

13 Last, I just want to say it  
14 seems like it's so low cost. The City  
15 and state level develop a sustained  
16 public awareness campaign -- social media  
17 campaigns are very low cost -- that  
18 informs the public about victims' rights  
19 and services. That campaign can also  
20 help defray the myths about access to  
21 victim compensation.

22 I believe, we believe that by  
23 taking the steps to remove these  
24 barriers, including steps to expand  
25 funding to victim services agencies,

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2 we're doing the correct and  
3 evidence-based choices to reduce  
4 violence.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 Councilman Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you

9 all for your testimony. Implicit bias is  
10 real. I call it something a little  
11 different. I call it justice by zip  
12 code. And what do I mean by that? That  
13 if you pull up on the scene and certain  
14 activities happen in Chestnut Hill,  
15 there's a different perception of what  
16 the victim was or why it happened than if  
17 it's in Southwest Philly. And so that  
18 implicit bias training is very important,  
19 because whether or not those stereotypes  
20 might have some validity, the loss of  
21 life is the loss of life. A crime is a  
22 crime, and the victim does deserve  
23 justice.

24 And so those kinds of things we  
25 have to constantly train our first

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2 responders, constantly train those in the  
3 courts, constantly train all of us to  
4 kind of be cognizant of.

5 The other thing is, what would  
6 be helpful to me as a District  
7 Councilperson, because we watch the news  
8 differently in the sense that the first  
9 thing we do is we pray for the soul that  
10 was lost, but then where was that soul  
11 taken, what district was it in. And so  
12 that justice by zip code matters, because  
13 Councilmember Johnson knows that if it's  
14 at Point Breeze, he's got to respond to  
15 that. If it's at 60th and Market, I do.  
16 And so we kind of take -- it would be  
17 helpful to have a help packet of victim  
18 services that are applicable to those  
19 individuals.

20 One person said something to  
21 the effect that there is an opt-out  
22 clause for victim services. Well, your  
23 son was involved in those kind of  
24 activities and, therefore, you, mom,  
25 aren't eligible for it. Is that indeed

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2 true?

3 PROFESSOR ROMAN: There's no  
4 reason why a first responder shouldn't  
5 still be giving out the information.  
6 That's a basic right, regardless of what  
7 happened at the incident. And Jonathan  
8 is going to talk about ways that they're  
9 trying to get that information out.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the  
11 question I have, though, before we move  
12 on to the solution is, is there a  
13 disqualifier that if your son was in  
14 criminal --

15 MR. DAVIS: Yes, there is.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before we  
17 move off of that, tell me why.

18 MR. DAVIS: So to receive  
19 victims compensation, they have to meet  
20 four basic guidelines. They have to  
21 report their incident in a certain time  
22 period. It has to be within a two-year  
23 period. They cannot be participating in  
24 a crime during that time. So can't be  
25 part of a criminal activity. And they

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2 must cooperate with the criminal justice  
3 system, law enforcement. So if an  
4 officer feels that the victim in any way  
5 is not cooperating, they indicate that on  
6 the police report, it's more than likely  
7 they will not be eligible for  
8 reimbursement.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you  
10 freeze that for a second. I am not  
11 talking about someone who is in an active  
12 commission of a crime. I'm talking about  
13 someone who may have had a life that we  
14 might not approve of, but on that given  
15 day, they were the victim.

16 PROFESSOR ROMAN: They are  
17 still eligible. Past criminal activity  
18 under Pennsylvania law does not exclude  
19 them from --

20 (Audience member yelling.)

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So for the  
23 record, a lot of people stayed a long  
24 time, and what we have learned from this  
25 is, we need to put -- so in my opinion --

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2 I got what you said, but in my opinion,  
3 we need to integrate it a little better  
4 so that they can get -- you probably  
5 could benefit from some of the testimony  
6 that they can give. So I understand. I  
7 understand.

8 So to that point, how do we  
9 better get this information out? And if  
10 someone had a criminal record, that does  
11 not eliminate them from victim services?

12 MR. DAVIS: No, that does not.  
13 It's based on the specific victimization  
14 at that time, not any history or any  
15 criminal record that they might have had  
16 and respond based to that.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.

18 MR. DAVIS: I will say also  
19 that -- so if the victimization occurs  
20 right then, in that report anything is  
21 indicated as uncooperative, it doesn't  
22 matter, they're more likely not to be  
23 eligible for the reimbursement. And the  
24 key point that you have to remember,  
25 victims compensation is reimbursement.

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2 So if you're living in poverty or  
3 paycheck to paycheck, you may not have  
4 the resources to put that money up front  
5 in order to get victims compensation to  
6 begin with, and that's a big issue in our  
7 communities to be able to serve our  
8 clients.

9 And finally I will say,  
10 Councilman Jones, is that I will provide  
11 you -- and I'll reach out to you. We  
12 have a chart of the six community-based  
13 organizations with the zip codes and  
14 districts that they serve so that if you  
15 come across someone who is a victim, you  
16 can refer them to us, and we'll make sure  
17 they get to Mothers in Charge and me or  
18 other victim services agencies.

19 And I'll leave you with this:  
20 I'm a community-based organization, but  
21 I'm also a community leader. If you need  
22 me, call me. I'll step up.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're

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2 welcome.

3 Dr. Speight.

4 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Thank

5 you.

6 I have a couple of questions.

7 So, Jonathan, the police report that is

8 written by the police officer on the

9 scene --

10 MR. DAVIS: Correct.

11 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: --

12 determines whether that family gets the

13 funding or not; is that correct?

14 MR. DAVIS: They can affect

15 that determination.

16 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Pardon

17 me?

18 MR. DAVIS: They can affect

19 that determination based on what they

20 write. Absolutely. They do not

21 determine it, but they can affect it.

22 PROFESSOR ROMAN: They have the

23 discretion.

