

From: [Holly Wells](#)
To: [Clerk General](#)
Cc: [Holly Wells](#)
Subject: Comment on new policing proposal that will be approved tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:26:10 PM

The quick look I had at this seems like an EXCELLENT direction to head to achieve some real, long-lasting change in Portland's public safety efforts. To hear that we, the community, its organizations, and its citizens, will be an integral part of the plan really gives me hope. I am a professional mediator (20+ years), and creating structures for people to talk to each other about personal and common issues is likely to be effective far beyond most peoples' expectations—even to the point of reducing gun and other violence.

I would love to be on an email list as these mechanisms begin to take shape (or even earlier, if the Council puts together focus groups or brainstorming sessions).

And now we rise!

Warmly,
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"Kindness is in our power even when fondness is not."

"If you can't find God in the next person you meet, it's a waste of time looking for God anywhere else." ~Gandhi

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." ~Leo Buscaglia

From: [Dayan, David Isaac](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: April 7th Agenda Item *230-1
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:37:24 PM

I am strongly opposed to reinstating the gun-violence reduction team by another name. After so many Portlanders subjected themselves to violence at the hands of the PPB to achieve such modest gains this summer, the council is already backpedaling. I am shocked that the council would reach consensus to undo our hard won gains and fall so quickly into the pattern of reactionary backlash so typical of local governments following even minor reductions in police-related harms. I am further shocked that the council would stoop to do so behind closed doors with no opportunity for meaningful input from the public.

Given Mayor Wheeler's apparent and craven desire for more violence and harm to come to poor and black Portlanders, I am not surprised that he consented to this decision, but I am supremely disappointed that commissioners Rubio, Ryan, Hardesty and Mapps would go along with any proposal that reinstates a police unit with such clearly documented harmful impacts on our community.

--

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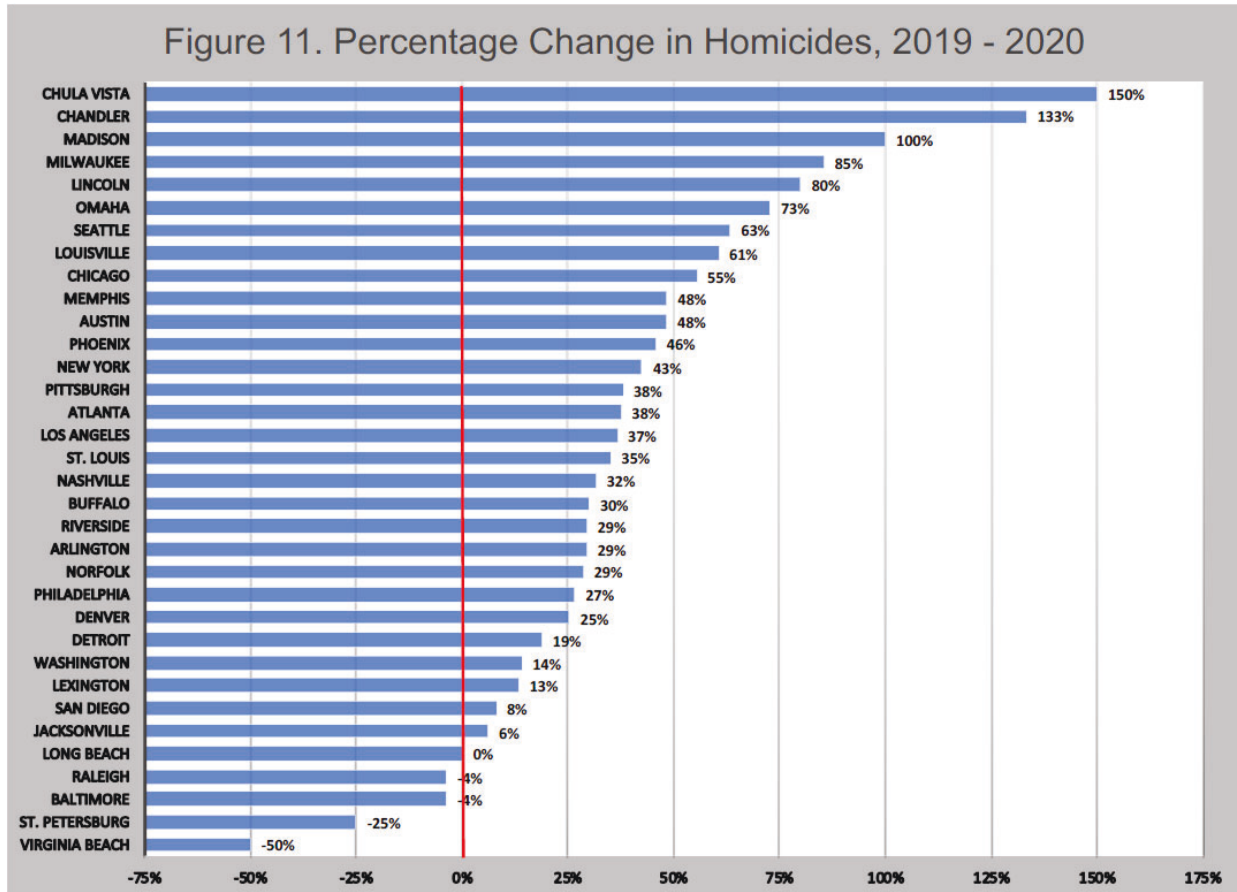
From: [Kathleen Galloway](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Compromise
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:54:19 PM

The mayor and council are NOT listening. Dave Barrios, a park ranger said the rangers are not the police of the parks. Will their new uniforms have a target sewn on the back. Unarmed officers sent out to tell armed thugs they shouldn't be doing these bad things. Crazy. I'm telling all my family and friends that it's not safe to come to Portland this summer. The leadership is not doing their job. I know this will not change anything, but you really should listen to people like Mr. Barrios. They at least have experience.

From: [Robert McCullough](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to the proposed agreement to do little about the increasing gun violence in Portland
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:58:45 PM
Attachments: [jgndlhqjbmbfjol.png](#)
[Pandemic, Unrest, Crime, and Violence in U.S. Cities .pdf](#)

Our murder rate is up 60% compared to a year ago. This puts us in the 9th place in an unfortunate race -- with a growth rate in homicides higher than Chicago, New York, Detroit, and Washington. The chart below is from *Pandemic, Unrest, Crime, and Violence in U.S. Cities: 2020 Year-End Update*.

It is time to take substantive steps, not add park rangers.



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Pandemic, Unrest, Crime, and Violence in U.S. Cities: 2020 Year-End Update

Richard Rosenfeld
University of Missouri - St. Louis

Thomas Abt
Council on Criminal Justice

Ernesto Lopez
University of Missouri - St. Louis

Summary

- This study examines crime rates for ten different offenses in 34 American cities during the calendar year of 2020, with a special emphasis on homicide and other violent crimes. The current study updates previous studies by the authors with additional data through December 2020.
- Homicides, aggravated assaults, and gun assaults rose significantly in 2020. Homicide rates were 30% higher than in 2019, an historic increase representing 1,268 more deaths in the sample of 34 cities than the year before.
- The large size of this increase is deeply troubling, but readers should be aware that absolute rates of homicide rate of remain well below historical highs. In 2020, the homicide rate was 11.4 deaths per 100,000 residents in sample cities; 25 years earlier, in 1995, the rate was 19.4 per 100,000 residents.
- Aggravated assault and gun assault rates in 2020 were 6% and 8% higher, respectively, than in 2019. Robbery rates declined by 9%.
- Domestic violence increased significantly during the early months of the pandemic, but these results should be viewed with caution as year-end rates were comparable to year-end rates in 2019, and findings were based on data from just 12 cities.
- Property and drug crime rates, with the exception of motor vehicle theft, fell significantly during 2020. Residential burglary decreased by 24%, nonresidential burglary by 7%, larceny by 16%, and drug offenses by 30%. Motor vehicle theft rose by 13%.
- Homicides increased in nearly all of the 34 cities in the sample. In the authors' view, urgent action is necessary to address these rapidly rising rates. Subduing the pandemic, increasing confidence in the police and the justice system, and implementing proven anti-violence strategies will be necessary to achieve a durable peace in the nation's cities.

Introduction

This report examines changes in crime rates during the coronavirus pandemic, with a special emphasis on homicide rates. It also updates previous studies on the same subjects with data through December 2020. In a June 2020 report published by Arnold Ventures, the authors first examined the relationship between the pandemic and homicide.¹ In July, September, and

¹ Abt, Thomas, Richard Rosenfeld, and Ernesto Lopez. 2020. COVID-19 and Homicide: Final Report to Arnold Ventures. Houston, TX: Arnold Ventures.

November of 2020, in a series of reports released by the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice, Rosenfeld and Lopez examined the relationship between the pandemic and crime rates more broadly.²

The current study consists of three parts. The first examines crime rate changes for ten violent, property, and drug offenses in a sample of U.S. cities during the calendar year of 2020. The second looks closely at homicide rates, offering observations on how the pandemic and other factors may explain the increase. The third offers recommendations for reducing homicide and other violent offenses.

Data and Methods

This study examines monthly crime rates for ten violent, property, and drug offenses in a total of 34 U.S. cities. Not all cities reported monthly data for each crime (see Appendix I). The mean population of the 34 cities for which homicide data were available is approximately 978,000; the median is 542,000. New York is the largest city in the sample with 8.42 million residents; Norfolk, Virginia is the smallest with 245,000 residents.

While the sample for the current study was not drawn at random, it is roughly representative of the violent crime levels in large cities. In 2019, the violent crime rate of the sample was 756 violent crimes per 100,000 city population, very close to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program's violent crime rate average of 736 per 100,000 residents for cities with populations between 500,000 and 999,000.³

The crime data were obtained from the online portals of city police departments providing monthly data for the 48-month period between January, 2017, and December, 2020, for the following offenses: homicide, aggravated assault, gun assault, domestic violence, robbery, residential burglary, nonresidential burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and drug crimes. The data are subject to revision, and offense classifications varied somewhat across the cities.

Offense counts were converted to monthly crime rates per 100,000 residents for analysis. A “structural breaks” methodology was used to estimate statistically significant changes in crime rates over time.⁴ The vertical red lines in the following figures indicate the point at which a structural break occurs in the data.

In March of 2020, almost all states and the federal government declared states of emergency in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, imposing severe restrictions on movement and travel, limiting public and private gatherings, and issuing other directives. The shaded portions in Figures 1-10 represent the time period following these orders.

² Rosenfeld, Richard, and Ernesto Lopez. 2020. Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities. Washington, D.C.: Council on Criminal Justice (July); Rosenfeld, Richard, and Ernesto Lopez. 2020. Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities: August Update. Washington, D.C.: Council on Criminal Justice (September); Rosenfeld, Richard, and Ernesto Lopez. 2020. Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities: October 2020 Update. Washington, D.C.: Council on Criminal Justice (November 2020).

³ For this comparison, violent crimes include homicide, aggravated assault, and robbery. See <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>.

⁴ Structural breaks denote a statistically significant change in the average level or rate of change in a time series, in this case monthly crime rates between January 2017 and December 2020. The structural break procedure used here assumes the break point is unknown and allows the model to estimate the significant break in the series. Because street crimes tend to rise and fall with seasonal changes and may exhibit long-run trends, the estimates are adjusted for seasonal effects and linear trends in the crime rates.

In order to explore additional questions concerning changes in homicide rates, the authors compiled data on city population size, age composition, poverty levels, and unemployment rates from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016-2019 five-year American Community Survey. Data concerning changes in public activity during the pandemic were compiled from Google Mobility Reports.⁵ The relationship between these variables and 2020 homicide rates was estimated in a regression model that also controls for time and place "fixed effects" of unmeasured influences on homicide. (See Appendix II for a discussion of the data and methods used in the homicide analysis.)

