

**Crime Reduction Strategy Update**  
**City Manager Ken Larking and Police Chief Philip Broadfoot**  
**June 6, 2017**

1. First of all, while I do not wish to downplay the tragic violent crimes that occurred recently and the affect they've had on families in our community, it is important to point out that these actions are not anywhere close to representing the people in our community. Just this weekend, readers of the Register and Bee were treated to an article about two Danville sisters who became first generation college graduates and are planning careers helping others. (GoDanRiver: [For first-generation college grads, lifelong passion for helping others leads to career choice](#), 6-4-17)
2. There were other articles about another River District ribbon cutting for Ballad Brewing and a highly successful Food Truck Rodeo. These are the stories that better represent our people and the things that are happening in our community.
3. What can you expect out of your City/City Council
  - a. Provide Resources
    - i. Police Department – Two new civilian positions added to this year's budget that will enable sworn police officers to spend more time patrolling the streets. (Video Technician and Property and Evidence Technician)
    - ii. Parks and Recreation – ([PlayDanvilleVA Brochure](#)) There are many programs and activities offered to people of all ages from the very young to the not-so-young. I encourage people to pick up a brochure in any of our parks or visit [PlayDanvilleVA.com](#) to see what's being offered. For those who can't afford the fees, we do offer scholarships. It's also free to visit any park, the Riverwalk Trail and our libraries.
    - iii. Social Services – provides support for struggling families by connecting vulnerable people to federal and state programs and services.
    - iv. Blight Reduction – Proposed budget includes continued funding for the blight reduction efforts.
    - v. Economic Development – Focus on economic development aids in providing jobs and helping to encourage and retain businesses.
  - b. Convene groups/organizations committed to improving Danville
    - i. Youth Task Force – Over 20 organizations that serve youth and families in the City – including a few City Departments – have held three meetings, so far. They are working to identify resources that are present in the community, how they are being used to address various needs and to identify service gaps.
    - ii. Gang Task Force has met several times and has decided to adopt the Comprehensive Gang Model as recommended by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This model takes a holistic approach to reducing crime by adding prevention and intervention to enforcement and suppression as tools to reducing gang activity and crime. We are in the data analysis and collection phase of this process,

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which will allow us to target our resources to areas that need the most attention.

- iii. As we discuss how we can make our City safer for our residents, I think it is important to understand why our youth are choosing a life that can lead to violence. Our work on the Gang Task Force and Youth Task Force these past few months have shown me that we need to take a three pronged approach to combatting youth violence and gang activity. This includes suppression (by our police department), prevention and intervention. City Council should be commended for recognizing that we are not going to solve our youth violence problem through suppression alone. The prevention activities we have been engaged in and have enhanced recently will, hopefully, lead to a long-term positive impact. As our discussions have progressed, it's becoming clearer that the likely result of our effort on the Gang Task Force will be a recommendation to invest more into intervention. This involves having people trained to look at the warning signs for youth who may be attracted to gang activity and getting them and their parents the support they need to put them on the right path. This is the first step to implementing the Comprehensive Gang Model in Danville.
4. What can you expect from our Police Department
  - a. They will be there when you need help.
  - b. They will chase down all information to solve crimes and give prosecutors the evidence they need to secure convictions.
  - c. They will continue with community policing efforts to help build trust in every neighborhood.
5. Update from Chief Philip Broadfoot on violent crime reduction initiatives.
  - a. See Attached Document
6. What do we expect of our community
  - a. If you see something, say something
  - b. If you know something, tell us:
    - i. Anonymous Crime Stoppers hotline: 434-793-0000
  - c. Get involved
  - d. Direct children to positive activities
    - i. Parks and Recreation programs and facilities
    - ii. Church youth groups
    - iii. Community organizations like Big Brother/Big Sister & Boys and Girls Club
  - e. Take pride in your neighborhood and our City

Video of this presentation available at: <http://bit.ly/2rFcORu>

## Attachment

### Crime Reduction Strategy Update

Violent Crime Report to City Council  
Chief Philip A. Broadfoot  
June 6, 2017

Mayor and Members of Council:

Good evening. You have asked Mr. Larking and me to report on the efforts that have been taken to address the spike in murders that Danville is experiencing.

So far in 2017, we have experienced seven murders, which exceed our yearly average of five. After a record 16 murders last year, it is clear we are on track in 2017 to possibly equal that number. This raises the obvious questions of:

- What caused the increase, and
- What are we doing about it?