24 MR. DAVIS: Right.

25 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: I get



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2 that. I get that. So what I'm asking, I  
3 guess, is that the determination of  
4 whether someone would be said to have  
5 been involved in the criminal activity is  
6 based on the police report that is  
7 submitted to Harrisburg, where Harrisburg  
8 decides whether they want to offer that  
9 family funding; is that correct?

10 MR. DAVIS: Yes. That's  
11 correct.

12 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: There's  
13 something really wrong with that, because  
14 the police is determined -- the police  
15 report -- the police on the scene is  
16 determining whether the family should get  
17 funded or not.

18 MR. DAVIS: Absolutely.

19 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: There's  
20 something very wrong with that.

21 MR. MENOS: I don't think that  
22 officers understand that power or that  
23 they are writing a police report with  
24 victim services in mind. So I think some  
25 training and some recognition for

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2 officers to understand that an ad hoc or  
3 kind of throw-away line to them could  
4 have major consequences for somebody else  
5 or an unfair summary or conclusion that  
6 is without basis could have real  
7 consequences. I'm not sure that  
8 technically officers are understanding  
9 that.

10 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: I'm sure  
11 that they need training to understand  
12 that, but my point is, the family who  
13 lost their son cannot bury him with the  
14 victims compensation because of the  
15 police report.

16 MR. DAVIS: That's right.

17 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: The other  
18 question I want to ask -- do I seem like  
19 a little angry about this? Because I am.  
20 I've had so many families that have been  
21 denied the benefit of burying their child  
22 and had to go back to the funeral  
23 director to make monthly payments because  
24 they were denied victims compensation  
25 because of a police report. That \$6,500

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2 could not go to that family, and there's  
3 something very wrong with that procedure.

4 Let me just ask you this: I  
5 like the idea of a public service  
6 announcement. That's an easy fix, like  
7 on radio/TV. Like victims need to know  
8 that there are services available to  
9 them. They need to know if they don't  
10 have a policy for their child if there's  
11 money available to help bury them, but  
12 they don't know that. So what happens to  
13 that money?

14 First, let me ask you this  
15 question: How much money is in the  
16 victims compensation for Pennsylvania?  
17 Anybody have an idea how many millions?

18 PROFESSOR ROMAN: They have  
19 more money than the -- I don't have that  
20 number with me, but I computed all of the  
21 victimizations in Pennsylvania and the  
22 number of compensation claims they paid  
23 out and it was a tiny fraction. I know  
24 from having met with the VCAP person just  
25 asking him that that money is there to

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2 make many more -- to fill many more.

3 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: To  
4 service victims?

5 PROFESSOR ROMAN: Yes.

6 DR. JOHNSON-SPEIGHT: Don't get  
7 me started.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead,  
9 and then I have to wrap up for this next  
10 panel.

11 MS. GARCIA: I just want to  
12 mention too that in addition to not  
13 receiving funding, someone can be given a  
14 percentage of the cost of the burial of  
15 the victim compensation. Have you ever  
16 come across that where the determination  
17 was made that the victim was somehow  
18 partially responsible for their own  
19 death?

20 MR. DAVIS: No, I haven't.

21 MS. GARCIA: We came across a  
22 case like that, the case of Raymond  
23 Pantoja where he was given only a  
24 fraction because he was actually in a  
25 fight defending himself and then he was

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2 shot and killed by someone who was not in  
3 the fight, and his mother only got a  
4 percentage. So we were told by Victim  
5 Services -- I mean, the victim advocate,  
6 Jennifer Storm, that that might be  
7 changing mid 2019. As far as I know, it  
8 hasn't changed, correct?

9 MR. DAVIS: I'm not aware of  
10 that.

11 MS. GARCIA: So that's  
12 something that's on the calendar.

13 I have a question for  
14 Dr. Reeves. When you said that 30  
15 percent -- when you quoted that 30  
16 percent of homicides went down on your  
17 site, what are we talking about when we  
18 say "site"? What do you mean by that?

19 DR. REEVES: I'm sorry. When I  
20 said slight or the site? We had a 30  
21 percent reduction in shootings between  
22 2011 and 2014. It's an official report  
23 we did in collaboration with the City.  
24 We took hotspots in the 22nd Police  
25 District where we put Care Violence teams

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2 and we compared them to hotspots in the  
3 22nd and a little bit in the 39th and  
4 didn't put Cure Violence teams, and we  
5 saw a 30 percent reduction in the  
6 shootings. That's two and a half fewer  
7 shootings per month per 10,000 people in  
8 the Cure Violence site versus a non-Cure  
9 Violence site. That year, that would  
10 have been over 450 fewer shootings that  
11 year.

12 MS. GARCIA: Thank you.

13 And, Mr. Menos, hi. How are  
14 you?

15 MR. MENOS: Hello. How are you  
16 today?

17 MS. GARCIA: I have a question  
18 for you. I know that you meet with the  
19 Homicide Unit and you've had meetings  
20 with them and offered them suggestions  
21 and things like that. My question is,  
22 have they been accepted and/or  
23 implemented, your suggestions?

24 MR. MENOS: So I think what's  
25 been accepted is that there is a problem.

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2 So certainly there's an agreement that  
3 there's a problem as it relates to  
4 communication and updates to families and  
5 all that information.

6 They have referenced, as I  
7 referenced today, the Police Executive  
8 Research Forum report that was done, an  
9 assessment that was done last year. When  
10 we did meet the last time we met, I was  
11 told that those would be protocols put in  
12 place for notification and for  
13 communication, the same protocols that  
14 were referenced today that were going to  
15 be put in place.

16 So I'm not entirely sure what  
17 has happened over the last year since I  
18 heard the same information that was told  
19 today, that these protocols were going to  
20 be implemented, but I am aware that these  
21 programs were identified, not just by  
22 victims coming forward, but that the  
23 Police Executive Research Forum  
24 themselves did an in-depth analysis,  
25 provided that analysis to the Police

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2 Department. And so they are -- they're  
3 very much aware of it, and they are  
4 commenting on the fact that they're  
5 implementing. I don't know whether they  
6 are or not.