Part One: Summary of Changes in Violent, Property, and Drug Offenses

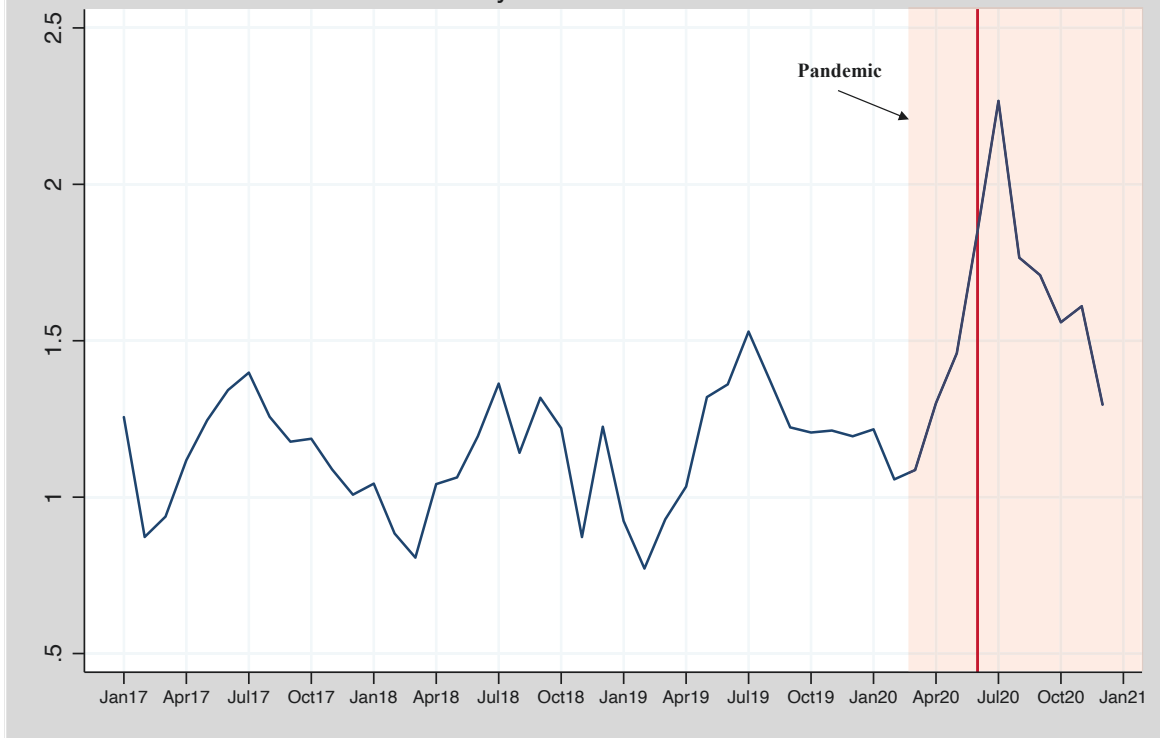
Part One describes the average change over time for the sample in monthly crime rates for each of the ten offenses.

Homicide

Criminal homicides are deliberate and unlawful killings of one human being by another. Figure 1 displays the average monthly homicide rate in the 34 cities for which homicide data were available (see Appendix I). As with all offenses examined here other than drug offenses, there is a clear cyclical pattern in homicide rates over time, with rates rising during the warmer summer months and falling during the fall and winter. That said, homicides rates in 2020 exceeded previous rates throughout the entire year and there was a structural break in the city average in June, indicating a large, statistically significant increase in rates

⁵ <https://support.google.com/covid19-mobility/answer/9825414>.

Figure 1. Monthly Homicides per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



after adjusting for seasonality and the longer-term trend. After this break, homicide rates increased sharply through July, then declined through the end of the year, though not to levels observed in the prior year.

In January and February, the average city homicide rate increased by 32.5% over the same period in 2019. From March through May, the rate was 19.4% higher. For the summer months of June through August, the homicide rate was 37.2% higher. For September through December, the rate was 28.2% higher.

From the declaration of emergencies in March through the end of the year, the average city homicide rate increased by 28.6% over the same period in 2019. Across the entire year of 2020, the homicide rate was 29.6% higher in 2020 than the year before. That translates to an additional 1,268 homicides across the 34-city sample.

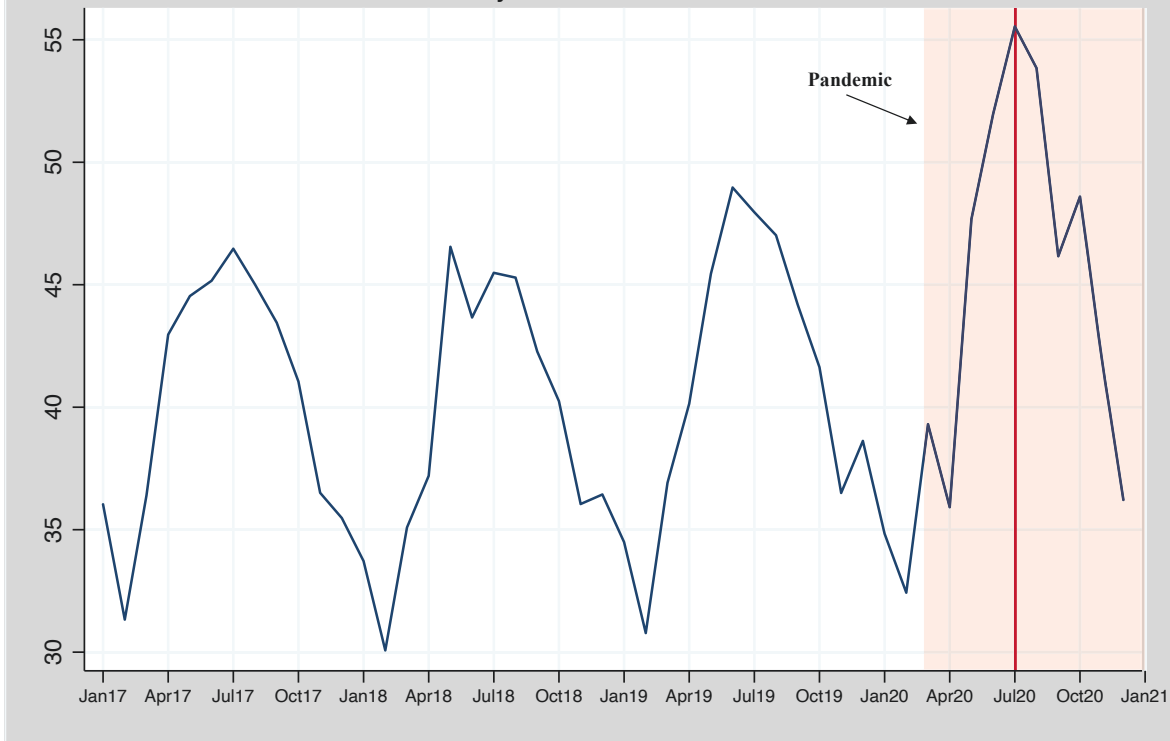
KEY TAKEAWAY

Homicide rates in 2020 were 30% higher than in 2019. There were 1,268 more homicides in the sample of 34 cities than the year before.

Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assaults are assaults committed with a deadly weapon or those that result in or threaten serious bodily injury to the victim. Figure 2 displays the average monthly aggravated

Figure 2. Monthly Aggravated Assaults per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



assault rate in the 19 cities for which the data were available. As with homicide, aggravated assault rates exhibit a cyclical pattern over time. The rate peaked in July of 2020, the structural break in the series, then dropped through the end of the year.

In January and February, the average city aggravated assault increased by 3% over the same period in 2019. From March through May, the rate was .32% higher. For the summer months of June through August, the aggravated assault rate was 12.1% higher. For September through December, the rate was 7.5% higher.

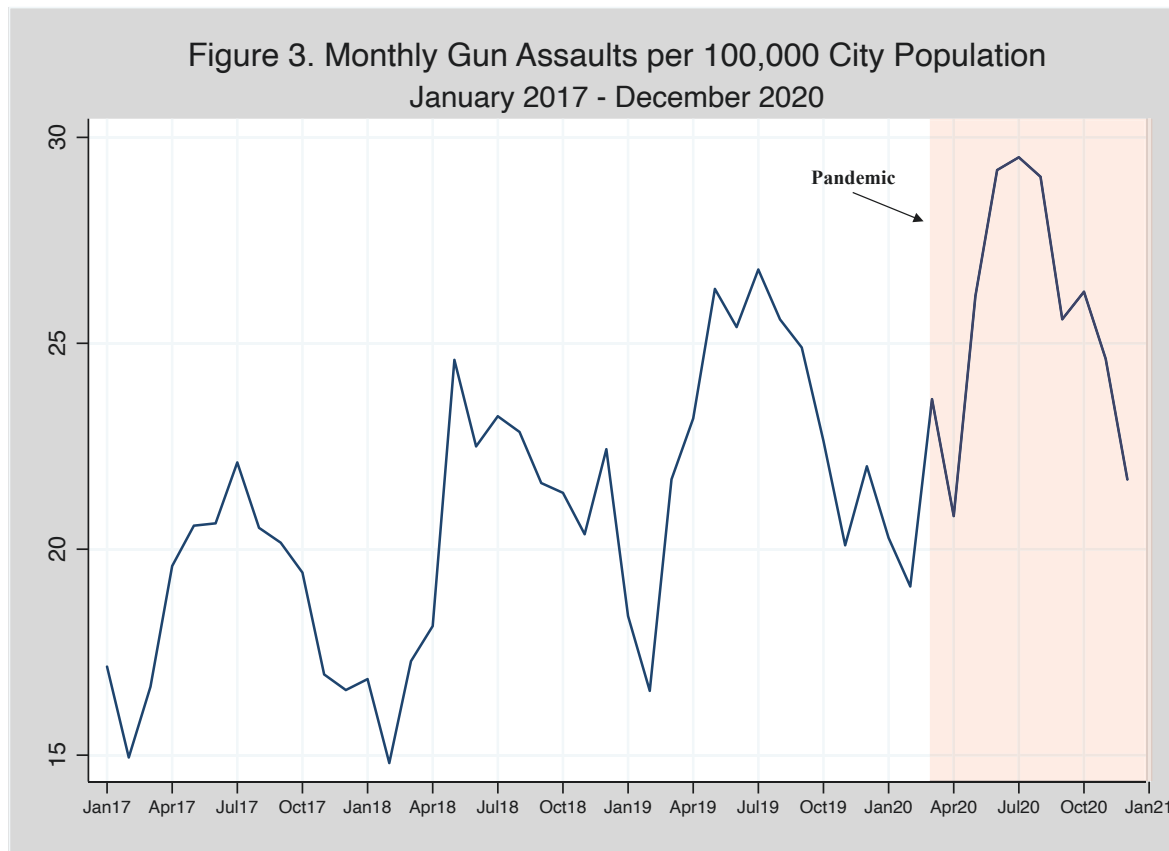
From the declaration of emergencies in March through the end of the year, the average city aggravated assault rate increased by 7.0% over the same period in 2019. Across the entire year of 2020, the rate was 6.4% higher than the year before, representing an additional 6,741 aggravated assaults across the 19-city sample.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Aggravated assault rates in 2020 were just over 6% higher than in 2019. There were 6,741 more aggravated assaults in the sample of 19 cities than the year before.

Gun Assault

Gun assaults are aggravated assaults committed with a firearm. The monthly gun assault rate in the 15 cities with available data exhibits a clear upward cyclical trend over time, with no structural break in the series. (Recall that the structural break equation includes the linear



trend in the data.) Gun assaults peaked in July of 2020, then declined through the end of the year.

In January and February, the average city gun assault rate increased by 12.7% over the same period in 2019. From March through May, the rate was -0.8% lower. For the summer months of June through August, the gun assault rate was 12.9% higher. For September through December, the rate was 9.5% higher.

From the declaration of emergencies in March through the end of the year, the average city gun assault rate increased by 7.4% over the same period in 2019. Across the entire year of 2020, the rate was 7.9% higher in 2020 than the year before, representing an additional 3,557 gun assaults across the 15-city sample.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Gun assault rates in 2020 were almost 8% higher than in 2019. There were 3,557 more gun assaults in the sample of 15 cities than the year before.

Domestic Violence

Figure 4. Monthly Domestic Violence Incidents per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



Domestic violence consists primarily of aggravated and so-called simple assaults, those committed without a dangerous weapon or serious bodily injury to the victim. Domestic violence rates exhibit a cyclical pattern over time. The model estimated a structural break in domestic violence in March of 2020, prior to a sharp increase to a peak in July. The total level of domestic violence during the pandemic and during all of 2020, however, was approximately the same as the year before.

