

# CURE

# VIOLENCE

## Grand Rapids



*Presented by:*



**Urban League**  
of West Michigan

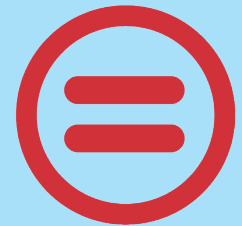
*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

## Cure Violence Program Review – Year 3 2024

Accomplishments, Successes, and Lessons Learned  
Three-Year Reflections - November 2021 – August 2024

# CURE

# VIOLENCE



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# GR

# Imagine Our City Without Violence...

# Yes, We Can!



# #BeTheCure

# 616-245-2207

# Agenda

## An Introduction to the Cure Violence Program - Grand Rapids

- How the Model Works
- Accomplishments
- Data-Based Evidence
- Summary
- Next Steps

# Cure Violence Team

- **Program Director**
  - Responsible for project and staff management and implementing the violence interruption model at the site level.
- **Site Supervisor**
  - Responsible for staff supervision, scheduling, and database input.
- **Violence Interrupters**
  - Provide conflict mediation services and develop rapport with the highest risk to prevent violence before it occurs.
- **Outreach (Workers) Specialists**
  - Case managers providing resources and working with participants to reduce risk and change behaviors.

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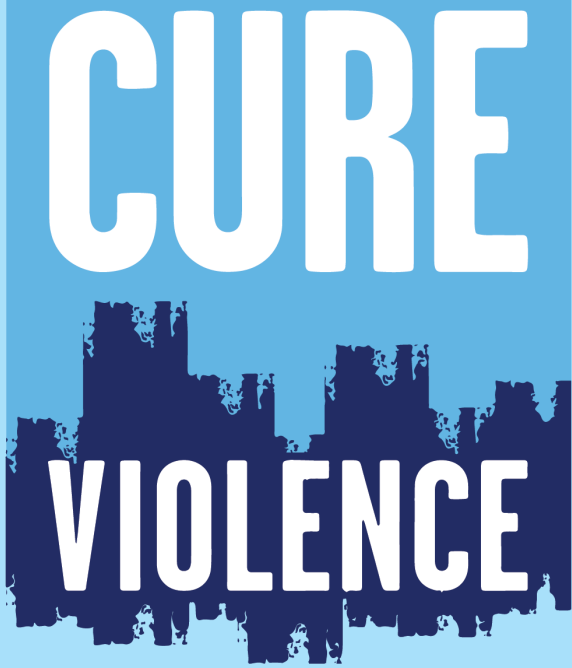
## How the Cure Violence Model Works

- **How It Works?**

The Cure Violence model is based on the World Health Organization's approach to reversing the epidemic spread of infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and cholera. The model applies these same three proven strategies to stop violence. Trained, culturally appropriate workers interrupt the transmission of violence, prevent its future spread, and transform community norms.

The model has been successfully replicated in diverse settings, proving its effectiveness across a variety of communities, cultures, and ethnicities.





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# Three Strategies

- **Cure Violence in Action**

- 1. Detect and Interrupt Potentially Violent Conflicts**

Violence Interrupters are a new category of health workers who prevent violence by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community and following up to ensure that conflict does not reignite.

- 2. Identify and Treat the Highest Risk Individuals**

Individuals at the Highest Risk Outreach workers help those at the highest risk to steer them away from violence by talking in their terms, discussing the cost of using violence, and helping them to obtain support and social services (e.g., education, job training, drug treatment) to foster long-term behavior change and changes in life course.