7 MS. GARCIA: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Well,  
9 first and foremost, I want to say thank  
10 you.

11 And for the record, a lot of  
12 people, this is a very sensitive issue.  
13 So I understand people's passions and so  
14 forth. And, again, I'm not speaking as  
15 just a Councilperson. I'm speaking as  
16 how I got involved, because I lost a  
17 loved one. So I came into this expecting  
18 a level of passion and this being a long  
19 day, but I think also you have to zero in  
20 and remind individuals on -- like this is  
21 very good specific information that I had  
22 no idea existed prior to you giving your  
23 testimony, the part about the victims'  
24 rights, the part about making sure first  
25 responders are providing that



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2 information, right, irregardless of where  
3 you live at. And then also we have to  
4 have a conversation on the state level  
5 with our elected officials regarding who  
6 receives victim compensation and who  
7 doesn't. So this is a very robust  
8 conversation where we can look at  
9 concrete and real specific results.

10 This is an emotional issue, but  
11 we're also not here just to talk for the  
12 simple fact of talking about whatever  
13 happened. We're talking about how do we  
14 fix this issue moving forward and making  
15 sure victims and co-victims of violence  
16 have a seat at the table.

17 So thank you very much for your  
18 time and your testimony.

19 Could you please call the next  
20 panel, Clerk.

21 THE CLERK: Gwen Toler,  
22 Kimberly Washington, Cheryl Pedro.

23 (Witness approached witness  
24 table.)

25 THE CLERK: Cheryl Pedro,

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2 Natalie Gonzalez.

3 (Witnesses approached witness  
4 table.)

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: State your  
6 name for the record and you can begin  
7 your testimony, Ms. Toler.

8 MS. TOLER: Gwendolyn Toler.

9 I'm here for the gun violence in the  
10 community. They could start first by  
11 coming out to the recs, I think, into the  
12 communities where it's happening at.

13 This is the latest that I have  
14 to add to the gun violence. This is my  
15 cousin. He just got killed in January.  
16 I was at my sister's memorial when she  
17 was beaten and left in the park for dead,  
18 and find out, get on the news and his  
19 sister and brother up there talking about  
20 him being killed to gun violence.

21 My list and stacks of these is  
22 this big. For my family that died from  
23 natural causes, it's this small compared  
24 to these (indicating).

25 I'm tired of doing this. I

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2 never saw it as a child. I watched  
3 Walter Cronkite and a lot in the news. I  
4 never watch where we counted many family  
5 members dying to gun violence.

6 Everybody got an answer to  
7 that. It's not guns killing people.  
8 It's stupid people with guns. Cowards I  
9 call them. If you don't like me calling  
10 you that, stop killing our family  
11 members.

12 My granddaughter was shot last  
13 year in her foot coming from a pool, just  
14 coming across the street to our home and  
15 her and her little group. For what? For  
16 what?

17 I mean, this is getting crazy.  
18 And you could start -- everybody sat on  
19 this panel. They sat here talking about  
20 doing something about it. Start in our  
21 communities where it's happening at.  
22 Start down there first at the bottom, in  
23 the trenches where all this going on.

24 I don't need you sitting here  
25 talking about how many statistics it is

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2 or anything. I need you in my community  
3 at my rec, trying to stop the violence of  
4 guns. I don't need you here doing  
5 anything else. Come where we at, where  
6 it's happening at. That's all. I invite  
7 you down there. Come see what I have to  
8 go through and others in their  
9 communities.

10 I never would have thought it  
11 got this bad, but it has got to this. I  
12 said it back in 1996. If they didn't get  
13 something a hold of it when they started  
14 the shootings, we was going to have an  
15 epidemic, and here it is, an epidemic of  
16 guns.

17 Everybody answers -- you can't  
18 even look at somebody wrong without  
19 them -- what happened to using your  
20 fists? We fought, and we lived another  
21 day. We didn't take a gun to the next  
22 person that lived down the street from us  
23 or a neighbor that lived around the  
24 corner from us. We didn't do all of  
25 that. We lived another day fighting with

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2 fists, but now it seem like everybody is  
3 going gun crazy now. I'll get a gun and  
4 just walk around shooting and killing  
5 sons and daughters on the street, like  
6 they don't care, and they really don't.

7 I'm just tired of it.

8 You can speak now, Kim. I'm  
9 done.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
11 Ms. Gwen.

12 Ms. Kim from the Second Ward,  
13 Mark Squilla's constituent. Go ahead.

14 MS. WASHINGTON: You going to  
15 stop, Kenyatta.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I don't  
17 want no trouble. And I apologize again.  
18 You were supposed to be much earlier and,  
19 you know, we got a little long, but thank  
20 you for your patience for even still  
21 sticking around. Appreciate it.

22 MS. WASHINGTON: Good evening.  
23 My name is Kimberly Washington. And,  
24 yes, I got a little upset in here because  
25 I have a lot to say, but I'm going to

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2 make it short because it's so late.

3 I live down on -- I'm a  
4 committee woman in the Second Ward, 13th  
5 Division, but I don't just do my  
6 division, because I'm so well known. I  
7 started out as an activist down my way  
8 following my mother, Ella May Washington,  
9 footsteps, but to make a story short is,  
10 in South Philadelphia, period, the  
11 gunfire is serious. What we need to do  
12 is, we need to stop disrespecting each  
13 other titles, number one.

14 Me as a committee woman, I am  
15 the eyes and the ears to my Councilman,  
16 to my Senators, to my State  
17 Representative, if I'm really doing my  
18 job, and I does my job. Me and  
19 Councilman Mark Squilla works very  
20 closely, the Third District and other  
21 Councilpeople around Kenyatta.