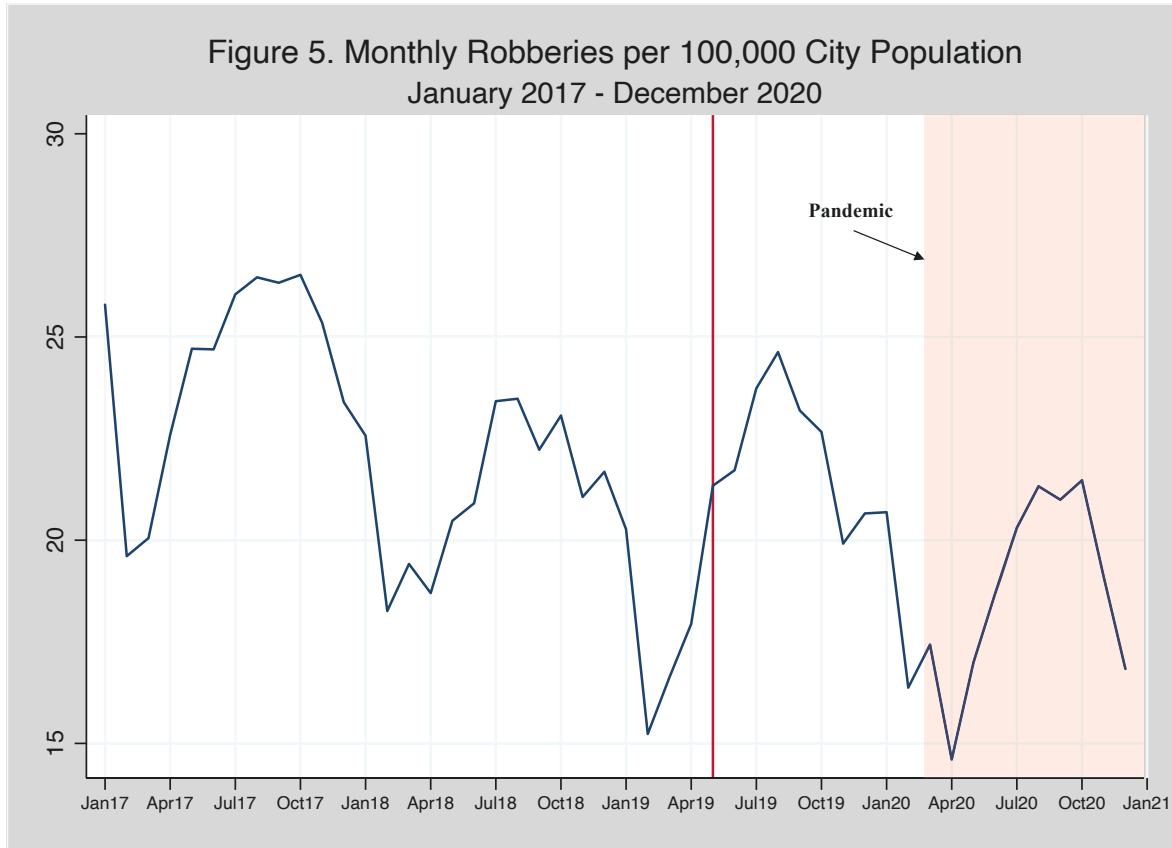
In January and February, the average city domestic violence rate increased by 7.1% over the same period in 2019. From March through May, the rate was -9.1% lower. For the summer months of June through August, the domestic violence rate was 2.7% higher. For September through December, the rate was -3.3% lower.

From the declaration of emergencies in March through the end of the year, the average city domestic violence rate decreased by -3.1% over the same period in 2019. Across the entire year of 2020, the rate was -1.7% lower in 2020 than the year before. These results must be viewed with caution because pandemic-related stay-at-home restrictions may have made it more difficult for victims to report domestic abuse to the police and because the results are based on just 12 cities that reported domestic violence data.

KEY TAKEAWAY

While there was a significant increase in domestic violence during the early months of the pandemic, year-end rates were approximately the same as the year before. These results should be viewed with caution as victims may have found it difficult to report domestic abuse to the police and the results were based on data from just 12 cities.

Robbery

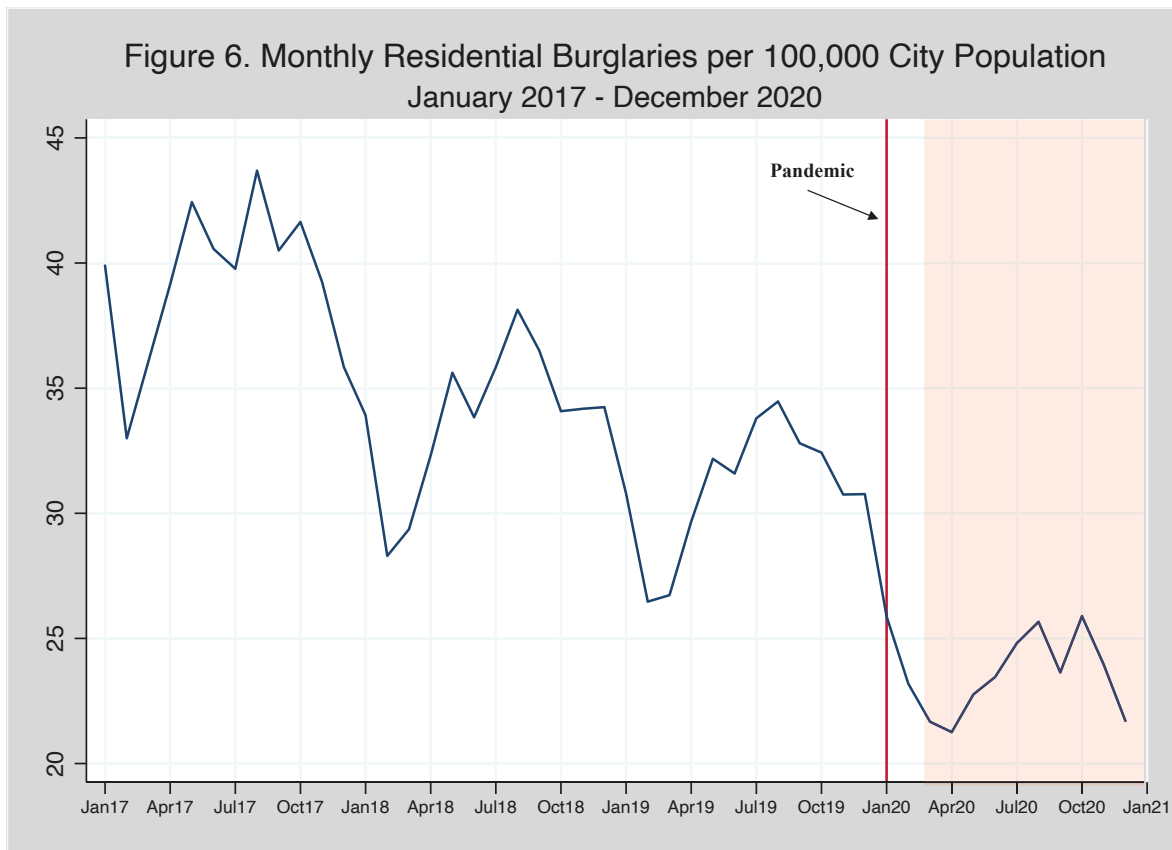


Robberies are thefts committed with force or the threat of force. Robbery rates in the 25 cities with available data exhibited a modest downward cyclical trend. The average robbery rate decreased during the early months of the pandemic, rose during the summer and early fall of 2020, and dropped again through the end of the year. These fluctuations, however, did not differ significantly from those of previous years. The robbery rate during the pandemic period of March to December of 2020 was 9.1% lower than during the same period the year before. The robbery rate during the entire year was 9.3% lower than in 2019. A structural break in robbery rates was detected in May of 2019, nearly a year before the pandemic began.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The robbery rate was 9% lower during the pandemic than during the same period in 2019 and 9% lower during the entire year than the year before.

Residential Burglary



Residential burglaries involve breaking and entering a residential premise for the purpose of committing a crime. The monthly residential burglary rate in the 15 cities with available data exhibits a downward cyclical trend over time. We observe a further statistically significant decline in residential burglary beginning in January of 2020, about two months before the quarantines and other pandemic-related restrictions took hold. With some monthly fluctuation, the residential burglary rate remained flat through the end of 2020. The average residential burglary rate during the pandemic period of March to December of 2020 was 34.2% lower than during the same period the year before. For the entire year, residential burglary was 23.8% lower than in 2019.

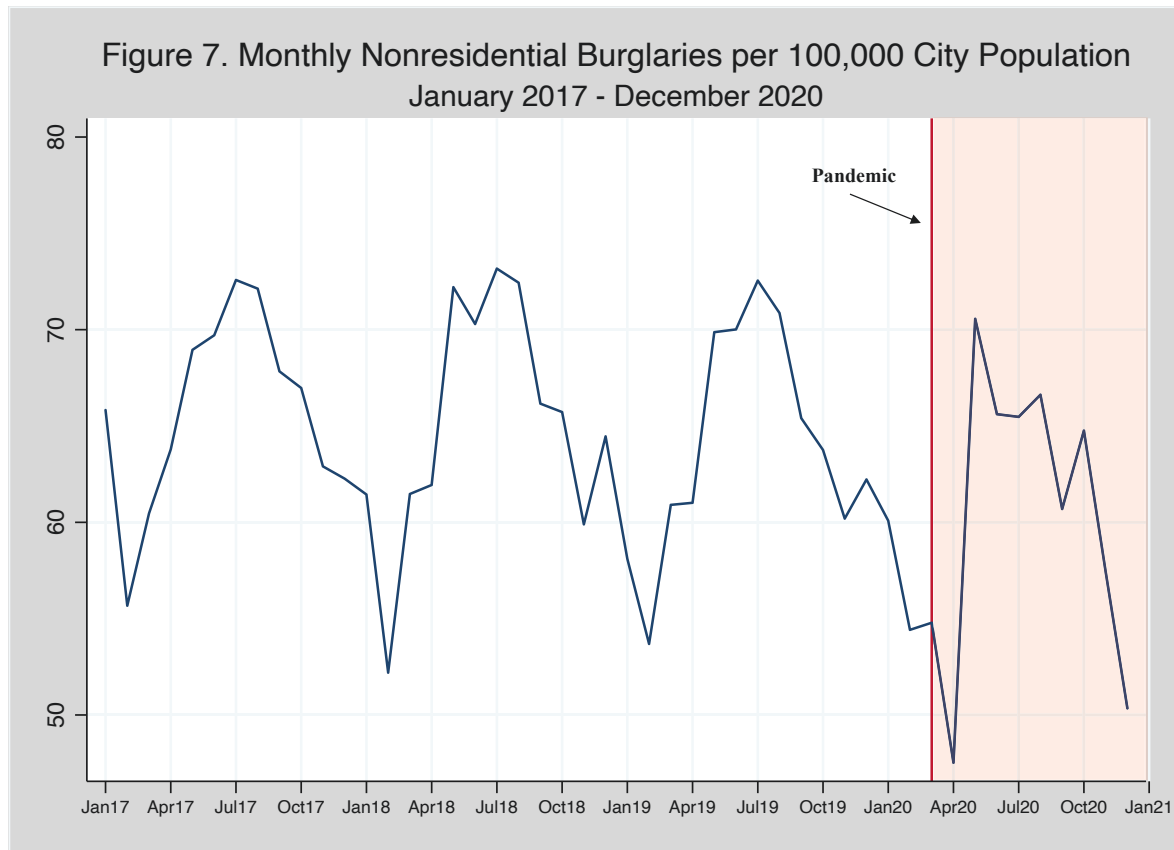
KEY TAKEAWAY

The residential burglary rate was about 34% lower during the pandemic than during the same period in 2019 and 24% lower during the entire year than the year before.

Nonresidential Burglary

Non-residential burglaries involve breaking and entering into non-residential premises for the purpose of committing a crime. Non-residential burglaries exhibit a cyclical pattern over time with a structural break occurring in March of 2020. They decreased during the early months of the pandemic, increased abruptly in May, and then fell through the summer and fall of 2020 in the 15 cities with available data. The brief spike in nonresidential burglary coincided with the emergence in late May of mass protests against police violence in many cities. The

average non-residential burglary rate during the pandemic period of March to December of 2020 was 8.1% lower than during the same period the year before. It was 6.6% lower for the entire year than during the year before.



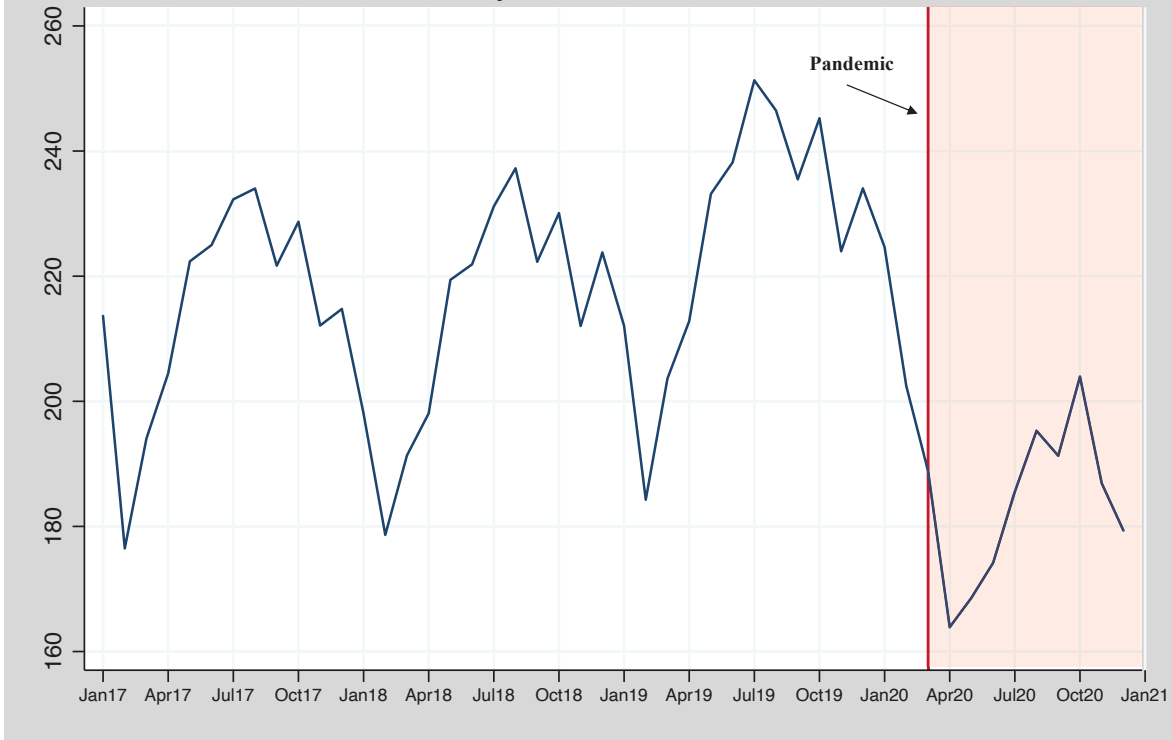
KEY TAKEAWAY

The non-residential burglary rate was 8% lower during the pandemic than during the same period in 2019 and 7% lower during the entire year than the year before.