- 3. Mobilize the Community to Change Norms**

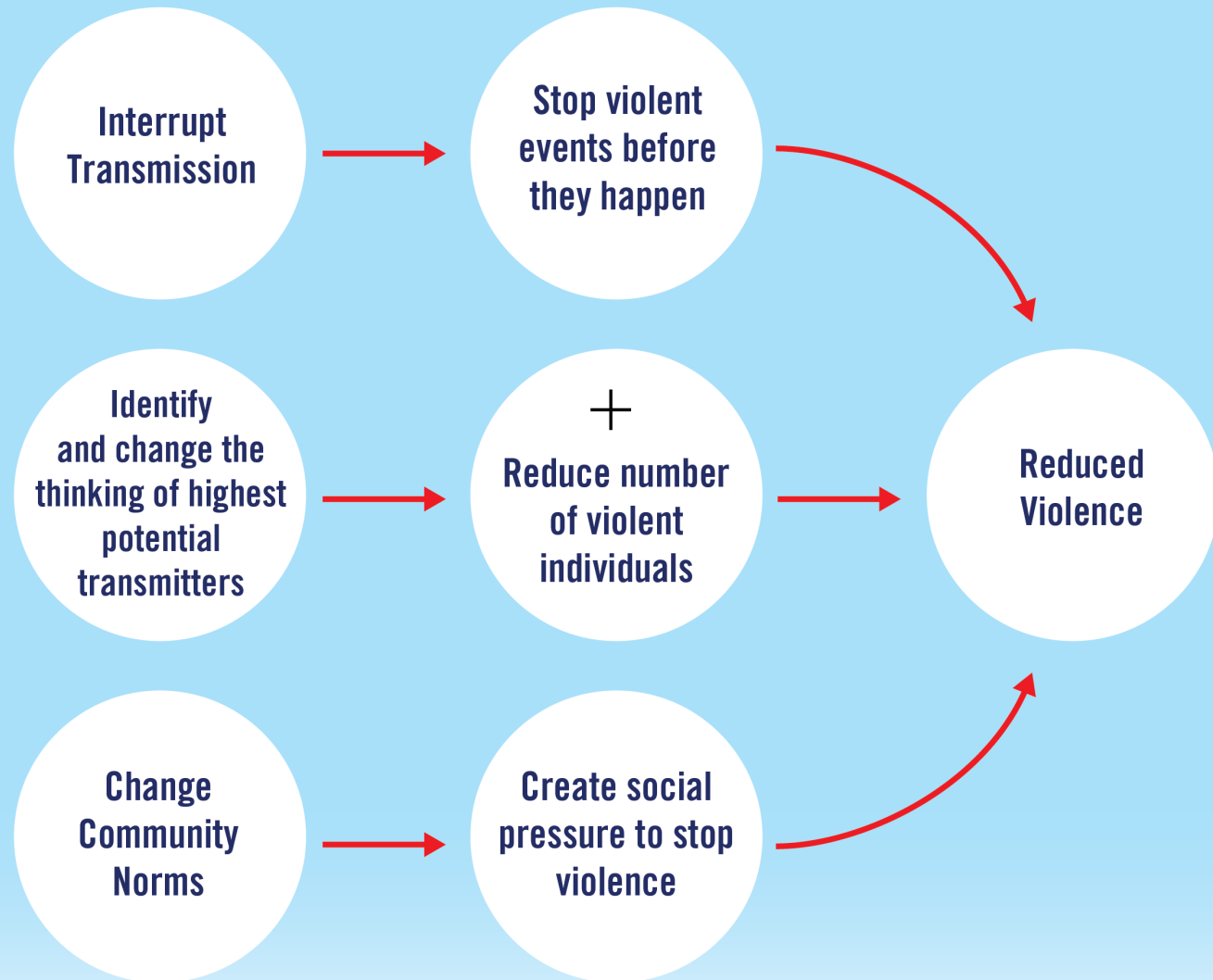
Workers engage community leaders, local business owners, residents, faith leaders, and particularly individuals at high risk, to shift the message, expectations, and norms around violence for the long term.