#### INCREASE:

Records kept since 1953 in Danville show that murders occur in cycles. For instance, just three and five years ago, we matched a record low of only three murders, but in 2015 we had six and in 2016 we had a record high of sixteen. The factors that affect these cycles are varied, but have in the past usually been generational and cohort driven. What we are seeing, though, is a trend toward shorter cycles and greater extremes between the numbers of murders.

The reason for this can be attributed to younger offenders, gang affiliation, social media, and access to firearms. The younger offenders are quick to resort to violence, the gang mentality glorifies violence, social media exacerbates conflict, and access to firearms makes that conflict more deadly. At least five of the sixteen murders last year can be directly linked to gang activity. We believe at least four of this year's seven murders are linked to gang activity. During the last six months, we have also had four separate incidents where Danville officers have been shot at.

Gang activity is increasing not only in Danville, but also in the region and in a multistate area on the east coast. In the past, the gangs in Danville have been loosely associated with the national gang organizations. That is changing. The drive by the national gangs to consolidate their power and bring the various homegrown and neighborhood gang groups under their direction is a major driver of our murder problem. The consolidation effort has created power struggles that create the climate for murder.

Gang activity in Danville is not limited to just Danville. We are seeing this happen throughout the Southside region, including the cities of Roanoke and Lynchburg. The cities of Greensboro and Winston-Salem in North Carolina are also experiencing similar increases in murder. Gang activity in the entire geographic area is interrelated and is mainly focused on firearm trafficking and drug sales.

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### Crime Reduction Strategy Update

#### RESPONSE:

We have been aware of these changing trends and have implemented these initiatives in response:

- A full time, professionally trained crime analyst was hired last year to focus on crime trends and gang activity.
- Since November 1, 2016 the Special Investigations Unit has executed a total of 57 search warrants – almost two per week. Of the total, 25 were gang participation focused and 32 were drug or firearm related. We seized a total of 53 firearms and drugs were seized in 38 of the 57 searches. We are convinced, through observation and intelligence, that this effort contributed to the reduction of violent crime during the winter and spring months.
- One investigator is assigned full time to the Virginia State Police Drug Task Force which focuses exclusively in the Pittsylvania and Danville areas.
- The FBI Safe Streets Task Force from Charlottesville assigned one member full time to Danville to assist with the many and varied technical challenges of gang investigations.
- We joined the United States Marshall's Fugitive Task Force that operates in the area to more effectively locate and arrest wanted persons.
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) assigned an agent full time to assist us in Danville and we will be assigning a Danville officer in the near future to their Task Force to work exclusively in this area. ATF has the ability to send additional agents to Danville when needed and we have often used their manpower to investigate the significant number of firearm thefts in Danville.
- In January of this year, the Virginia State Police began assigning two troopers to work on the weekends beside Danville Street Crimes and Special Investigation officers to augment our gang interdiction efforts. That effort continues.
- Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Virginia State Police has agreed to supplement this effort by assigning a total of five troopers full time to Danville for the summer months. They will work closely with Danville officers in the areas of drug interdiction and gang suppression.
- For three different weeks during the summer, the Virginia State Police has also agreed to assign four special agents full time to Danville to assist Danville officers in gang and drug investigations.
- We will work cooperatively with other community agencies to implement the Comprehensive Gang Model mentioned earlier by Mr. Larking. This has great promise to interrupt the social conditions that create a gang environment while the police department focuses on suppression.

## Attachment

### Crime Reduction Strategy Update

#### CONCLUSION:

In closing, I have to say that while the number of murders for last year and this year is of great concern, I cannot neglect mentioning that our overall crime has been decreasing for the last seventeen years. We classify crimes as overall, major and violent. Here are the facts:

- For 2016, our number of major crimes (*murder, forcible sex, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson*) dropped to the lowest level since 2000 (from 3,003 to 1,876 – which is a 30% decrease while even factoring in our population decrease).
- For 2016, our violent crimes (*murder, robbery, abduction, forcible sex and aggravated assault*) were up about 24%, from 294 in 2015 to 366 in 2016. Out of the total of 72 additional violent crimes, 62 were an increase in aggravated assaults and 10 were an increase in murders. The use of drive by shootings into homes for the purpose of intimidation, and the five murders attributed to gang activity were the reason for our violent crime increase.

I am confident that the suppression efforts presented tonight can have a demonstrable effect in the near term on gang activity and, as a result, on our murder rate.

The police department cannot sustain this effort alone. We cannot arrest our way out of this problem. If the attraction to joining a gang is not eliminated by a concerted community effort, our success in suppression will be short lived.

Thank you.