Larceny

Larcenies are thefts unaccompanied by force or breaking and entering. The monthly larceny rate exhibits a pronounced cyclical pattern over time and a structural break in March of 2020. The larceny rate in the 23 cities with available data decreased in the early months of the pandemic and rose during the next several months. The average larceny rate during the pandemic period of March to December of 2020 was 20% lower than during the same period the year before. During the entire year, it was 16% lower than the year before.

Figure 8. Monthly Larcenies per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



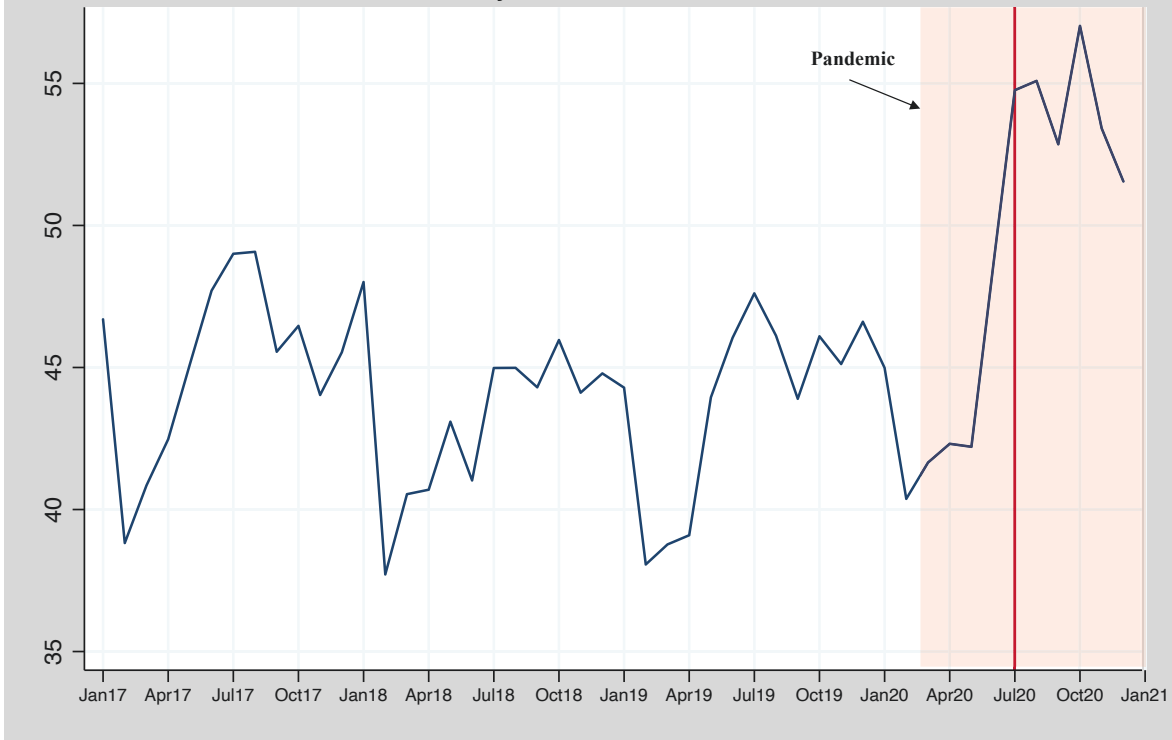
KEY TAKEAWAY

The larceny rate was 20% lower during the pandemic than during the same period in 2019 and 16% lower during the entire year than the year before.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor vehicle thefts are thefts or attempted thefts of motor vehicles, mostly automobiles. Monthly motor vehicle theft rates rose and fell cyclically with no evident linear trend in the 25 cities with available data. Motor vehicle thefts increased during the early months of the pandemic. A structural break occurred in July of 2020, and the rate peaked in October before declining through the rest of the year. The motor vehicle theft rate during the pandemic increased by 12.6% over the same period the year before. The increase during all of 2020 was 12.9%.

Figure 9. Monthly Motor Vehicle Thefts per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



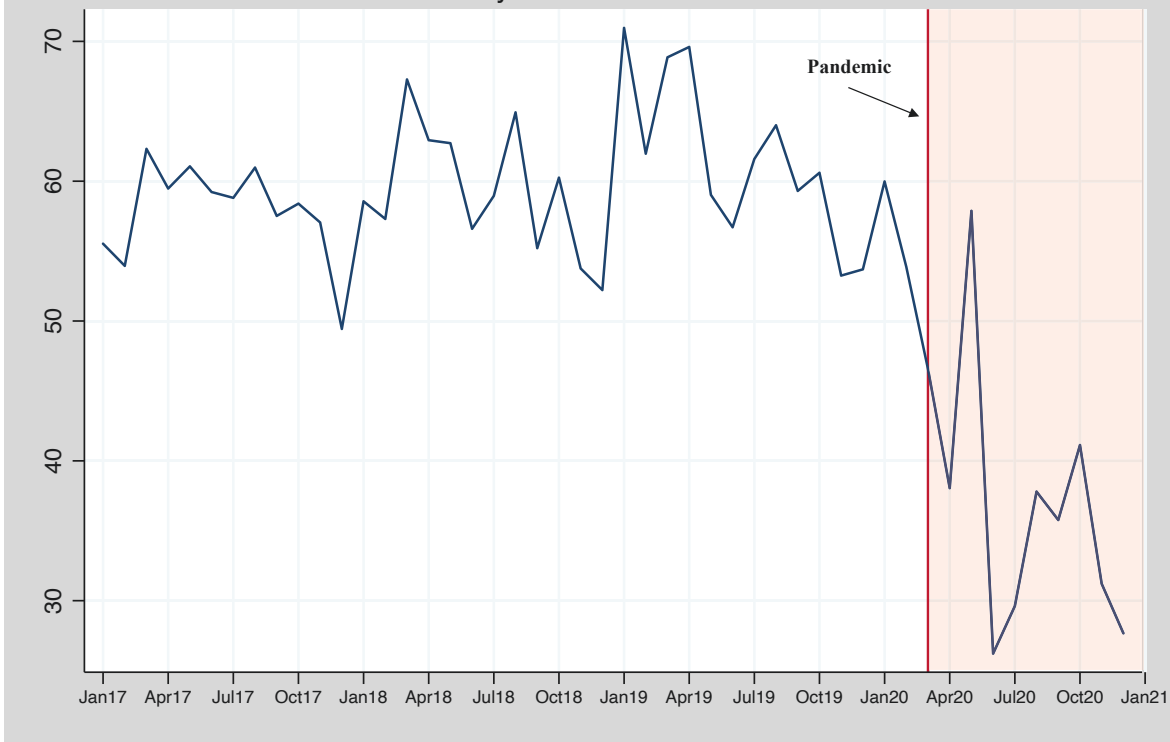
KEY TAKEAWAY

Motor vehicle theft was about 13% higher during the pandemic and during all of 2020 than the year before.

Drug Offenses

Drug offenses include arrests for the manufacture, sale, or possession of illicit drugs. The weekly drug offense rate in the 17 cities with available data exhibits a structural break in March of 2020, shortly after which the rate rose and then dropped sharply. Overall, the drug offense rate during the pandemic decreased by 38.7% over the same period in 2019, dropping to a level far lower than at any time during the previous three years. During all of 2020, the drug offense rate decreased by 30% from the year before.

Figure 10. Monthly Drug Offenses per 100,000 City Population
January 2017 - December 2020



KEY TAKEAWAY

Drug offenses were nearly 39% lower during the pandemic and 30% lower during all of 2020 than the year before.

Summary and Discussion

Part One of this study updates previous reports for Arnold Ventures and the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice on crime changes during the coronavirus pandemic. It reveals statistically significant changes in the rates of violent, property, and drug offenses for a sample of American cities during calendar year 2020.

Homicide rates were higher during every month of 2020 relative to rates from the previous year. That said, rates increased significantly in June, well after the pandemic began, coinciding with the death of George Floyd and the mass protests that followed. Overall, homicide rates increased 30% in 2020, a large and troubling increase that has no modern precedent. An increase of this size in large cities suggests that the national homicide rate increase almost certainly will exceed the 10.2% increase in 2016, after police killings in Ferguson, MO and elsewhere sparked widespread protests, as well as previous largest single-year increase of 12.7% in 1968.⁶ But, as other commentators have noted, a final determination must await official crime statistics from the federal government, which will be released later this year.

⁶ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>; FBI Unified Crime Reports, historical data.

While the size of this one-year increase is cause for concern, readers should be aware that absolute rates of homicide rate of remain well below historical highs. In 2020, in sample cities the homicide rate was 11.4 deaths per 100,000 residents; twenty-five years earlier, in 1995, the rate for the same sample was 19.4 per 100,000 residents. Homicide rates have largely declined since the early 1990s, with brief spikes in 2005, 2006, 2015, and 2016, after which homicide rates continued to fall.⁷

On the other hand, property crimes such as burglaries and larcenies fell significantly during 2020, although thefts of motor vehicle thefts increased. Drug offenses also dropped substantially. The timing of these declines coincided with the stay-at-home mandates and business closings in response to the pandemic. Quarantines reduce residential burglaries – when residents are at home, opportunities for burglaries are foreclosed. When businesses are closed, there is no opportunity for larcenies such as shoplifting. Drug arrests fall when police prioritize away from drug enforcement activities, and when street-level drug-selling becomes more difficult because fewer people are out in public. Relatedly, residential burglaries and larcenies increased somewhat as quarantines were lifted and shops reopened during the summer.

Domestic violence increased sharply during the spring and summer of 2020 but remained flat overall compared to 2019. This result should be viewed with caution because pandemic restrictions may have made it difficult for victims to report domestic abuse to the police, and the result is based on just 12 of the 28 cities in our analysis.

Part Two: In-Depth Analysis of Changes in Homicide Offenses

As reported above, the homicide rate in the 34 cities for which monthly homicide data were available rose on average by 30% between 2019 and 2020 – a historic increase. Part Two analyzes the potential causes and contributors to rising homicide rates during the past year, exploring variation across cities in demographic and social conditions, the coronavirus pandemic, the protests against police violence following the death of George Floyd, and other factors.