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## The Cure Violence Model

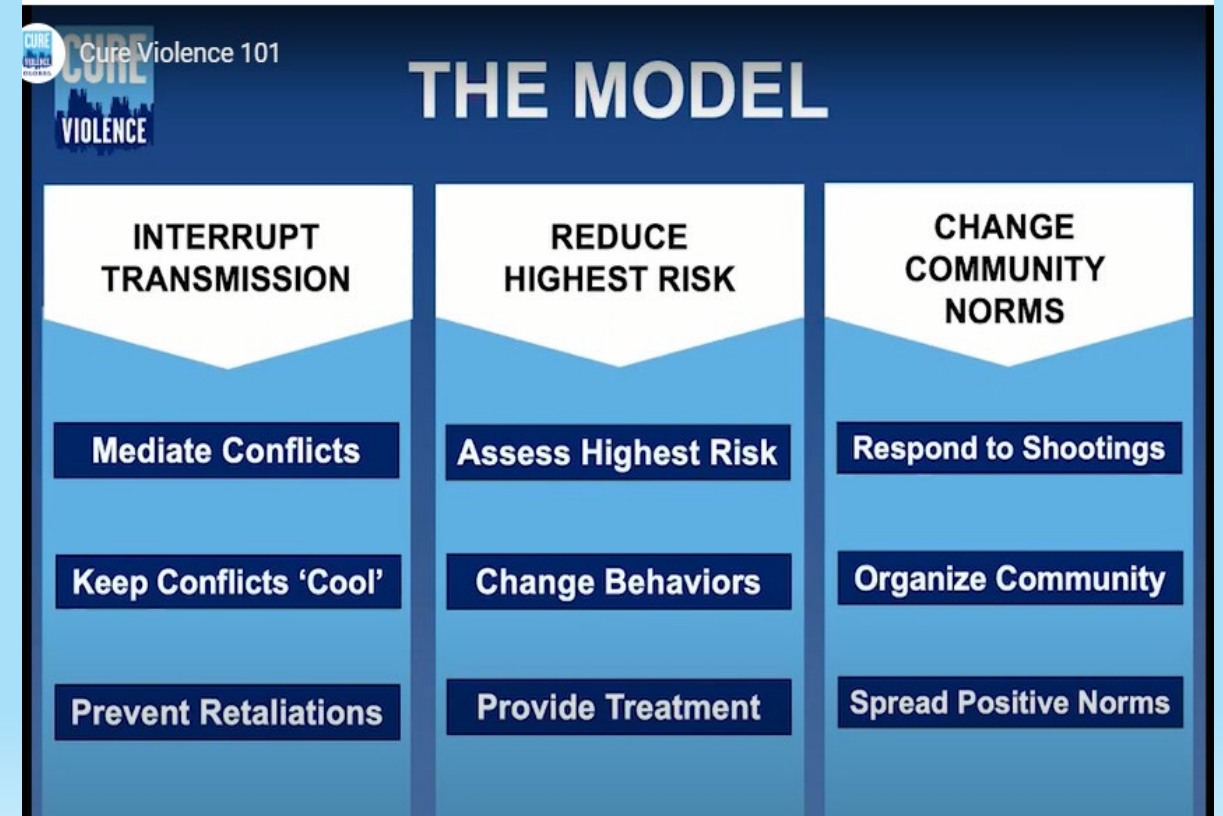




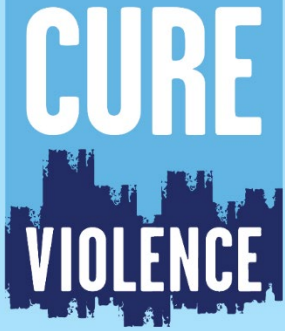
# Cure Violence Model: Strategies

## Strategies

- Detect and Interrupt Potentially Violent Conflicts
- Identify and Treat the Highest Risk Individuals
- Mobilize the Community to Change Norms
- Collection of Evidence Based Data







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# Cure Violence in Action

## Diversion, Prevention, and Intervention

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**Intervention - Violence Interrupters** help reduce the commission of crimes by providing mediation services within the community. Interrupters work separate from law enforcement and must remain independent in order to maintain the credibility needed to work with those at the highest risk.

**Behavioral Norm and Community Norm Change- Outreach Specialists** aid in relationship building with programs targeted demographic, assisting youth with navigating the many pitfalls of life ranging from the Socio-Economic, Education, Housing and Mental Health hurdles that are faced.