22 Now, what I think needs to  
23 happen is, I think we all need to come  
24 together and sit down and review this.  
25 It's not about just the victims that's

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2 left behind with the parents. If we stop  
3 the gunfire, then we won't have victims.  
4 Then we won't have to worry about people  
5 testifying, calling each other snitches.

6 My daughter, Synette

7 Washington, was a victim of being a  
8 witness. Her and her daughter seen a  
9 young man get killed on they block. My  
10 daughter was threatened, so she didn't  
11 testify. So she was ducking the witness.  
12 They came and woke my baby up out her bed  
13 at 2:30 in the morning, made her go out  
14 as is, did not care about my 11-year-old  
15 grandchild screaming and hollering, what  
16 did my mother do?

17 They locked her up until that  
18 morning. They let -- they brought her  
19 in. The judge had her testify, even  
20 though it was against her in the  
21 community that she lives in of 20th  
22 Street. They didn't have consideration  
23 for me as a mother, and they would have  
24 let my child out and somebody would have  
25 shot my child because they know that she

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2 was going to testify against them. You  
3 understand what I'm saying?

4 So, yes, I'm a victim also of a  
5 child that's a witness that's being made  
6 to witness, but they're not doing nothing  
7 to protect her. She live in a Section 8.  
8 They were supposed to move her. They did  
9 not move her yet. They do not care.

10 So what we need to do for it to  
11 stop, start as a community, come together  
12 with our Councilman, come together with  
13 our legislators, our representatives, and  
14 let's hear the voices and let's get  
15 together and stop worrying about the  
16 grants and how we going to get the  
17 funeral arrangements. We don't need none  
18 of that. We don't need no more funeral  
19 arrangements. We need to learn how we  
20 going to stop these guns that's getting  
21 on these streets. How are we going to  
22 stop people from going into these gun  
23 shops, buying the guns for the people  
24 that can't buy them legally and giving  
25 them to them and shooting?



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2 Like she said, it took for her  
3 to go down there, the man walking up and  
4 down the street. They know who do it,  
5 but they won't say nothing. They expect  
6 us to snitch, but then we got to be dead  
7 the next day. So, therefore, we need to  
8 come back and get another resolution at  
9 how we can solve this problem with this  
10 gun violence in each community, not just  
11 up Northeast, not just North Philly. Let  
12 everybody come from each community.  
13 Start a board, start that caucus. Each  
14 community pick one leader and pick them  
15 out.

16 I work with Mothers in Charge,  
17 but I work with Rezzy McCleary from South  
18 Philly. She's from North Philly. You  
19 understand? All different chapters,  
20 everybody need to come together, sit  
21 down, and let's regenerate this and let's  
22 see what we can do.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
25 Kim.

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2 Ms. Gonzalez.

3 MS. GONZALEZ: Hello. My name  
4 is Natalie Gonzalez, the dairy (ph) one.  
5 My name is Natalie. I'm a volunteer for  
6 Mothers in Charge. I have lost a loved  
7 one to gun violence. I also witnessed a  
8 homicide at 13 years of age. I was a  
9 victim that day. It was God's blessing I  
10 made it out alive.

11 The passion for taking action  
12 on gun violence I carry within my heart.  
13 Gun violence, like all violence, doesn't  
14 discriminate. It's a problem we all  
15 risk, a problem we all share, a problem  
16 we can all do something to solve, and,  
17 that is, taking action. It can take time  
18 and many forms. For some people it takes  
19 the form of fighting for policy or a  
20 political change that can be a long and  
21 frustrating world and sometimes cause the  
22 issue to be more polarized, but that  
23 doesn't mean that there's nothing you  
24 can't do small, but meaningful action can  
25 create lasting change. So if you can

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2 dedicate one day a month, work with  
3 educators in the community schools about  
4 how to identify children who may be  
5 troubled and get them help, but doing  
6 nothing is not an option.

7 I'm talking about the things  
8 people can do in their own homes and  
9 schools and communities to ensure that  
10 people that are suffering from mental  
11 health issues get the help they need, to  
12 ensure that those who are crying out for  
13 help on social media are properly  
14 investigated before they hurt themselves  
15 or someone else, to ensure that our  
16 children don't accidentally pick up a  
17 firearm and get hurt or killed.

18 Create prevention programs that  
19 train young people how to recognize signs  
20 of suicidal and violent behavior and tell  
21 a responsible adult, programs that can  
22 train you on how to understand mental  
23 illness and seek help for those  
24 individuals, a program that empowers  
25 students to be the one that reaches out

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2 to other students that are socially  
3 isolated, falling through the cracks.

4 There are so many actions we  
5 can take to protect our children and each  
6 other from preventing gun tragedies, and  
7 that's why I need you to think about this  
8 and know that none of these actions  
9 affect constitutional rights, though I do  
10 believe there are sensible things that we  
11 need to improve gun safety or ensure  
12 firearms don't fall into the wrong hands  
13 of the people who shouldn't have access  
14 to them. Maybe one of the best ways to  
15 start talking about gun violence is to  
16 stop talking about the gun and start  
17 talking about the action you're going to  
18 take.

19 Many of these programs and the  
20 action you can take need to be focused on  
21 identification and intervention in the  
22 days, weeks, months or even years before  
23 someone picks up a firearm to hurt  
24 themselves or others.

25 That's why many more need to

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2 join this effort, even before the issue  
3 of gun violence seems too big or too  
4 terrifying or too hopeless for you to  
5 make a difference, even if you never  
6 really thought about this before.

7 The change we wish to see  
8 begins with us, and we can all take  
9 action to protect our families and  
10 cultural environment from this. We can  
11 allow these events that define us or we  
12 can take action, whether it's a  
13 neighborhood shooting, whether it's  
14 suicide or one child killing another  
15 because a firearm was left unsecured or  
16 gang violence, whether it's raids leading  
17 to domestic violence or whether it's 20  
18 kids being gunned down in their  
19 classroom. You have a choice. We all  
20 have a choice. We can allow this event  
21 to change and define us. We can be the  
22 ones to change first and take action to  
23 fight what happens next.