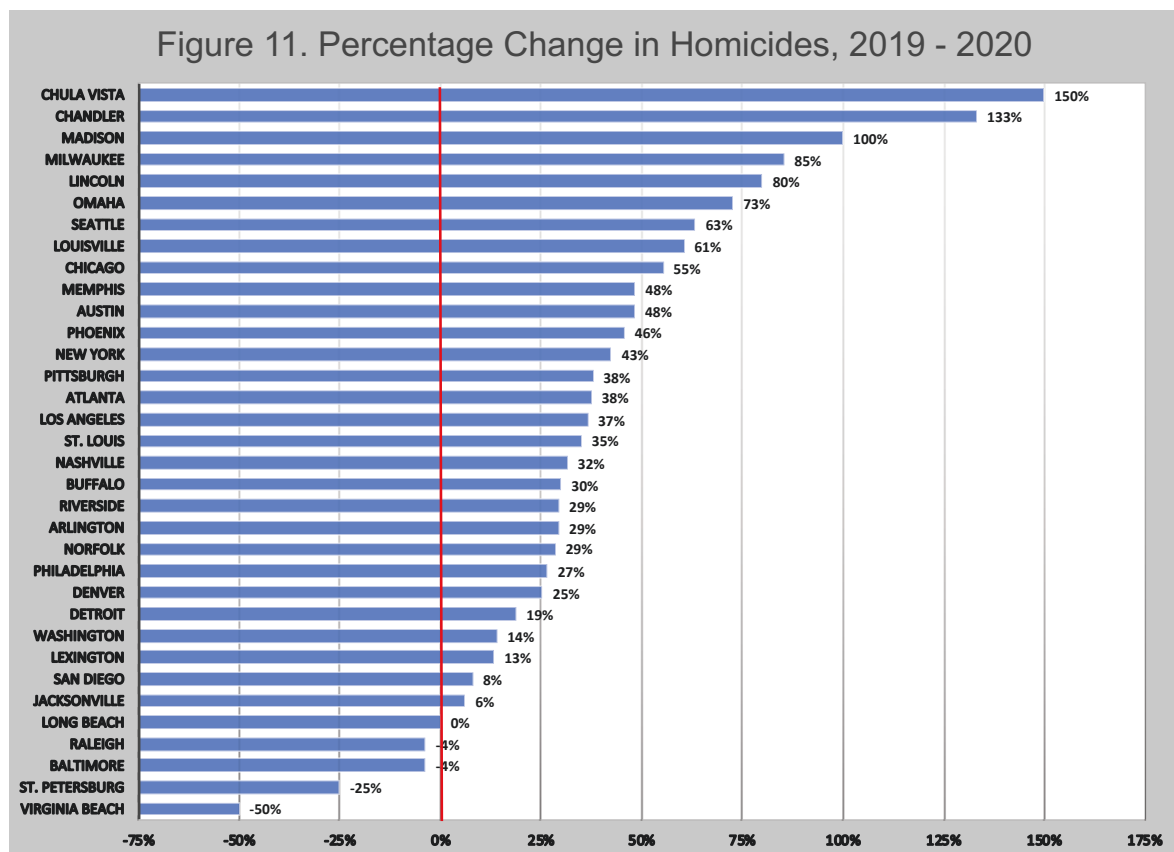
Variation Across Cities

Figure 11 shows the 2019-2020 percentage change in the number of homicides in each of the 34 cities in the sample. Most obviously and importantly, homicides rose in 29 of 34 (85%) of the cities included in the sample. Several of the greatest increases occurred in smaller cities with very small homicide counts, where even a few additional homicides can produce a large percentage change. For example, Chula Vista, California, experienced the largest homicide increase in the sample (150%), but that percentage is based on a difference of just six homicides (ten in 2020 compared with four in 2019). But large increases in homicides were not limited to smaller cities. Chicago added 278 homicides to its 2019 total of 502, for an increase of 55%. New York added 131 homicides, representing a 43% increase. Not surprisingly, given their size, large cities with appreciable homicide increases contributed disproportionately to the overall increase in murder victims. The three largest cities (New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago) accounted for fully 40% of the 1,268 additional people

⁷ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-1>

killed in 2020. While there is variation among the cities, what is most notable is that homicide rose substantially in the vast majority of them.

To further explore variations among cities, the authors performed a regression analysis to assess the relationship between homicide rates and differences in various demographic and socioeconomic variables and population mobility rates. The results of this analysis are presented in full in Appendix II. To account for seasonality effects, the homicide rate during the same month the year before is included in the analysis. As might be expected, more disadvantaged cities – those with higher poverty and unemployment rates – experienced greater increases in homicide in 2020. Larger cities had modestly smaller increases in homicide, as did those with a larger share of residents between the ages of 18 and 24. Finally, increased time spent at home was associated with decreases (or smaller increases) in homicide, as explained below.



While definitive answers must await further research, local variations in social and demographic conditions, while important, do not appear to be the primary driving force behind rising homicide rates. National factors must be explored to better understand the increase.

The Coronavirus Pandemic

As the authors noted in a previous report,⁸ the coronavirus pandemic may have temporarily suppressed some homicides by limiting the opportunities for offenders and victims to interact

⁸ Abt, Rosenfeld, and Lopez, 2020.

following government-ordered restrictions on travel, work, and social activity. Compared to other periods in 2020, the smallest homicide increases occurred in March through May, when the most severe restrictions were in place. This finding is consistent with a large body of criminological theory and research on the relationship between crime and everyday activity patterns.

In addition, as mentioned above, new data lends support to this hypothesis. Data on changes in public activity from Google Mobility Reports were used to estimate time spent at home for a large sample of the U.S. population. As expected, time spent at home peaked during the early months of the pandemic, then eased over the summer months. It appears that as pandemic-related restrictions were relaxed during the late spring and summer of 2020, or compliance with them diminished, homicide rates increased.

The authors have also noted previously that the pandemic may have increased the commission of homicides in multiple ways. First, the pandemic has disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, placing at-risk individuals under additional physical, mental, emotional, and financial stress. Secondly, the pandemic has strained the institutions charged with responding to violent offenses, including police agencies, courts, hospitals, emergency medical services, and community-based groups that productively engage at-risk individuals. Most evidence-informed violence reduction efforts depend heavily on proactive outreach to at-risk people and places,⁹ and such outreach has been largely curtailed by the ongoing risk of infection.

To summarize, COVID-related restrictions may have had an initial suppressive effect on homicides, but the waning of those restrictions, coupled with the strain on at-risk individuals and key institutions – aggravated further by the lack of outreach to such individuals – have all likely contributed to elevated homicide rates in 2020.

Protests against Police Violence

As noted above, a precipitous rise in homicides coincided with the emergence of mass protests after George Floyd was killed in late May by a police officer in Minneapolis. In June through August 2020, the homicide rate was 37% higher than the previous year and higher than during any other period in 2020. That said, the connection between police violence, protests and social unrest, and heightened community violence remains uncertain.

As the authors have noted previously,¹⁰ it may be instructive to compare recent increases in violence to those that followed the August 2014 police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the subsequent protests around the country. In the aftermath, homicides in large cities rose in 2015 and 2016 by nearly 22% - the largest two-year increase in 25 years.¹¹

Analysts at the time tied the heightened violence to two versions of a so-called Ferguson Effect, both of which remain plausible today. The first connects violence to “de-policing,” a pullback in proactive law enforcement by officers who fear they will be unfairly scrutinized and could lose their jobs. The second connects violence to “de-legitimizing,” positing that disadvantaged communities drew away from police due to breached trust and lost confidence.

⁹ Abt, Thomas. 2019. *Bleeding Out*. New York: Basic Books.

¹⁰ Rosenfeld and Lopez, 2020 (July).

¹¹ Rosenfeld, Richard, Shytierra Gaston, Howard Spivak, and Seri Irazola. 2017. “Assessing and Responding to the Recent Homicide Rise in the United States.” NCJ 251067. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

Reduced reliance on the police impedes crime investigations and increases “street justice” to resolve disputes, resulting in more violence. While it remains unclear how much these theories explain such increases, it is clear that no simple connection exists between police violence, protests against such violence, and community violence.

Other Factors

Finally, it should be noted that other factors may be contributing to increased homicide and violent crime. For example, some commentators have observed that massive increases in firearm purchases at the outset of the pandemic may have contributed to an increase in homicides and gun crimes. There is some preliminary evidence to support such a conclusion, but more research is required.¹² Other commentators have argued that reductions in jail populations due to the pandemic and, in some places, bail reforms have led to an increase in violence. The evidence for these claims is anecdotal at best. Finally, it should be noted that homicides were already on the rise in January and February, so there may be unknown factors unrelated to the pandemic or police violence contributing to rising rates of violence. While it is impossible to be certain, it is probable that the pandemic, protests, and other factors all combined to create a “perfect storm” of circumstances pushing homicide rates to record levels.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The vast majority of cities experienced homicide increases in 2020. City-to-city variation in demographic and social conditions do not fully explain the homicide rise. The coronavirus pandemic and protests over police violence are likely contributors, along with yet-to-be-identified additional factors.

Part Three: Recommendations for Reducing Homicide and Other Violent Offenses

The coronavirus pandemic, continuing incidents of police violence, and rising homicide and violent crime rates each pose massive policy challenges in their own right, but the interplay between them creates even more difficult decisions for policymakers. Despite this difficulty, leaders at all levels of government should take bold action in responding to all three crises.

First, as the authors have observed previously, subduing the coronavirus pandemic remains crucial for reducing homicide and other forms of violence.¹³ While COVID-related restrictions may have temporarily suppressed homicide rates, the pandemic has placed individuals and institutions under tremendous strain, ultimately pushing homicide rates higher. In addition, the pandemic has impeded outreach to at-risk individuals – a key component of most evidence-informed anti-violence strategies. For example, visits by trained

¹² <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.02.20145508v2>

¹³ Rosenfeld and Lopez, 2020 (July).

case managers to hospitalized gunshot victims can reduce subsequent violence.¹⁴ These efforts require face-to-face interaction by police, public health, and community-based workers with those most likely to be involved with violence; such interactions cannot be replaced by Zoom. Effectively addressing the pandemic is especially important given that COVID-19 cases and deaths have soared in the very communities where violence is concentrated. Criminal justice measures to address the pandemic are described in the interim and final reports of the [National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice](#).

Second, sustained reductions in violence depend heavily on improving the fairness and legitimacy of the justice system in general, and policing in particular. Protestors around the nation have called for significant changes in how disadvantaged communities are policed, including the adoption of accountability measures for officers who engage in serious misconduct and redirecting the mentally ill, homeless and other troubled populations to non-enforcement agencies. Translating these calls into workable policy will not be easy, but it is essential for sustained improvements in both safety and justice. Among other efforts, the Council on Criminal Justice has established a [Task Force on Policing](#) for precisely this purpose.

Some commentators suggest that the need for safety (freedom from violent and other crime) and the need for justice (freedom from excessive and unequal exercises of state power) are in tension with one another. They are not. To sustainably reduce homicide and other violent crime in disadvantaged communities, those communities must believe they are being treated fairly and appropriately by the police and other components of the justice system.

Lastly, responses to record-breaking increases in homicide must not wait. Policymakers can and should address the pandemic, police legitimacy, and violent crime simultaneously. A large body of rigorous empirical evidence demonstrates that violent crime can be addressed using strategies that are available now and do not require significant budgetary outlays, new legislation, or deep systemic reforms. It is now well-established that by using a combination of programmatic efforts that are collectively focused, balanced, and fair, policymakers can make concrete progress on curbing violent street crime.¹⁵ A [Federal Priorities Task Force](#), also convened by the Council on Criminal Justice, recently recommended a national anti-violence effort along these lines. To implement these efforts immediately, such strategies can be “COVID-proofed” by providing the police, public health, and community-based workers implementing them with prioritized access to vaccines and personal protective equipment, along with the necessary health and medical care.

With so many lives at stake, the time to act is now.

¹⁴ https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/other-laws-policies/intervention-strategies/#footnote_42_5669.

¹⁵ Abt, 2019.

Appendix I: Cities and Offenses

City	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arlington	x									
Atlanta	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	
Austin	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Baltimore	x	x	x		x			x	x	
Buffalo	x	x			x			x	x	
Chandler	x	x			x			x	x	
Chicago	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chula Vista	x									
Cincinnati		x	x	x				x	x	
Dallas			x			x	x	x	x	x
Denver	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Detroit	x	x	x	x	x				x	x
Jacksonville	x									
Lexington	x									
Lincoln	x									
Long Beach	x									
Los Angeles	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
Louisville	x	x		x	x			x	x	x
Madison	x									
Memphis	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Milwaukee	x		x		x				x	
Minneapolis					x	x	x	x	x	
Nashville	x	x	x	x				x	x	x
New York	x									
Norfolk	x	x		x	x			x	x	x
Omaha	x	x		x	x			x	x	
Philadelphia	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
Phoenix	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Pittsburgh	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
Raleigh	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Riverside	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	
Sacramento			x		x					x
San Diego	x									
San Francisco										
Seattle	x	x			x			x	x	x
St. Louis	x									
St. Paul		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
St. Petersburg	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Virginia Beach	x									
Washington	x	x	x		x			x	x	
Number	34	19	15	12	25	15	15	23	25	17

Key

1 Homicide
2 Aggravated Assault
3 Gun Assault

4 Domestic Violence
5 Robbery
6 Residential Burglary

7 Nonresidential Burglary
8 Larceny
9 Motor Vehicle Theft
10 Drug Offense

Appendix II: City Homicide Model

We estimated the association between the 2020 monthly city homicide rate and the measure of residential duration, the city population, the percentage of residents between the ages of 18 and 24, the family poverty rate, and the unemployment rate in a regression model incorporating time and place fixed effects. The poverty and unemployment variables are highly correlated and are combined into a single *Disadvantage* factor in the regression. The homicide rate lagged 12 months is included to adjust the estimates for seasonal effects. Therefore, the model estimates the residual change in the monthly homicide rate from the 2019 homicide rate during the same month. The residential duration measure varies month-to-month during 2020. The square of residential duration is included to capture possible nonlinear (e.g., threshold) effects of time spent at home on homicide. All other variables are time invariant. Time and place fixed effects (month and city dummy variables) are included to absorb unmeasured influences on the residual change in the homicide rate. The city population is highly skewed in original metric and is transformed to its natural log. Robust standard errors are used to account for heteroskedasticity in the regression errors. The regression results are shown in Table AII.

Table AII. Regression Results for Monthly Change in Homicide Rate in 2020 (N = 363)^a

	Coefficient (s.e.)	Standardized Coefficient
<i>Lagged Homicide Rate</i>	.662* (.180)	.491
<i>Residential Duration</i>	-.147* (.068)	-.408
<i>Residential Duration</i> ²	.004 ^b (.002)	.227
<i>Disadvantage</i>	.546* (.144)	.266
<i>Log Population</i>	-.808* (.211)	-.356
<i>Age 18-24</i>	-.089* (.031)	-.139
R ²		.823
F (45, 317)		39.010*

^aTime and place fixed effects not shown. Robust standard errors in parentheses.