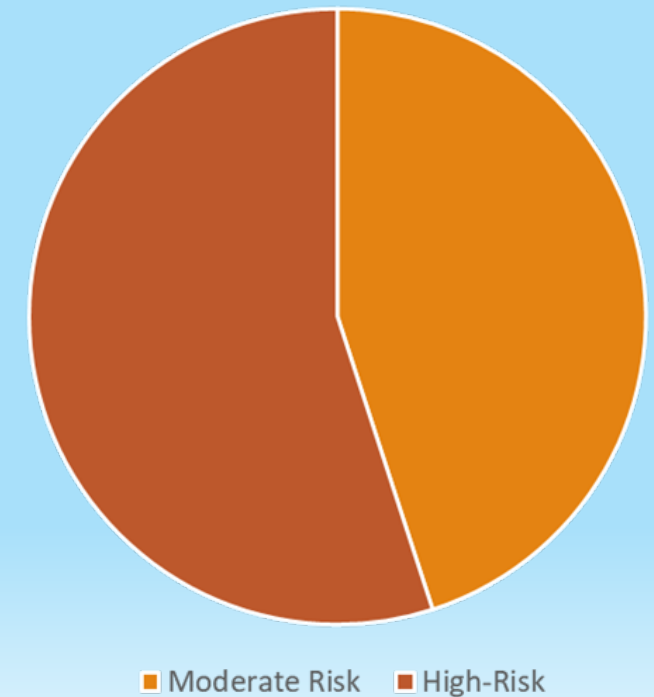


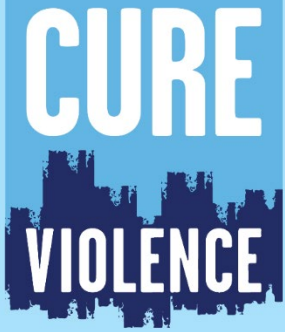
# Accomplishments: 2024

## Violence Detections and Interruptions

Cure Violence GR engaged  
in **2628** interactions  
that led to violence detections  
and interruptions.

Violence Detections





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# Accomplishments:

## Identification and Treatment of High-Risk

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Cure Violence GR had **279** interactions that led to the identification and treatment of high-risk individuals; these interactions helped **defuse** immediate conflicts that had a high-risk probability of leading to gun violence.



# Accomplishments:

## Mediations of Conflict

Cure Violence GR had **374** interactions that led to mediations with key individuals involved in other conflicts; these interactions led to community mobilization with hopes to (ultimately) move towards changing Behavioral and Community Norms





# Accomplishments:

## Sponsored Engagements and Community Events

Cure Violence hosted, attended, and/or sponsored

### **126** Community Engagement Events:

- Family Game Nights
- Awareness Rallies
- Lunch & Learns
- Meetings with Local Elected officials
- Stop the Violence Marches
- Family Support & Funeral/Burial Assistance
- Basketball Summer Tournament
- Basketball with GR Gold
- Baseball with Whitecaps
- Graduations
- Proms
- Neighborhood Festivals and more



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# Accomplishments: Resident Participation

## Over 1,000 Residents

have participated annually via monthly events sponsored over this past year by the League's Cure Violence Program throughout greater Grand Rapids.



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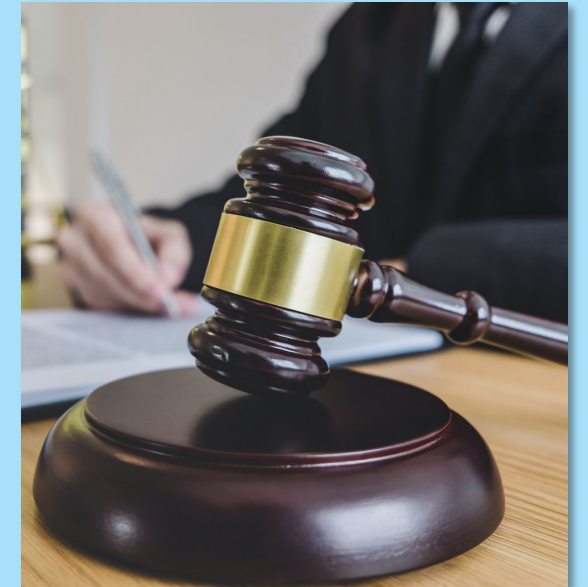
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## Accomplishments: Court Support and Advocacy

Cure Violence attended **13 court cases** to advocate for individual participants, resulting in most cases being dismissed or receiving reduced sentencing because of the Urban League's involvement and engagement of those youth.