24 So please create programs,  
25 because together we can prevent these

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2 tragedies. You can go forward and make a  
3 difference. I want to leave you with  
4 this thought: If we all take action on  
5 gun violence, we can cause a hurricane of  
6 change.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
8 very much.

9 First and foremost, I want to  
10 thank all three of you for your  
11 testimony.

12 Ms. Gwen, I've been down in  
13 your division in Hawthorne several  
14 different times where young men have lost  
15 their lives. So I thank you for your  
16 advocacy.

17 And, Kim, I would also follow  
18 up with Councilman Squilla regarding your  
19 daughter, because we can have interaction  
20 with Philadelphia Police Department, the  
21 DA's Office, and PHA to see if they can  
22 expedite the moving arrangements, because  
23 I've done that before in the past of  
24 individuals in South Philadelphia.

25 And so we thank all of you for

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2 just stepping up the plate, and most  
3 importantly, I just want to humbly say  
4 thank you for your patience through this  
5 process.

6 Now we're in the public comment  
7 section, because we've listened to all of  
8 the panelists. Could the Clerk please  
9 call the public comment.

10 THE CLERK: Wilfredo Rojas,  
11 Cheryl Mobley-Stimpson, Lynn Faulk, Ikey  
12 Raw.

13 (Witnesses approached witness  
14 table.)

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Rojas,  
16 can you please just state your name for  
17 the record and please begin.

18 MR. ROJAS: My name is Wilfredo  
19 Rojas. I am the Co-Founder of the  
20 National Homicide Justice Alliance, 24  
21 and a half year prison employee, retired,  
22 and I'm here today to testify before this  
23 Council. I want to thank you. It's late  
24 in the day, but you're not only doing  
25 this because it's your job or volunteers,

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2 but you're doing it because you're not  
3 immune from homicides either in your  
4 neighborhoods, and you live in  
5 neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Still in  
7 South Philly.

8 MR. ROJAS: So this morning I  
9 heard data, I heard research, I heard  
10 funding, but I didn't hear inclusion,  
11 voices of people that actually suffered a  
12 loss. I didn't hear a strategic plan,  
13 how do we move forward.

14 Now, I have some suggestions.  
15 Number one, the citizens of Pennsylvania  
16 voted 70 to 30 on a victims' rights bill,  
17 but they don't include any funding for  
18 affected communities in the City of  
19 Philadelphia. Why can't they vote to  
20 allow Philadelphia to pass our own gun  
21 laws?

22 Now, we can help with a  
23 strategy. There's places in Pennsylvania  
24 where people are up for election that we  
25 can probably take. The problem is the



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2 people power to go up there and the funds  
3 to take those seats. We need to take  
4 back the legislature and get people  
5 elected that are actually going to care  
6 about families of murder victims and the  
7 gun violence in the State of  
8 Pennsylvania, the federal government.

9 I haven't seen one gun  
10 manufacturing shop in Philadelphia. The  
11 federal government has to step in. They  
12 have the resources. They have the money  
13 to come in and help us. These guns are  
14 not coming from Philadelphia. They're  
15 coming from other states. That's a  
16 federal issue, and the feds are not  
17 stepping up to deal with the issue of  
18 guns coming into our communities. They  
19 know if they do proper intelligence, they  
20 will know exactly where the guns are  
21 coming from.

22 The other thing is at the City  
23 level with the Police Department, there  
24 has to be more collaboration between  
25 departments. I heard a lot of

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2 departments here today, but there has to  
3 be collaboration, consultation, and  
4 coordination. We need to get all these  
5 agencies together to coordinate around  
6 issues that affect not only families of  
7 murder victims, but the gun violence.

8 Philadelphia is in a crisis  
9 right now. This morning I turned on the  
10 TV, the first thing I see is the shooting  
11 near Saint Malachy School.

12 My daughter once told me, she  
13 said, imagine you're in a building and  
14 it's got a steel roof with slits and a  
15 concrete floor and it starts filling up  
16 with water. What would you do, Dad? And  
17 I had to really think hard and use my  
18 imagination, and finally I came up with  
19 nothing. So she said, Dad, stop  
20 imagining. It was that simple.

21 We have to look for solutions.  
22 We have to use our imaginations to come  
23 up with creative ways to deal with this  
24 crisis, because if we don't, every single  
25 day in the newspapers, you hear another

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2 shooting. It's unusual not to see a  
3 shooting.

4 So I'm here today to support  
5 you, Councilman Kenyatta, and support the  
6 Committee in doing what I can on my part  
7 to help come up with solutions.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
10 very much.

11 Young lady, please state your  
12 name for the record.

13 MS. FAULK: Good evening. My  
14 name is Lynn Faulk. I'm here -- I've  
15 heard a lot. I've been here a long time,  
16 but I am currently about to do a Stop the  
17 Gun Violence event on March 6th at Martin  
18 Luther King High. It holds 2,500 people,  
19 and I am trying to get as many children  
20 as I can 9 to 17.

21 I do a lot for children out of  
22 my own pocket on my own. I have a  
23 daycare 24th and Morris in South Philly  
24 where we got to duck on floors from  
25 gunshots. I've been there seven years.

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2 We had the police out front for two  
3 years. The police is now gone. You from  
4 South Philly. You know the murders right  
5 on Ringgold, right on Tasker.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah.  
7 You're in the middle of it, 247.

8 MS. FAULK: I'm right there.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: 234 I  
10 mean. I'm sorry.

11 MS. FAULK: Yeah. So they kind  
12 of moved down to the bridge part. I did  
13 feel a little safer when they were right  
14 out front, right on the corner.