^bp = .06

*p < .05

From: [Jenny Lee](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Miranda, Adriana](#); [Lujan Valerio, Rico](#); [Howell, Will](#)
Subject: Written testimony submission
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:53:48 PM
Attachments: [CCC testimony .pdf](#)

Hello,

Please find attached testimony on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color on Agenda No. 230-1 for the April 7, 2021 City Council hearing.

Thank you,
Jenny Lee

--

[Jenny Lee](#)

Deputy Director, Coalition of Communities of Color

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M [\(503\) 317-1058](#)

E jenny@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

W www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

Pronouns she/her/hers





April 6, 2021

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Re: Community-led responses to addressing gun violence

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Coalition of Communities of Color to express our strong support for a new community-led response to gun violence in our city.

The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations with representation from African, African American, Latinx, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Slavic communities. Our mission is to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children, and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

We appreciate the hard work of city leadership and the deep care and commitment from community leaders and service providers who have called for an urgent response to the alarming rise in gun violence, and we believe that this proposal is a critical first step to addressing our shared crisis. Our city deserves a new approach that is deeply rooted in community, not policing.

We believe that this proposal is urgently needed to begin addressing the pressing needs of our community by resourcing culturally-specific community-based organizations to intervene and support those involved in this crisis.

Culturally-specific service providers know what works. They are the experts in how to provide the best services to meet the needs of their individual communities. As we work toward systemic change across systems, we must take action to prevent and intervene to stop harmful



actions, including gun violence, by providing intensive support to young people, families, and community.

In addition to violence prevention and intervention, many of CCC's member organizations provide wraparound services in areas including housing, health, education, family supports, and economic prosperity, as well as programming to build leadership, civic engagement, and cultural identity. Their years of service to the community have consistently resulted in successful outcomes for the thousands of families served by our members. Now, they must be resourced and empowered to expand on this work.

New, flexible resources are needed. This proposal includes resourcing for intervention case management that will allow providers to work closely with those most impacted and provide care to communities to mitigate the impact of violence. Every instance of gun violence causes trauma to survivors, families, and the community at large. This new approach will complement, not supplant, the critical programming aimed at prevention by supporting intensive intervention services that address the immediate crisis. The City, including the Office of Violence Prevention, must be directed to work with community-based organizations and be more flexible in developing working agreements and work plans that respond to emerging needs to prioritize community self-determination, safety of providers' staff, and best practices of trusted partners. We should also create new opportunities for the community leaders who have worked with youth impacted by gun violence to take on this work and build capacity to provide support. Community-based partners should be able to access and use these resources with minimal barriers and maximum flexibility to provide intensive services in Portland and beyond.

Greater coordination and transparency are needed as we work toward a comprehensive vision for true community safety. Providers have the knowledge and vision to support their communities but need a space for intensive collaboration to guide their work, create a collective response, and build a vision for safer communities. Government coordination across jurisdictions and departments, while essential, is not sufficient and must be informed by providers' collective leadership.

Sustained investments are critical. This proposal is only the first step. We must commit to significant ongoing investments to sustain the impact of this work and provide support for our communities. Service providers are asked to do the most challenging work with minimal resources, putting immense strain on their staff and organizations. Staff who are conducting some of the most challenging work in our city deserve to earn decent wages that recognize their





expertise, dedication, and service. We must invest additional resources for intervention and prevention, this year and well into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our position on this important proposal. We have a genuine opportunity to take a more effective approach to support our community members most impacted by gun violence, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to identify new solutions that are rooted in and led by community.

Sincerely,

Marcus C. Mundy
Executive Director
Coalition of Communities of Color



From: [Susan Peters](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Gun violence agenda
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:26:55 PM

Hi, I know I have missed the deadline for this week's city council meeting. I wanted you to know that I want to be part of the solution to end gang related gun violence in Portland. It needs to stop. This has hit home- Lincoln City and Depoe Bay in fact. I'm representing my 40 year old son, and his friend's younger brother that was shot and killed by 3 black dudes in the parking lot of the Acropolis at 11:38 pm on February 27th. Gangs in groups of threes with guns in a parking lot of a topless bar. My son, his younger brother, good friend, former business partner and his younger brother were good friends and had a tile company together with went out for the night having fun. Shot, killed, one later died in the hospital. Both left families and children behind. All four young men unarmed getting into their truck to go home. When will you believe this is a problem? It's not just drugs it's sex trafficking too. I'll bet there is someone now who works at that bar who knows about the gang activity that had been going on for a month before this fateful night. My fate is to hold responsible all who have let this happen. I am a 4th generation Oregonian with ancestors that settled in Salem, Oregon. This is my state and I'm not backing down to call out what is wrong, and needs to change. I would like to register my agenda for the next council meeting!

Susan Peters 97367

tsumommi2@gmail.com

541-921-7923

From: linda.bickham@gmail.com
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Comment on the deal reached on violence prevention
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:48:58 PM

I'm writing to comment on the recent deal reached on violence prevention in Portland by the mayor and commissioners. First, rushing this thru with limited time for public comment is not wise if you want wide community support, not just support from the loudest voices. And rushing does not show belief in democratic processes.

Second, while I'm glad to know efforts are being made to address the growing gun violence, I don't support solutions that will reduce, as Deputy Police Chief Chris Davis wrote, "our capacity to meet demand in other areas, including traffic safety, call response time in patrol, and investigative functions such as domestic violence and human trafficking."

If you are listening to the community, you'll know that these issues and other crime within communities are of great concern as well. Why are we adding park rangers rather than beefing up existing police resources? Surely specialized, well trained police officers would be of greater value in curbing both gun violence and handling all the other crime in this city.

Please reconsider these plans. Come up with something that doesn't decrease the effectiveness of our strained police force to handle all the other crime — also growing — and doesn't rely on unarmed park rangers with what seems an unclear mission. And whatever the plan, build in measures of effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Linda Bickham
1526 SE Knight Street
Portland

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kathi Robinson](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Police & gun violence prevention
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:45:32 PM

Shame on you, shutting out the public on this! GVRT cancelled last Summer Gun violence immediately soared. But now, all of a sudden this is such an emergency no time for public input?

Plan to hire PARK RANGERS to help with this seems very flawed. Park rangers say no! Should have discussed it with them. PUT THAT ON HOLD UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT.

WE NEED MORE OFFICERS TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT US! PPB WAS UNDERSTAFFED BEFORE ALL THIS! YES COMMUNITY INTERVENTION IS NEEDED. BUT THAT IS NOT GOING TO IMMEDIATELY REDUCE OR STOP GUN VIOLENCE OR OTHER VIOLENCE OR LAWLESSNESS! We also need police for other law enforcement!

BUT NEED TO START LISTENING TO OFFICER EXIT COMMENTS BEFORE WE LOSE MORE DEDICATED OFFICERS! TREAT OFFICERS WITH RESPECT! & STOP EXPECTING THEM TO ENDURE CONTINUAL ABUSE W OUT ANY RESPONSE!

MAYBE COMMISSIONERS NEED TO RIDE ALONG OR BE HUNKERED DOWN W OFFICERS UNDER ASSAULT TO SEE WHAT THEY ARE ENDURING!

People accuse police of mistreating protestors. What about the way the police have been mistreated? Did you watch the testimonies of the 3 officers months ago talking about their experiences?

Shame on the Police Commissioner & all commissioners for allowing such a hostile work environment for police! Listen to their stories of having to sit their under siege w protestors hurling vile sexual assault threats at female officers. There were also reports of racial insults against officers (someone commenting on the width of a Black officer's nose? By supposed racial justice protestors?) That sure sounds like allowing or forcing a hostile work environment onto those officers. & from what I have heard, that is NOT NORMAL for police to face all that & constant threats.

SHAME ON LEADERSHIP FOR NOT INSTEAD WORKING TO LISTEN TO COMMUNITY & BRING PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL TOGETHER! But it seems that some do not want that but that there are some hard core Marxists among protestors who want to tear down everything including America. But they have been allowed to run wild!

I have read of officers working long hours & being exhausted. Also being subjected to vile comments as well as physical assaults that injured many officers & this was allowed to go on night after night. & it seemed that they were expected to just endure that for an hour or 2 before even being able to even start warning the rioters to stop their lawless behavior.

SHAME ON YOU ALL FOR FORCING OUR OFFICERS TO ENDURE THAT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT AFTER NIGHT! What I have read of them enduring, I'm wondering how many will be having PTSD over this & down the road suing the city?

& now we have understandably had record #s of officers leaving & I have not heard any concerns about that expressed by commissioners. & my impression & that of many others is, why would anyone want to come work for PPB now w the lack of support & being forced to endure all that? I have read police officers sharing that usually things are ordinary & not so much violence or whatever to deal with. But our officers have been forced to endure that for over 100 nights last Summer & still some is continuing.

YOU AS LEADERS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING CONDITIONS OF OUR POLICE OFFICERS. CONDITIONS THAT ARE PUSHING MANY TO RETIRE EARLY OR GO ELSEWHERE! HAVE

ANY OF YOU CONSIDERED THEIR EXIT COMMENTS?

HOW MANY OF YOU LIVE IN UNDERSTAFFED E PORTLAND? IT DOES NOT FEEL SAFE WHEN 911 CALLS CAN NOT ALL BE RESPONDED TO!

WHY wasn't there LEADERSHIP to call for a listening session with our Black communities early on when this started to deal w things like adults who can discuss issues? Protest should not even be needed if there is ADULT LEADERSHIP to bring the community (& I mean ordinary members of the community being given a chance to weigh in on their concerns!

As a white person I realize that I may not be aware of what my Black friends may face. Although I have asked a few & they said they had not experienced any of that. I want all people to be treated with respect. & yes we do need better training & better response for those w mental health crises. I think of 2 instances near Mall 205 last year where a person w a mental health crisis had a knife so was a danger & ended up being shot & killed. I was trying to get into a place on Market St. Another was in the road on Stark St near 102nd that sounded like possibly suicide by cop. The CAHOOTS program down South sounds like it is very effective. But it is also as i understand a COMMUNITY program, not a city or govt program, although they seem to work together.

I wonder why ours is not following that model?

& it seems to police may need better training to better equip them to deal w those w mental health crises, those on substances, as well as those w issues like autism that could cause them to not respond well to normal law enforcement approaches. & HAVE YOU EVER YET LISTENED TO THE VOICES OF ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF JUST ACTIVISTS?

& WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US OF ALL COLORS KNOWING THAT WE MIGHT NOT GET A TIMELY RESPONSE FOR A 911 CALL?

MOSTLY WHITE PROTESTORS ARE NOT THE VOICE OF PORTLAND BLACK COMMUNITY, NOR THE REST OF COMMUNITY. HOW MANY PROTESTORS VS HOW MANY VOTERS? & HOW MANY OF THEM EVEN LIVE HERE? PORTLAND SHOULD NOT BE RUN BY THE VOICE OF THE MOB! LISTEN TO THE REST OF US, BLACK & WHITE & WHATEVER COLOR OR ETHNICITY THAT AREN'T OUT PROTESTING. WE LIVE HERE! & THERE ARE MANY MORE OF US THAN THERE ARE PROTESTORS!

STOP ASSUMING THEY ARE THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY!

Why didn't you call a listening session to listen to ordinary members of our Black communities? I have talked to some who noticed that mostly white protestors were being considered "the voice of the community."

Shame on JoAnne Hardesty putting racial politics above community safety & pushing to disband the GVRT. Immediately gun violence went up! & I read that about half of the victims are POC! It seems she has blood on her hands for insisting it be cancelled because more Blacks were approached. A Black community activist who is a former gang member says, that was who needed intervention.

I also watched the 3 officers who were interviewed at length early on in all of this. 1 of them was part of GVRT Blonde woman who looked white but who revealed she is half Black. She came across as very caring for those they worked with. Apparently they built rapport with them. But that was all yanked away!

I'm white but I'm also pretty simple minded about not liking to read about people being shot & killed in our communities & especially East Portland, whatever color they are. & too many of them have been shot!

I also notice that BLM doesn't seem to care about ALL Black lives, only those killed by police or vigilantes. Somehow, my guess is that Black community members care about the same things as white community members in large measure, wanting safe communities.

& My little 6 unit HOA community is a nice mix. 2 units occupied by Mexican immigrants, 1 by Ethiopian immigrants & the other 3 by whites. A neighbor to the S is also an Ethiopian immigrants & there are Black &

hispanic & white & immigrants from various places in the area.

Last Summer there were 4 teens shot in NE, & a 16 year old Black boy was killed. His life mattered.