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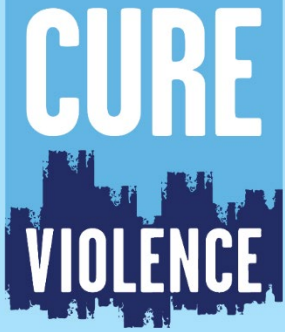
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## Accomplishments: Positive Outcomes for Youth

Throughout the program year of 2023-2024  
there were **216 visits** made to the  
Kent County Juvenile Detention Center.







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# Accomplishments:

## Resource Referrals

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## Over 5,000 Grand Rapidians

were assisted with referrals to the League's four Centers of Innovation for living wage jobs/employment and workforce development training; education and academic achievement for students; food insecurity and food assistance; homelessness and eviction prevention; health and tobacco-free living; and access to credit and credit repair assistance.



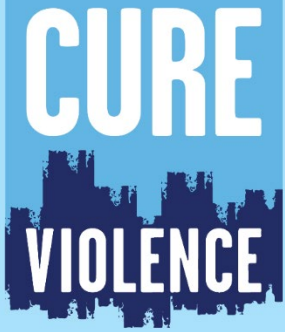
# Accomplishments:

## Mental Health Support

Cure Violence Staff received training on:

- Mediation and Introspective Reflection;
- Compassionate Listening; and
- Training on identifying, navigating and processing trauma
- **11** High-Risk participant-guests participated in Trauma Workshop series





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# Accomplishments:

## Community Partnerships

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**40+** new partnerships were established over this past year and engagement continues with many other community organizations that all support violence prevention initiatives.

# The Data: Is it Working?

# People Are Talking About

*"This violence has to stop!  
Cure Violence has  
my complete confidence."  
~ L. Gee  
(MLK Blvd. Business Owner)*

*"Up here at  
Ottawa...I attribute  
the decrease [in  
Violence]...to the  
time Cure Violence  
spends with my kids  
during let out."  
~ Dr. Mabin  
Principal, Ottawa  
Hills High School*

*"I really [rock] with Cure  
Violence...ya'll [rockin']  
with us...we love ya'll."  
~ Youth Participant*