15 We also had to have a daycare  
16 6200 block of Market. Again, kids and us  
17 ducking on floors from gunshots and  
18 murders right on the same block. So I  
19 decided that I would try to be proactive,  
20 because it's sort of kind of late once  
21 they pick up the gun. We need to do  
22 something before they pick up the gun.  
23 So I'm trying to sponsor this event all  
24 by myself.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Do you

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2 have any flyers?

3 MS. FAULK: Yes. I'll get to  
4 that.

5 So I'm trying to do this all by  
6 myself. I'm starting to get a little bit  
7 more support, phone calls and things like  
8 that.

9 I actually live across the  
10 street in the Ritz Carlton, so I'm trying  
11 to get Ben Simmons and them to come and  
12 be inspirations to the children.

13 We do want to have guest  
14 speakers, but we want guest speakers that  
15 have experience being shot, that came  
16 home from prison. We want it in their  
17 face. We don't want to really talk about  
18 colleges and things when they can't even  
19 get a pair of shoes.

20 I'm one person trying to buy  
21 shoes for 172 children in my daycares,  
22 but right now I just want this event to  
23 be successful, not to mention that King  
24 High School is just about closed. So I  
25 think the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther

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2 King, it would be wonderful for us to do  
3 our event there and also try to help the  
4 school at the same time.

5 I'm just one person with a  
6 little bit of vans. I'm trying to go to  
7 schools. I already got 42 kids that I'm  
8 trying to pick up by myself, because I  
9 feel like if we get kids 9 to 17 and we  
10 talk to them and we put it in their  
11 face -- this is what happened. Everybody  
12 didn't die from gunshots, but these  
13 people are still living, but their lives  
14 are forever altered. If we put it in  
15 their face, maybe they won't pick the gun  
16 up, but we got to get to the root of the  
17 problem. We got to get to the mother  
18 that's on perc's.

19 I'm in poverty neighborhoods,  
20 from South Philly, born and raised, 20th  
21 and Dickinson, Tasker. My entire family  
22 is dead, two sisters, two aunts, dad,  
23 mother, father. I've been married 39  
24 years August. I'm probably like the only  
25 person in my family that made it out.

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2 I'm on my fourth degree, about to get a  
3 Master's. My life is kids. No one  
4 helped me. I've made it by the grace of  
5 God, and I am the exception to the rule.  
6 I probably should be a statistic, but not  
7 for the fact that I never tried it, I'm  
8 not.

9 So I never forgot where I came  
10 from, and I'm trying to do this event,  
11 and if I can get any help, I would be  
12 grateful.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Sure. So  
14 you probably want to follow up. You can  
15 reach out to my staff. We'll make sure  
16 you're also in contact with the person  
17 who represents that area where Martin  
18 Luther King High School is, and then  
19 we'll see how we can be supportive from  
20 there.

21 MS. FAULK: All right. Thank  
22 you so much.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
24 very much, Lynn.

25 Ikey Raw, Unsolved Murder

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2 Mysteries. Thank you, first and  
3 foremost, for your advocacy in keeping  
4 unsolved murders in the City of  
5 Philadelphia on the front line of  
6 people's mind. So thank you.

7 MR. RAW: Absolutely. No  
8 problem.

9 Thank you all for having me  
10 this evening. I'm Ikey Raw, Founder of  
11 Unsolved Murders in Philly with Ikey Raw.

12 I want to take a different spin  
13 on this, because last time I testified  
14 here, it was 2018, and since then,  
15 there's been over 700 people been killed  
16 in this city. I started Unsolved Murder  
17 in Philly with Ikey Raw October 2018.  
18 Since then, I've helped 11 families get  
19 justice. Not just because I'm going out  
20 in the streets making arrests, but  
21 sharing the information, letting the  
22 public know what's going on. They make  
23 the calls. They call the police, whoever  
24 they got to call to get that person.

25 My thing is this: I got a lot



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2 of information about a lot of shootings  
3 in the City, a lot of killings in the  
4 City. What do I do with the information?  
5 I wish that the police was still here. I  
6 honestly didn't want them to leave,  
7 because I asked the Commissioner when she  
8 was Acting Commissioner, Coulter, have  
9 somebody -- can I reach out to somebody  
10 or somebody in the Police Department  
11 reach out to me with this information  
12 that I'm getting to stop these shootings?

13 I got mothers, brothers,  
14 cousins. They don't want to talk to the  
15 Police. They don't have a problem  
16 sending me a direct message, sending me  
17 the guy's picture who going to do the  
18 next shooting or who they think did this  
19 shooting. What am I to do with this  
20 information?

21 I don't have a problem with  
22 somebody calling me a rat, calling me a  
23 snitch. They do that now. You  
24 understand what I'm saying? But I'm the  
25 same guy that said, what y'all going to

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2 do with this police officer that killed  
3 David Jones? We protested at his house  
4 and all that. If you can go to a cop  
5 house and scream "black lives matter"  
6 when the cops shoot somebody -- that's  
7 why I'm real passionate about it, because  
8 I got mothers every day that call me.  
9 Ikey, they killed my son. The detective  
10 is telling me they need somebody else to  
11 testify.

12 I got people telling me now,  
13 the person who killed they loved one is  
14 currently in jail, but they got  
15 detectives telling them they need  
16 somebody else to start -- just like the  
17 woman just said, they bringing people out  
18 they bed, making them testify.

19 These people are scared. You  
20 got people who are not scared who will  
21 testify, but where is the help for them?  
22 Who is going to protect them? You  
23 understand what I'm saying?

24 I'm at CJC at least three times  
25 a week. Last week I was just in there.

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2 There was a family. I wasn't with this  
3 family, but they were in there. The  
4 person who killed they loved was one out  
5 on bail. They didn't even know. They  
6 come to court and see him in the  
7 courtroom. They rush out the courtroom,  
8 like what's going on. He supposed to be  
9 incarcerated.