This spike in gun violence started last Summer! Right after the GVRT was disbanded! Common sense would have said, that it should have been reinstated. But no, Hardesty & others were more concerned about the fact that more Black young people than whites were being dealt with. Well, that should NOT be the criteria. Rather deal with those who need intervention!

How many additional Black & other young people or others died because of that? The stats seem pretty obvious that many more people died because the unit was disbanded.

In addition as a member of the very mixed East Portland community I am very concerned at the low police staffing levels! I personally experienced a 2 min wait for a person to answer a 911 call about suspected gunfire nearby last Summer. That was about 10:30 pm. 2 min before a human answered the call to even find out whether someone was breaking in or whatever. I could have been dead if they had been! Then an officer called back about 3:30 am. In that case, apparently it was not actually gunfire, but both my neighbor & I thought it was & fairly close.

There was a case reported in The Oregonian in Sept 2020 of a Black man who sounded like an African immigrant near SE 132nd & Powell. An intruder entered his apt where his 12 year old son was, mid day on a Sat. They got out & banged on neighbors doors to call 911 & then he & neighbors detained the intruder for apparently about 40 min. But finally some had to leave & the guy escaped. It took 45 min for an officer to respond!

Many were tied up downtown, plus it was reported there was another incident in E Portland & the canine officer was in Gresham. He was the one who finally responded. Reportedly the 12 year old was so traumatized he was afraid to return home & stayed with an aunt.

TREAT OUR POLICE WITH RESPECT! THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS & SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO ONGOING ASSAULTS BY LAWLESS PROTESTORS! BLAMING POLICE FOR RESTRAINING RIOTERS THAT HAVE BEEN ASSAULTING THEM FOR NIGHT AFTER NIGHT IS NOT REASONABLE OR FAIR.

CONSIDER THE EXPOSURE TO FUTURE PTSD CLAIMS FROM OFFERS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ENDURE THAT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT AFTER NIGHT!

As well as the fact that WE NEED MORE OFFICERS TO HAVE ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO MORE THAN 1 ISSUE AT A TIME!

Also I have had police in my front yard last Summer looking for someone. That was rather scary. I found out that there is apparently a guy at the back of the deep lot to the N of us who is a drug dealer & they were looking for him. Either he or I think it was the officers looking for him took out a section of fence to get through that has still not been repaired.

& i had noticed a wifi network that showed DEA SURVEILLANCE VEHICLE 1 (or very similar to that). I wondered if it really could be them but did not think they would be so obvious. But then 1 day my neighbor & I were outside talking & I happened to look at my wifi as a guy, apparently that drug dealer or whatever he is was getting in his pick up. & that was when that showed up. So we apparently have a drug dealer who has had dealings w the police & who seems to be brazenly mocking them living on the property next door.

There have been shootings not too far away. & there have been times when I have heard what I thought was gunfire. I have a security system that would contact law enforcement in the event of a break in. But it is rather disquieting to know that our police are understaffed & have already had times when they were not able to respond to 911 calls!

YOU NEED TO CONSIDER THE NEEDS & SAFETY OF ALL RESIDENTS. AGAIN, I'M PRETTY SURE THAT LAW ABIDING RESIDENTS OF WHATEVER COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN WANT TO HAVE ADEQUATE POLICE TO RESPOND TO 911.

& YES, OF COURSE THEY NEED TO TREAT ALL PEOPLE WITH RESPECT WHATEVER THEIR COLOR!

So if there ARE problem officers, deal with them. BUT FUND POLICE SO THEY CAN ADEQUATELY
RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS! GUN & OTHER VIOLENCE & OTHER FORMS OF LAWLESSNESS!

Kathleen Robinson
2740 SE 141st Ave, Portland, 97236

From: [Katelynn Nyssen](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Whats the point?
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:14:37 PM

Hello-

Portland City Council should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. They laugh at their constituents, they let their constituents live in pure filth and they dont give a damn about it! Instead of fixing issues they virtue signal at meetings with proclamations they dont even care about. Wont even allow public to attend in person meetings. its criminal!!!!!!

I am signed up for 3 testimony spots on 4/7 and honestly- the pure lack of compassion and empathy and the blatant self serving nature of every single member of city council makes me physically sick.

I am very passionate about being heard and holding them accountable- but whats the freaking point? They dont give a damn about any of us and all they care about is getting grant money they can just spent on their own salaries. 150,00 to east portland community building while NW gets millions? how do you sleep at night? oh yeah! in the nicest parts of Portland while the rest of us are told "let them eat cake!"

so corrupt- absolutely disgusting race baiting- the entire city council should step down and let honorable citizens uncorrupted by greed take their places.

Instead of using my time to testify- I will use my will power to continue making a documentary about how horrible the city of Portland has become. You all better pray my documentary does not go viral before you clean up the crap, garbage filled, homeless camp liberal cesspool that is Portland. Not only do the policies and budgeting suck- but the city itself is a giant dumpster.

Cant wait to get my footage of Delta Park tomorrow, I heard its a real doozy.

Cancel my testimony. Taking a dump in the street would be more productive than listening to the BS pour from their mouths.

Unapologetically, (as if you would even give a damn what a tax paying constituent has to say)

Katelynn Nyssen

From: [Christopher Draus](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Portland mayor, commissioners reach deal on police and gun violence prevention, plan to vote with limited public input.
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:48:42 PM

Dear My fellow Oregonians, serving the public needs first, from the City Hall,

I worked for Metro at Blue Lake, and my Park-Rangers were the best. They are not police and should not be asked to police the public; *"Under the deal, the council would also provide millions of new dollars to community organizations for anti-violence work and authorize the hire of two dozen new unarmed park rangers, as a trio of commissioners proposed last week, according to the proposals"*.

Jo Anne Hardesty's ideas, should be front and foremost! How dare the "Good 'ole Boys" at the PPB tried to smear her name. Isn't that proof enough?

Stop this vote! Let the public have time to decide their fate, not the fate dictated upon-us, by Wheeler and his corporate cronies!

Sincerely,

Christopher Draus
7708 SE 11th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97202
ChrisPDX@mac.com
(503) 381-4710

From: [Kathi Robinson](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Police & gun violence--Address 911 lack of response!
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:19:35 AM

I am disturbed as a resident of E Portland that no mention is made in this about the problems w insufficient staffing to handle 911 calls!

That is a fundamental law enforcement function that suffered major problems last Summer & maybe ongoing.

It was widely reported that at some times 911 calls went unanswered. That is NOT acceptable! Fortunately I did not hear of anyone being killed because of that. But they very well could have been. Especially as a woman, I find it very disturbing that should I need help if someone was breaking in or the like where I might be in danger, that I can't count on 911 always being available to respond!

I live in very mixed E Portland. Our 6 unit HOA has 2 units occupied by Mexican immigrants, another by Ethiopian immigrants, previously there was a Black American but he sold & moved & now the other 3 are white Americans.

The area seems to have a mix of Hispanic, Black, white & immigrants from various places.

I assume that for all of the law abiding majority, they expect that should they be in danger, that 911 would respond quickly. But that has NOT been the case.

A Black resident who sounded like an African immigrant had an intruder & then he & neighbors detained the guy after calling 911. Police did not respond for about 45 min which allowed the intruder who had traumatized the mans 12 year old son who was in the apt alone when the intruder broke in. This was reported in the Oregonian in about mid Sept 2020 & happened mid day on a Sat. It reported that the kid was so scared he was afraid to come home & was staying with his aunt!

I experienced a 2 min wait when I called 911 around 10:30 pm last Summer for what my neighbor & I thought was gunfire very close. That was 2 min before a human came on the line to find out what I was calling about. & an officer called back around 3:30 am!

I stopped calling about suspected gun shots unless it seemed really close. & there have been shootings around w in 10 blocks or less of where I live. Plus it seems there is an apparent drug dealer living just to the N of us. Police were in my yard last Summer looking for him & either they or the guy they were looking for took out a section of our fence which is still out. & I had seen a wifi signal for DEA SURVEILLANCE VEHICLE 1 (or something like that). I had wondered about that doubting actual DEA would advertise like that. Apparently it is the guy they were looking for that lives there as my neighbor & I were in our front yards talking & I happened to look at wifi & saw that show up as the guy started his pick up, up & then drove away. So he apparently has a hot spot or whatever w that network name in his truck. & my doorbell camera caught a prowler in my yard who came right up on my porch to my front door & stole something off a hose caddy between me & my neighbor's (attached) place. Probably a pair of gardening gloves. That was around 6 am & I was asleep & discovered it later.

PPB was already understaffed before all the demonstrations & rioting. & we have lost many officers since then.

While community solutions for gun violence may help, they are NOT likely to make an immediate impact. It should be obvious that GVRT was working as gun violence skyrocketed when it was cancelled. Those who cancelled it have blood on their hands for all the increased deaths & now all of a sudden this is an emergency? it was an obvious emergency last Summer w a rather obvious solution—restore the GVRT which had apparently reduced gun violence. But the council seemed more interested in racial politics.

Meanwhile apparently about half of those shot were POC!

We need increased staffing for PPB to have enough officers so that there are enough to respond if there are several

incidents going at once.

I have a Vivint smart home/home security system, but that depends on police being able to respond if there is a verified alarm.

Stop getting all hung up on racial politics. Yes we need law enforcement that treats all w respect & that are well trained in how to deescalate situations. But not expect them to keep deescalating w protests when it is rather clear that rioters have no interest in deescalating.

Remember that we have people of all races living in E Portland. & I assume my neighbors of color also expect to be secure in their homes, w 911 just being a quick call away if needed.

That was a rather major problem at least last Summer that there were not enough officers to respond to all 911 calls. We are very fortunate that apparently no one died because of that.

SO YOU NEED TO ADD FUNDING FOR MORE OFFICERS TO ADEQUATELY BE STAFFED SO ALL 911 CALLS CAN BE RESPONDED TO PROMPTLY!

& consider the hostile work environment that is causing so many officers to retire early or quit! & probably making most other officers not want to come work here!

Kathi Robinson
2740 SE 141st Ave 97236

From: [Bryna Antonia Cortes](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony: Item 230-1
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:23:32 AM

April 6, 2021

Dear Portland City Commissioners,

I am reaching out to make recommendations to the FY 2020-2021 Budget Amendment that relates to funds to the Office of Management and Finance, Office of Violence Prevention, and Portland Parks & Recreation, in response to gun violence.

This budget amendment comes at a crucial time when gun violence has been at an alarming rise in Portland, especially affecting our communities of color, and within that, our immigrant and refugee community. As someone who comes from a family of immigrants and refugees who lived with gun violence, incarceration, gang involvement, substance abuse, and cycles of trauma, I want to urge the importance of relationship building and programming that centers trauma informed/culturally specific care- we must recognize the very human needs that are necessary to prevent and respond to this violence that harms our communities.

After reviewing the proposal for tomorrow, I call on the council to include more commitments to providing more culturally specific and community-based support in prevention and intervention. I ask for the implementation and prioritization of:

- Trauma informed support services for communities of color AND refugee/immigrant families in all prevention, intervention, and outreach work.
- Culturally Specific Crisis Team
 - To be charged and resourced to respond in crisis, as well as prevention work
 - Community workers who are well connected and trusted within community
 - To be supported by any other providers/partners, under their request and recommendation
 - To provide culturally responsive support to families and community members
- Focusing and Uplifting Prevention work

- Job opportunities and skill building for youth (eg. professional mentorship/trainings with pathways to skill certification and licenses)
- Cultural Preservation Programming
- Programs for arts, music, sports, and community mentorship projects
- Differentiate and disaggregate demographics on gun violence, in monthly reports. Include (not limited to) insight on proximity to immigrant and refugee statuses, economic status, gun and ammunition purchases/history, age (2yr increments between 18-35)
- City Offices (mentioned above) to strategize on accountability measures and restrictions of firearm and ammunition sales, distribution, and manufacturing to protect community

There are existing CBOs that are familiar with this work, and have existing relationships. I recommend that they are utilized for the above recommendations, so that they can adequately operate their programming, and build more capacity to grow community partnerships and opportunities that can promote more established community-led and driven responses in our city.

Bryna Cortes

Bryna Cortes

From: [Janelle Emmons](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Unarmed park rangers
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:02:49 AM

City council members,

Portland park rangers and citizens are telling you what a bad idea it is to have unarmed park rangers to approach armed dangerous criminals. The park rangers have been vocal that they will NOT patrol the parks and confront armed citizens, they will call the police like they've always done. They don't have protective vests or guns and are not trained or paid to do that. Police are. ECST works and is productive. Citizens are dying while you are trying to achieve some political game. Antifa will riot regardless your decision, do what the city needs. Put your citizens first. The community that is actually affected most by gun violence has been screaming for GVRT to come back, because it is a effective. Look at stats. Criminals will not stop for unarmed park rangers.