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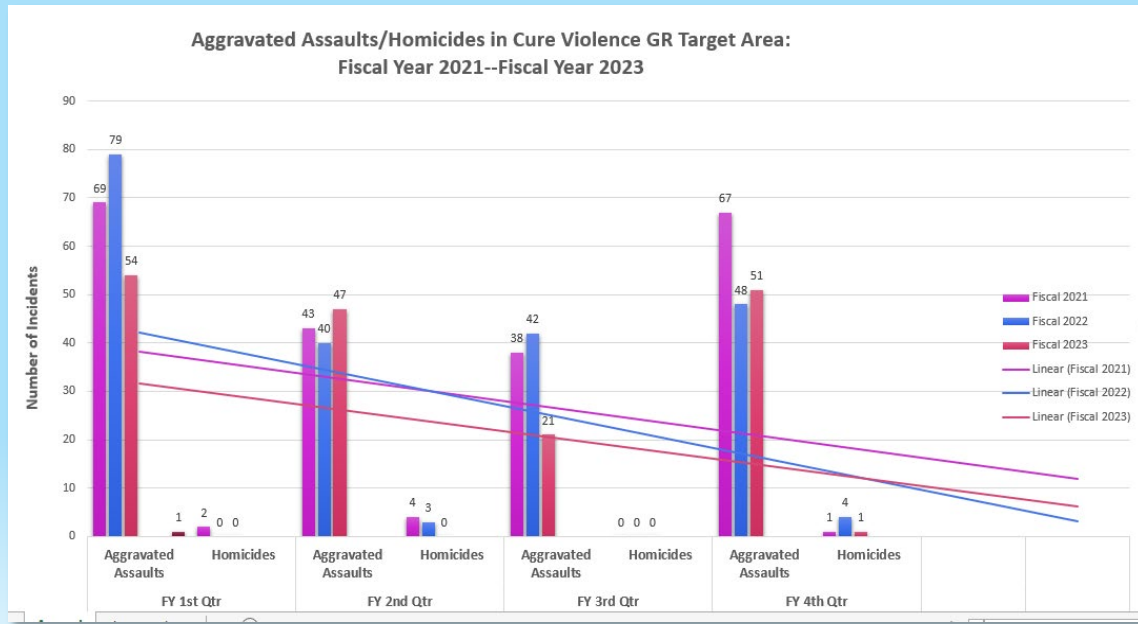
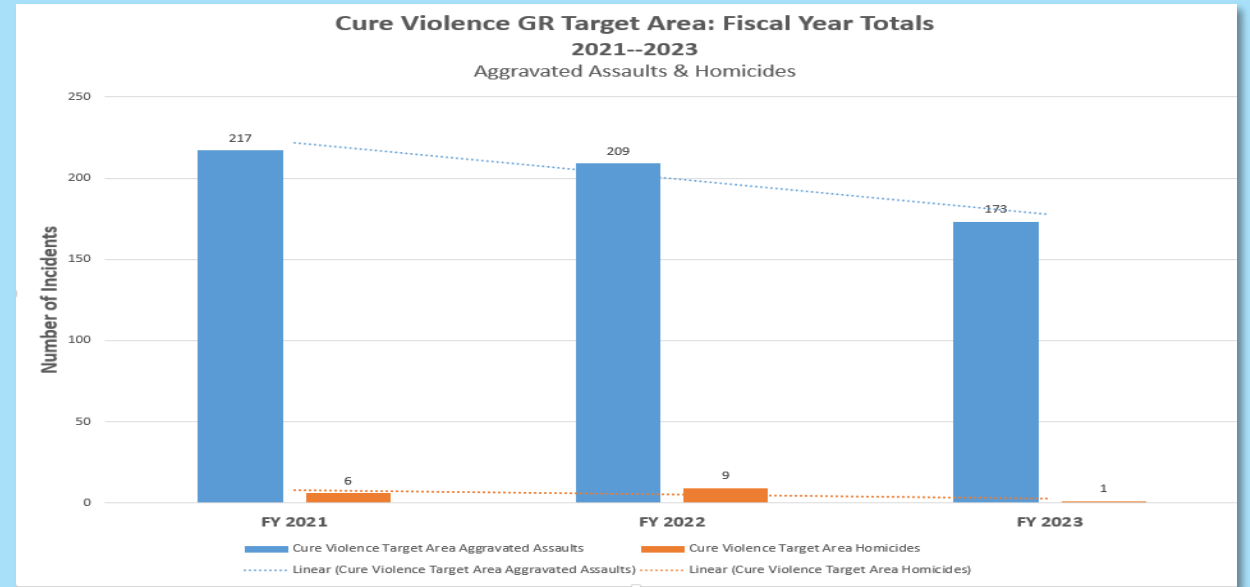
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*"Ultimately the  
education [Cure  
Violence] provides to  
our youth...it's been  
critical for our  
environment."  
~ M. Large  
Principal, Covenant  
High School*