10 So with the DA Office, whoever  
11 is working in there, they need to get in  
12 contact with the victim's family, let  
13 them know. If you make bail, okay, you  
14 make bail, but let them know. Don't have  
15 the people surprised when they come to  
16 court. You killed my loved one, you  
17 sitting right next to me. You understand  
18 what I'm saying?

19 I'm in CJC all the time. I see  
20 what goes on. My thing is, I have the  
21 information, a lot of information, with a  
22 lot of these murders and shootings. They  
23 send it to me. When the murders get  
24 solved, they tell me. You know, some of  
25 the people, he did this, he did that, but

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2 I can't post main man picture because  
3 it's not coming from authorities. You  
4 understand what I'm saying?

5 I ain't no snitch. I ain't no  
6 rat. I ain't going to tell you like,  
7 yo -- I mean, just give me the picture if  
8 you don't have the information, but if  
9 it's very far from the Police, I'm going  
10 to post it, let them know what's going  
11 on, this the guy they looking for.

12 So my thing is, who can I speak  
13 with in the Police Department, in the DA  
14 Office, whoever, to give them this  
15 information? Because it's a lot of stuff  
16 that goes on. When I go talk to these  
17 families, a mother, Ikey, he want to go  
18 shoot the guy who he know shot his  
19 brother. I got to talk to them. You  
20 know how I do. I don't call nobody, put  
21 it on live or none of that, but I got to  
22 go to the family, to the house and tell  
23 young boy, chill, don't go shoot him,  
24 don't go kill him. Let the police.

25 Ikey, they not doing nothing.

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2 They keep telling my mom to give my mom  
3 the runaround.

4 These young boys, these  
5 fathers, these people are tired of  
6 hearing this and they want to retaliate.

7 So that's the only reason I'm  
8 here for. What do I do with this  
9 information helping -- just like you said  
10 in the beginning, I help a lot of  
11 families do the unsolved murders and  
12 stuff like that, but what about the  
13 murders that can be prevented, the  
14 information that we get, who do I give it  
15 to?

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So what I  
17 will do, Ikey, I got a couple ideas in  
18 terms of different avenues on how to  
19 address this with the DA's Office and the  
20 Police, but also their crisis team that  
21 also provides information that's out  
22 there working. So let's just get  
23 together after this offline. I got your  
24 number, and we just build on it and  
25 figure out how we get that information

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2 out and go from there.

3 MR. RAW: Appreciate it.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: All right?

5 MR. RAW: Absolutely.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Ms. Cheryl  
7 Mobley-Stimpson.

8 And can the Clerk please call  
9 the rest of the individuals for public  
10 comment.

11 Oh, that's the last one. Okay.  
12 I got to pick up my kid. Thank you.  
13 Thank you, everyone, for being patient as  
14 well.

15 So I do want to take a quick  
16 moment just to acknowledge. So it was  
17 about maybe 20 years ago I was crushing  
18 grad school and I was trying to get into  
19 University of Pennsylvania and a  
20 gentleman named Congressman Chaka Fattah  
21 had a Graduate Opportunities Conference,  
22 and I met a young lady who gave me an  
23 opportunity to -- I was working with  
24 Congressman Fattah as a volunteer, and I  
25 worked under this young lady's leadership

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2 to help put the conference together as a  
3 young man. The office was on Walnut  
4 Street off of -- between 20th and 21st  
5 and Walnut, and she has an MBA, a JD, but  
6 she's born and raised in South  
7 Philadelphia, Point Breeze. And so it's  
8 kind of ironic how life works out. Years  
9 later I'm sitting here in a hearing as an  
10 elected official.

11 But I just wanted to publicly  
12 just say thank you and I appreciate your  
13 support, Ms. Cheryl Mobley-Stimpson.

14 So state your name for the  
15 record and say your testimony.

16 DR. MOBLEY-STIMPSON: I  
17 appreciate that, Councilman. I have a  
18 similar reference in my statement.

19 My name is Dr. Cheryl  
20 Mobley-Stimpson. Let me say -- first,  
21 let me just say I'm a little bit  
22 distracted. I'm here on behalf of a  
23 couple of different groups. One of the  
24 groups is no longer here, Alpha Kappa  
25 Alpha.

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2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes.

3 MS. MOBLEY-STIMPSON: They were  
4 here as part of a committee called the  
5 Connection Committee, and the irony of  
6 this is that the national President under  
7 whom the Connection Committee was formed,  
8 it just hit social media all over the  
9 world that she died today. So we all  
10 just got that information, but I wanted  
11 to stay here until the end just to kind  
12 of share.

13 So I'm a little bit distracted.  
14 I apologize, because I was very close to  
15 her. We worked on the national board  
16 together.

17 But let me just quickly go  
18 through this.

19 Good afternoon, Chairman  
20 Johnson, Chairman Jones in his absence,  
21 other members of the Special Committee on  
22 Gun Violence Prevention. I consider it a  
23 special honor to testify before you.  
24 Both Councilmen, one person whose career  
25 I pored into from day one many, many



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2 years ago -- I'm really dating myself  
3 here -- and the other whose career I have  
4 helped to enhance almost from day one,  
5 and that's Councilman Curtis Jones, who  
6 obviously had to step out.

7 Let me just say publicly that I  
8 cannot think of two more passionate  
9 people to spearhead this whole effort,  
10 and I applaud you both.

11 The other irony -- not so much  
12 of an irony because it's become so  
13 commonplace. I mean, the last time I saw  
14 you, Councilman Johnson, was in the  
15 streets, right, on 24th Street about a  
16 week ago, a week and a half ago where we  
17 just had a murder, and I reside a block  
18 away from where that happened. That kind  
19 of shook the whole neighborhood, had a  
20 chilling effect, because it happened 5:30  
21 in the morning, and that young man was  
22 shot in the head while he was driving and  
23 the car crashed into another car. I  
24 mean, traumatized the whole community.  
25 But that's not the first time that that's

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2 happened. It's not obviously going to be  
3 the last, and that's kind of at the crux  
4 of what I'm here for today.

