



July 30, 2021

Via Email

Honorable James F. Kenney, Mayor
City of Philadelphia
City Hall Room 215
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Mayor Kenney:

Thank you for your timely response to our July 22nd letter. While we appreciate the broad overview you provided of the work that operating departments are currently doing to address Philadelphia's gun violence crisis, we requested specific information about your plans to marshal the City's vast resources to meet this unprecedented and critical moment. We listed eight objectives and asked for detailed plans with measurable goals and timelines for implementation. Additionally, we included a request for information regarding implementation of the Roadmap for Safer Communities, for which we received no response. On these points, your response was inadequate.

As we stated in our last letter, our goal is to stop the bloodshed in our neighborhoods. As such, we'd like to meet with you and your team to discuss and develop an action plan that includes our objectives to address this gun violence crisis with the urgency it requires. For example, you stated in your response that the administration intends to expand programming at recreation centers in the fall but considering the volume of gun violence incidents happening on a daily basis, we need a plan to expand programming at recreation centers immediately.

Prior to this meeting, we again request that you provide information to help us understand the progress that has been made on toward the goals in the Roadmap to Safer Communities update from April 2021. Specifically, your administration stated intended plans to deliver critical prevention and intervention programs and services, with the goal of reducing shootings and gun-related homicides by 30% by 2023 and engaging with 100% of shooting victims and highly at-risk individuals by 2023. As included in our July 22nd letter, we ask that the following information be provided by Friday, August 6th:

- A list of Free Library branches, organized by police district, whose hours have been expanded according to the Roadmap to Safer Communities. Please include the change in hours as compared to FY 2019;
- A list of Recreation Centers, organized by police district, whose hours have been expanded according to the Roadmap to Safer Communities. Please include the change in hours as compared to FY 2019;
- The list of summer academic and enrichment programs for students developed by the Office of Children and Families, including program locations and hours of operation;
- The timeline for the development of the RFP for violence intervention grants, including when the Managing Director's Office expects the grants to be distributed;
- The anticipated launch date of the READI pilot and any strategies developed to fill the 222 available slots;
- An update regarding the pilot Co-Responder teams, including a schedule for the expansion to a "24-7" citywide operation; and
- The timeline for the development and implementation all community engagement strategies listed on page 10 of the Roadmap to Safer Communities.

Once we have received the information above, our offices will reach out to schedule a meeting with you for the week of August 9th.

We'd like to make three final points. First, while shootings and homicides increased dramatically in 2020, this is not an anomaly: both have increased every year in Philadelphia since 2017. Secondly, we do not question the commitment of Philadelphia's hardworking public servants to fighting this crisis, but we do think that Philadelphians in neighborhoods besieged by gun violence deserve clear and transparent answers on the progress the City is making around this issue. Lastly, there is no political agenda here. Our only goal is to prevent more Philadelphians from being murdered or injured in 2021, and we are suggesting concrete ways to do that.

We look forward to working together to develop an emergency response to the gun violence plaguing our communities.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Rhynhart
City Controller



Jamie Gauthier
Councilmember, 3rd District

CC: James Engler, Chief of Staff
Tumar Alexander, Managing Director
Vanessa Garrett Harley, First Deputy Managing Director
Erica Atwood, Senior Director for Criminal Justice and Public Safety