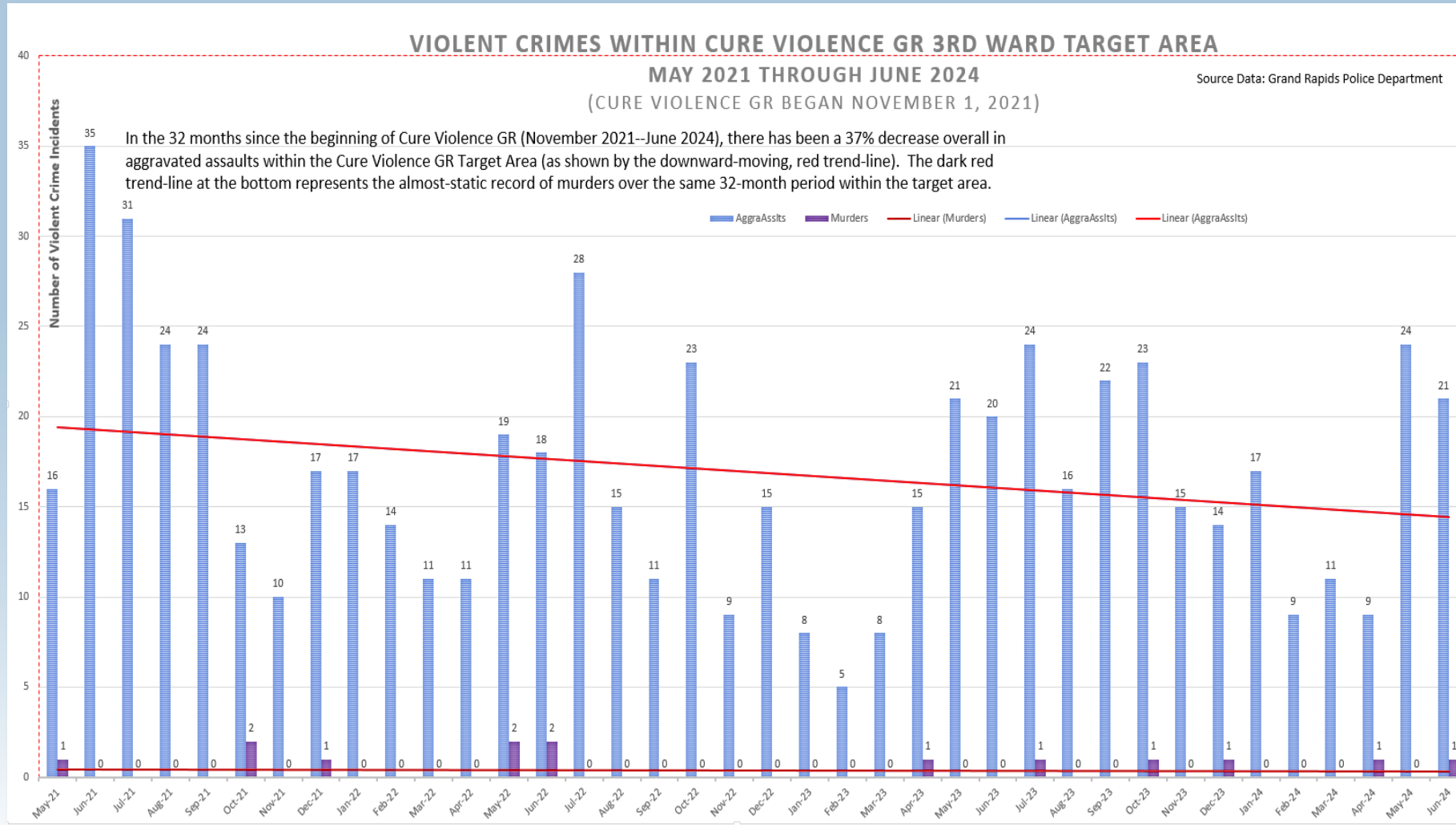
*"I'm so proud of  
ya'll...changed you  
life, now you are out  
here helpin' these  
babies!"  
~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Resident*