5 So as I looked around this room  
6 earlier, I had a lot -- have a lot in  
7 common with the people who are in this  
8 room, whether it was ministry, Greater  
9 Philadelphia Cheyney Alumni, who I'm the  
10 President of and I'm speaking directly on  
11 their behalf, Alpha Kappa Alpha, who I  
12 mentioned earlier today. I am, as the  
13 Councilman stated, a South Philadelphian.  
14 I'm a fourth-generation South  
15 Philadelphian. I like to tell people  
16 that, because people come from  
17 different -- some people just moved to  
18 Philly. Some people been here and raised  
19 their kids here. I'm fourth generation,  
20 and I raised a fifth generation in South  
21 Philadelphia. And we don't do absent  
22 mapping in our neighborhoods, but people  
23 are in the neighborhoods along various  
24 places along the continuum with regard to  
25 diplomas and degrees, and, again, that's

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2 why I'm here, to talk about the resources  
3 that are in the community that can help  
4 this effort. Okay?

5 I raised two sons, and both  
6 Councilmen know my sons, have known them  
7 from birth. My oldest son was one of the  
8 first Philadelphia youth commissioners.  
9 Both of them have done extremely well,  
10 but I want to just speak about how  
11 stressful it was, like the stress and  
12 anxiety associated with raising children  
13 in the inner city, okay, what we've had  
14 to deal with with regard to educating  
15 them, nurturing them, protecting them  
16 from hurt, harm, and danger, moving the  
17 needle.

18 There are thousands of people,  
19 of mothers especially, and I'm speaking  
20 specifically about -- or I want to draw  
21 specific attention to single mothers.  
22 When I say single mothers, people have  
23 different definitions for single mothers,  
24 so let me just establish a definition.  
25 That's whether you are widowed, whether

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2 you are separated, whether you are  
3 divorced or you've never been married.

4 All that qualifies as a single mother.

5 It's not just you didn't get married and  
6 you had children. Okay? It's you're  
7 raising children on your own, period.

8           There are thousands of -- and  
9 not just mothers, but parents, men also.  
10 So I'm here to give voice to the  
11 voiceless to say that when you look at  
12 all of -- at everything in totality, that  
13 although our children may not have died,  
14 maybe they were not shot or impacted  
15 directly by gun violence, but we're the  
16 ones who dodged the bullets. We're still  
17 the ones who walked every day 24/7 in the  
18 inner city dealing with the stress and  
19 anxiety of it all, but we're also the  
20 ones who have the strategies for  
21 navigating all of that. We're the ones  
22 who have resources as well. We're at the  
23 grassroots at ground zero, and we want to  
24 be part of the strategic plan to kind of  
25 help shape all of this.

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2 So there are a number of  
3 people, a number of different angles to  
4 this. We're all impacted. And there's  
5 hardly anybody that lives anywhere in  
6 Philadelphia hardly that hasn't been  
7 impacted by gun violence in terms of  
8 cousins being shot, uncles,  
9 what-have-you.

10 So make room for us at the  
11 table too, because we're part of the  
12 grassroots answer. And if you've never  
13 walked in our shoes, you don't even know.  
14 Like although you guys know my children,  
15 you have no idea what the level of my  
16 stress was on a daily basis, because I  
17 never talked to you about it, right? And  
18 there's nobody that really asks you about  
19 that from day-to-day, because we're all  
20 dealing with just trying to get through.

21 So in closure -- and, again,  
22 I'm here especially on behalf of a group  
23 called Greater Philadelphia Cheyney  
24 Alumni. I'm the President of that group.  
25 I'm also here on behalf of a group called

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2 Philly Sports Moms, and we actually have  
3 successfully raised children using sports  
4 as a vehicle for combatting what we've  
5 had to deal with. Sports and education  
6 together, not one to the exclusion of the  
7 other, to successfully raise kids. So I  
8 want to put that on the table as well.

9 I also want to just say one  
10 thing about Cheyney, that it started as  
11 ICY in 1837, and there's a statue right  
12 outside of this noteworthy building, this  
13 edifice, of a man by the name of Octavius  
14 V. Catto, and he is the principal -- was  
15 a principal of the Institute for Colored  
16 Youth, which was the forerunner for  
17 Cheyney University. So that's why we're  
18 here in the room today, because we're  
19 bringing those resources to the table  
20 through the persons of Philadelphians who  
21 are actually in the neighborhoods and who  
22 have lived this.

23 I'm also a former block -- not  
24 a former block captain. I'm the  
25 second-generation block captain. So, you

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2 know, we're bringing the knowledge, the  
3 experience, the exposure, the skills, and  
4 we're here to help you move the needle.

5 So just include us as part of the  
6 strategic plan, because we feel like we  
7 have something to offer.

8 I waited through all this.

9 I've enjoyed all this testimony. I think  
10 it's all been worthwhile and very  
11 informative, and just wanted to offer us  
12 up as a resource.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you  
14 very much.

15 For the record, are there any  
16 other questions or comments from members  
17 of the Committee on this panel?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Is there  
20 anyone else here to testify on this  
21 resolution?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: This  
24 concludes the business of the Special  
25 Committee on Gun Violence for today,

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2 specifically victims, co-victims,  
3 survivors of gun violence. For me, its  
4 very, very informative, and we look  
5 forward to reporting back with what our  
6 next recommendations, our next steps are  
7 going to be, because this was not just  
8 for the simple fact of us having a  
9 hearing just to be heard. We're going to  
10 work together to put together strategic  
11 recommendations and things that we can  
12 work on that come out of this hearing.

13 Thank you very much, and I  
14 thank you for all of my Committee members  
15 for being here and sticking this out as  
16 well.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Special Committee on Gun  
19 Violence Prevention concluded at 5:50  
20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings, evidence and objections are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

-----  
MICHELE L. MURPHY  
RPR-Notary Public

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