Concerned citizen

From: [Thomas Daniels](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Today's proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:20:23 AM

Please do not hire unarmed Park Rangers to be “mock” park Police. City Council members...would you want this job? Rangers don't either. Please restore funding to our Police. \$2 million or more. We need our Police officers. Have you completely ignored the number of lives lost to gun violence this past year? More than to racial injustice... Portland is dying and people including myself will no longer go downtown or anywhere near until we feel safe again and know that there is an officer who can help us in time of need. I'm all for prevention and training our officers in racial and mental health matters. Perhaps special officers to respond along with police to these incidents. Why not hire more people of color too? The bottom line is directing more money to community based organizations and less to Police is not going to bring me or anyone else back to our city. Community based organizations are not going to intervene when a citizen has a knife to his/her throat. Mayor Wheeler's plan is better than the current plan. Listen to your citizens. Review the letter to the Editor from the wife of a Portland Police officer. I wonder if we will ever be able to find applicants to replace all of the officers who have left. Who wants to work for a city that does not support their police force. Lisa Daniels

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ron Pernick](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Gun Violence Reduction
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:56:05 AM
Attachments: [CE_logoNEWemail.png](#)

I support the plans outlined late Tuesday (yesterday) with one caveat: I think it's critical to add back in \$2 million for additional gun violence reduction policing work.

For those of us in the NE, the impacts of gun violence have become all too real (including a shoot out on my block earlier this year and murders in broad daylight). While I applaud the new approaches, I think the police department will be stretched further than they already are (and patrols and response times will be impacted for other issues).

Please, in your compromise, include additional funding for the police!

Best,
Ron Pernick

Ron Pernick

Managing Director, Clean Edge, Inc. & Co-Producer, gridCONNECT

Co-Author, Clean Tech Nation and The Clean Tech Revolution

Email: pernick@cleanedge.com | Tel: 503.493.8681

www.cleanedge.com | www.gridconnect.com



From: [Connie O'Reilly](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: DO NOT EXPECT PARK RANGERS TO POLICE PARKS
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:58:16 AM

I am writing as a concerned citizen to strongly oppose your proposal to spend 1.4 million to hire park rangers to police public spaces that have been sites of some of the violent altercations this past year. As Dave Barrios stated, park rangers are not trained for this activity, and it is putting both rangers and the public at increased risk. They do not want this responsibility, and it is not what they were hired to do. Use these resources to hire increased staff specifically trained to deal with violence.

Connie O'Reilly
9337 NW Murlea Ln
Portland, OR. 97229

From: [Jim Garrison](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: [User Approved] Park Rangers and gun violence
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:02:23 PM

While the current surge in gun violence clearly needs to be addressed, spending \$1.4m on unarmed park rangers is just plain stupid. Park rangers are not police, and aren't trained in police work, nor paid enough to put their life in danger. Assuming you can actually fill these positions, what are you going to say when one of them is shot or killed?

Sent from my iPad

From: [Joe Kunkel](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:40:50 AM

After 15 years as a small business owner in Portland (close-in SE), I recently moved my office outside the city limits.

I could no longer have clients come to my office safely, and had to escort staff to their cars after work to ensure their safety.

All the while, violence was escalating and the City leadership was not addressing the issue.

Your proposed “solution” to the safety issue only confirms the decision I made 5 months ago. As a native Oregonian, and Portlandian, I am embarrassed, saddened, and angered by what City Leadership has done to my beautiful city.

Your solution may make you feel enlightened and ‘woke’, but in the end, it will fail as it’s not practical.

I respectfully request you change your direction to take a more traditional (and effective) approach to the rampant gun violence in the city I (used to) love.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Kunkel, President
The Healthcare Collaborative Group, Inc.
Portland, OR

From: [Lamar Wise](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Gun Violence Testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:59:12 AM
Attachments: [RE: Gun Violence Reduction \(OPEN LETTER TO PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL\) \(2\).pdf](#)

Please see attached. Thank you!

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Lamar Wise Political Coordinator
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
m: 503.901.4448
w: www.oregonafscme.org e: lwise@oregonafscme.org
a: 6025 E. Burnside Street, Portland, Oregon 97213



OPEN LETTER TO PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, unite in our desire to end cycles of gun violence in Portland. The harm we are witnessing daily requires immediate actions that complement and extend beyond the responsibilities of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). Our community has asked for thoughtful, considered, and proactive leadership on community safety. We deserve no less.

We need a comprehensive plan and timeline to build a community-centered safety system built to fit Portland and co-led by the community.

We need immediate, direct interventions with the individuals and families affected by gun violence.

And for both our short- and long-term success, we need partnerships between organizations and governments throughout the Portland-metro region.

Most importantly, we need to reject the pressure to meet violence with the threat of more violence.

Both research and our lived experiences indicate that spikes in gun violence happen where communities lack financial and social investment from their cities. We are seeing this right now in Portland, made worse by the poverty and pressures of the pandemic. The best way to remedy this is not to double-down on failed policing programs and investments elsewhere, but rather to invest in community-based organizations with decades long track records of meeting benchmarks of success.

These organizations visit hospitals after shootings and provide culturally-specific crisis response and coordinated supports. They assist with funeral arrangements and attend funerals. They support families with food and educational assistance, working with community leaders and regional governmental partners (e.g. schools, county, law enforcement). They work within communities in culturally-responsive ways that de-escalate violence and provide stability (employment, pro-social activities).

They are continually asked to justify their work, to demonstrate their success, and to make a case for the paltry investments made in them. Again and again,

they demonstrate their success and win further grants, awards, and critical recognition.

Quite frankly, the investment proposed by Commissioners Mapps, Ryan, and Rubio is not enough for the significance of the work these organizations do, and it's not enough for their records of success. But it's a far better starting place than the Mayor's request for new money for police. The Commissioners' plan will save lives, strengthen communities, and contribute to our long-term community safety.

People are dying in our communities. We need our city leaders to take this seriously. The proposal offered by the Commissioners is the first serious plan we've seen to combat gun violence in Portland.

We urge the council to take swift action and pass the Commissioners' plan. We urge Mayor Wheeler to join their effort, and seek new funding for police only as part of a fuller, long-term plan.

UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS

Next Up Action Fund
Verde
Oregon Student Association
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
SEIU Local 49
Imagine Black
ACLU of Oregon

UNDERSIGNED INDIVIDUALS

Lisa K. Bates, Ph.D.
Marisa Zapata, PhD (as a private community member)
Lamar Wise

From: [Julie Blackman CTC](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Gun Violence Prevention Measure
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:00:35 AM

To Mayor Wheeler and the City Council:

I am concerned about the hastily crafted and urgently calendared gun violence reduction proposal which will be considered and, I'm sure, passed today.

My primary concerns are as follows:

- 1) A lack of adequate input from the community as well as some of those on whom its implementation falls, especially the Park Rangers. We appreciate the Rangers, who do a great job, but wonder whether putting them on overnight shifts is in their best interests, or the City's, from a safety standpoint.
- 2) That the proposed funding for dealing with gun violence has more than doubled from \$2 million to what appears to be nearly \$7 million without substantial discussion strikes me as blatant disregard of the taxpayers of the city. The measure should specify clear expectations, metrics, timelines and review dates for all projects covered by this measure. This should be subject to regular audit by the City Auditor's office.
- 3) All agencies to whom funds are allocated should have a strong track record and detailed plans for use of the funds ***in the context of the specific purpose of this measure.***
- 4) The public should receive regular updates on progress made under this effort and funds should not be renewed without greater discussion than this measure is receiving at this time.

Gun violence is obviously a grievous stain on Portland's civic life and has a crushing impact on the community. It must be addressed urgently, thoughtfully and intelligently rather than just throwing funds around, liberally mixed with good intentions, and hoping that the plan works. In a perfect world we would have explored how other cities have succeeded in such efforts and then adapted those approaches to Portland's specific issues. Failing that, please don't do just *anything* without all due deliberation. Human lives are at stake here, as is the livability of the city. We need to get this right.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Julie Blackman
Portland, OR

From: [Ted Bryan](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony from Laborers' Local 483 for Item 230-1, April 7 2021
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:08:19 AM

In my capacity as a representative of Laborers' Local 483, I am submitting the following testimony for item 230-1 on behalf of the Portland Park Rangers, who are members of our union.

Mayor and Commissioners,

Thank you for your work on crafting a response to the epidemic of gun violence in our city. We support developing a community safety system that centers the voices and needs of the communities most impacted by gun violence. We support the City taking a holistic approach to the issue of violence prevention.

Park Rangers are in the field everyday building relationships with the diverse communities served by our park system. We take pride in fostering relationships with the public that are grounded in respect, trust, and care. Expanding our program will help us fulfill our mission of ensuring that Portland's parks are safe and welcoming spaces for everybody.

While we support expanding our program, we want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our concerns regarding the working conditions in Portland's parks. In the last year, there has been an increased sense of hostility toward City employees. We are worried by the number of assaults, attempted assaults, threats and harassment toward Parks staff, including Rangers. Our union has been working proactively with Parks & Recreation management on these issues, and we are optimistic that together we can develop policies and practices that address our concerns. However, we do not think the safety measures currently in place sufficiently mitigate the hazards Parks staff face on a daily basis.

In order to be successful at our mission and to remain safe, the Ranger program requires more training, equipment, and infrastructure, and not just an increase in personnel. Here are just some of the changes that would help Rangers stay safe while discharging their duties:

- Providing Rangers with Level II-A body armor to protect them from projectiles and stab threats

- Ensuring consistent and reliable communication between Rangers and the Portland Police Bureau, so that Rangers receive the support they need from PPB
- Communicating clearly and consistently with the public and within City bureaus that Park Rangers are not law enforcement officers, and are not to be deployed in lieu of law enforcement.

The role of Park Rangers is to act as ambassadors to the parks and educate park users on Title 20 of the City Code. Our authority is limited to issuing citations for violations of Title 20. While we may issue exclusions for serious violations of the code, we require the support of the Portland Police Bureau in order to enforce exclusions. Our presence in uniform may act as a deterrent for behavior that is inappropriate in parks-- however, for some members of the public the presence of uniformed City employees inspires a hostile reaction. We are not authorized, trained, or equipped to intervene in violent situations, and certainly not in situations involving gun violence. We ask you to take this into account when considering the kinds of situations to which Rangers may be safely and appropriately deployed.

We look forward to discussing more with you the role that we can play in helping our City heal and progress to a more just and equitable future.

Thank you,

Portland Park Rangers & Laborers' Local 483

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Ted Bryan

LiUNA Local 483

Pronouns: he / him / his

971-409-2131

From: [Steve Lindstrom](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: More police, not unarmed park rangers
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:28:14 PM

The Portland City Council continues to lack leadership and make poor decisions. Good luck having unarmed park rangers. I truly do fear for their safety. I am continually amazed at the lack of support for Portland police from city council, particularly from Hardesty who I believe has hatred and prejudice against every cop. We need more police to adequately address the city's responsibility for community safety. Council just needs to adopt a collaborative attitude toward police so you can work together toward reform. And I mean reform on the part of the police as well as each council member. Put your political pettiness aside.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Quanneisha Brooks](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:35:06 PM

I would like to give my testimony on gun violence, because the anniversary is the day after Mother's Day and his first born nephew (my cousin) was murdered in Portland last month. When I worked with kids on Ivanhoe st in Saint John's it was guaranteed that they would start shooting around 10 pm, and I remember the woman I worked for being pregnant with twins, while having 3 boys with mental disabilities, and she'd have to take 3 different modes of transportation to get across town to the SW district for their appointments and didn't make it home until around the time they started shooting. Gun violence has always been a black mother's burden and our children are expected not to kill each other over basic resources because there's hardly any opportunity and since the expansion of Emannuel Hospital, and the expansion of the Rose Quarter, black people have been excluded from participating in Portland businesses. I can't think of one sustainable black community in Oregon that allows us local access to mental healthcare, grocery stores, entertainment etc. One day I hope to own a herbal nursery/ metaphysical shop so my autistic cousins will always have a job that their parents will never have to worry about them losing, but I doubt the city officials of Portland will ever allow that to happen. I was inspired by the ghettos of Chicago's west side because I'd never seen so many black people own anything in my life, despite the fact a lot of the shops were shut down. Oregon doesn't make that a possibility for us, they don't invest in our schools, our businesses, or anything else that has been forcefully taken from us. In addition to this, the government has failed to protect abused children and women in our communities. My mom had my brother at 14 years old and lost all her kids because a man was beating her, so instead of protecting her, they took her kids and left her deal with it herself. In the states care every one of us have been abused, and my brother was paid off in a court order for his traumatic experience in the foster care system. Since he was 13, he had been in and out of juvenile corrections, until he finally found some sense of family through a gang. Today I don't even recognize him anymore after he spent nearly a year in solitary confinement at Snake River, he's a paranoid schizophrenic, and considers himself nothing more than 5150, which is the police code for people with behavioral problems. I'm surprised he hasn't been killed, and the way black parents and families impacted by gun violence are being excluded in these complex issues, it's only a matter of time before he's next.

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First	Last	Zip
230-1.1	Dan	Handelman	97242
230-1.2	Edith	Gillis	97206
230-1.3	Susan	Peters	