



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Violence Fatality Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2022

1 pm – 3 pm

The Violence Fatality Review Committee (VFRC) convened its virtual WebEx meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 1:02 PM. The meeting was led by co-chairs Kenyatta Hazlewood and Dr. Joseph Richardson. The VFRC was able to achieve quorum and there were twenty-four (24) attendees present:

Committee Members

Dr. Joseph Richardson (TRAVAIL)
Kenan Zamore (DC Health)
Dr. Erica Richards, MD (Sibley)
Chief Leslie Parsons (MPD)
Juanita Price (Hillcrest)
Sheila Clark (DHS)
Dr. Erin Hall, MD (Medstar WHC)

Helaina Roisman (GWUH)
Kenyatta Hazlewood (HUH)
David Gorman (USAODC)
Dr. Roger Mitchell, MD (Community)
Cheryl Bozarth (OVSJG)
Linda Harllee Harper (OGVP)

Invited Guests

Paige Mitstifer (OCME)
Nicholas Weil (BEGA-Open Government)

David Marimon (CJCC)
Daniel Rappaport (OVSJG)

Fatality Review Staff

Dr. Renee Spraggins (OCME)
Jessica Edwards (OCME)
Ebele Brown (OCME)
Kera Johnson (OCME)
Enisa Boardwine (OCME)
Jenna Beebe-Aryee (OCME)
Dr. Hakim Stovall (OCME)

Open Meeting

I. Welcome

VFRC co-chairs Kenyatta Hazlewood and Dr. Joseph Richardson welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Attendees were asked to begin the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims who lost their lives to violence this week. Roll-call was taken by the Fatality Review Staff Assistant.

II. Opportunity for the public to address the committee

There was no one present from the public to address the committee.

III. Meeting Agenda for Open Portion of Meeting

The agenda for the open portion of today's meeting was voted upon and accepted by the VFRC.

IV. Review of Minutes for the Open Portion of the May 26, 2022 Meeting

With no questions, concerns or issues about the minutes from the open portion of the May 26, 2022 meeting, it was voted upon and the minutes were accepted as written.

V. Presentation on Gun Violence in the District

Linda Harlee Harper (OGVP) informed the committee of the latest updates and status of the DC Office of Gun Violence Prevention. She highlighted the following:

- The District has a huge investment in gun violence prevention.
- “Promise Rides” is up and running. It is housed in the Department of For Hire Vehicles (DFHV) and provides transportation for “people of promise” to get to various appointments safely. To date, over 1,300 rides have been utilized.
- The Department of Public Works (DPW) has provided 110 temporary jobs for “people of promise.” To date, 76 out of 82 jobs have been retained and converted to full time positions.
- The Violence Interrupter Program has been expanded to include 52 additional positions via the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and ten floating positions for Cure the Streets or other areas that previously had no support. The salaries of the violence interrupters has also been increased.
- OGVP has been empowering residents with its grant program. \$1.5 Million has been funded already. Individuals and companies submitted proposals for ways to help combat the violence in the city. The response was overwhelming and has been receiving positive feedback.
- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) contracted with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) for a report examining the gun violence in the District over the past several years. The report is available on-line. DC residents have been providing feedback on the report and its

suggestions. OGVP is studying the report and determining what points will work best the city.

- A DC strategic plan on gun violence prevention is in the works.
- Building Blocks DC was activated in December 2021. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention was created in January 2022, under the Office of the City Administrator (OCA).
- Bleeding Out, by Thomas Abt, is a book that helped guide the District's work on gun violence prevention.
- OGVP is in discussions with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) to create a credentialed program to assist the violence interrupters with their work. The Promise Academy has started its first cohort for training.

VI. **Vote to close the meeting to the public for remaining business**

A vote to close the open portion of the meeting for remaining committee business was conducted and accepted. Members were asked to exit the open portion and sign onto a new WebEx session using the closed meeting invitation.

The open portion ended at 2:03 PM.