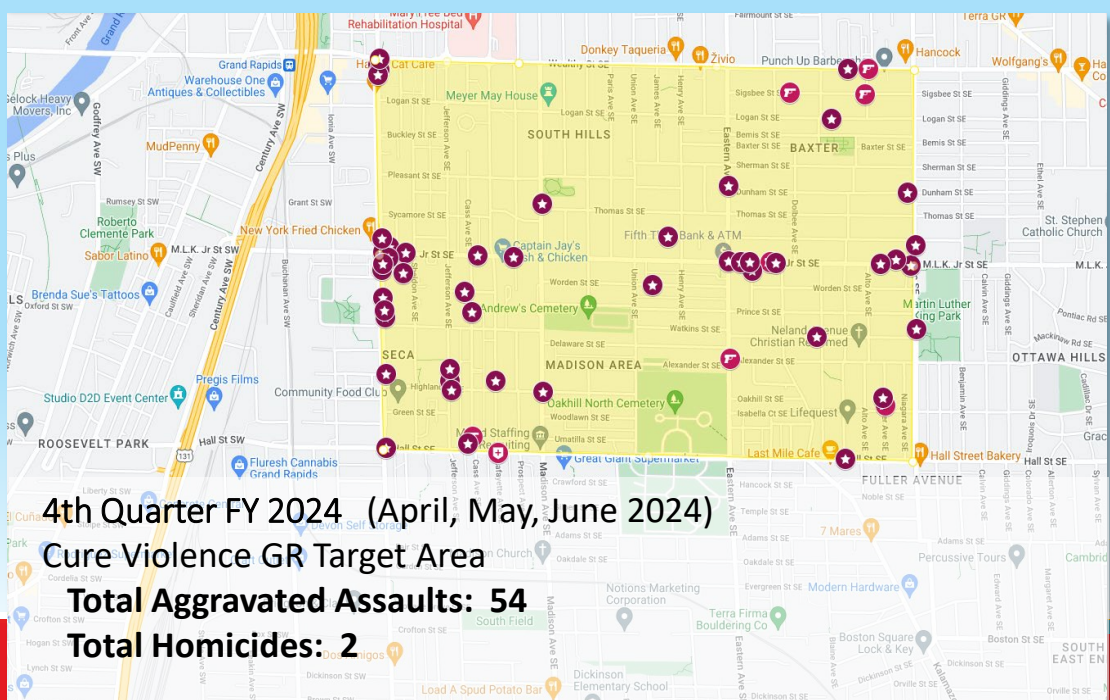
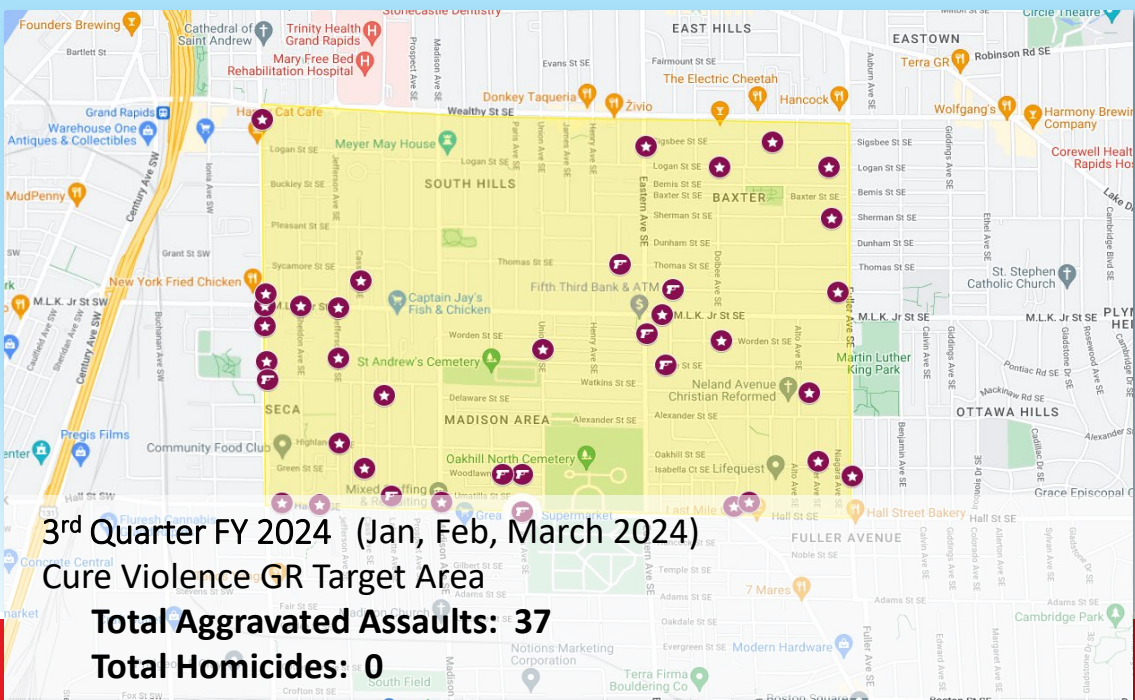
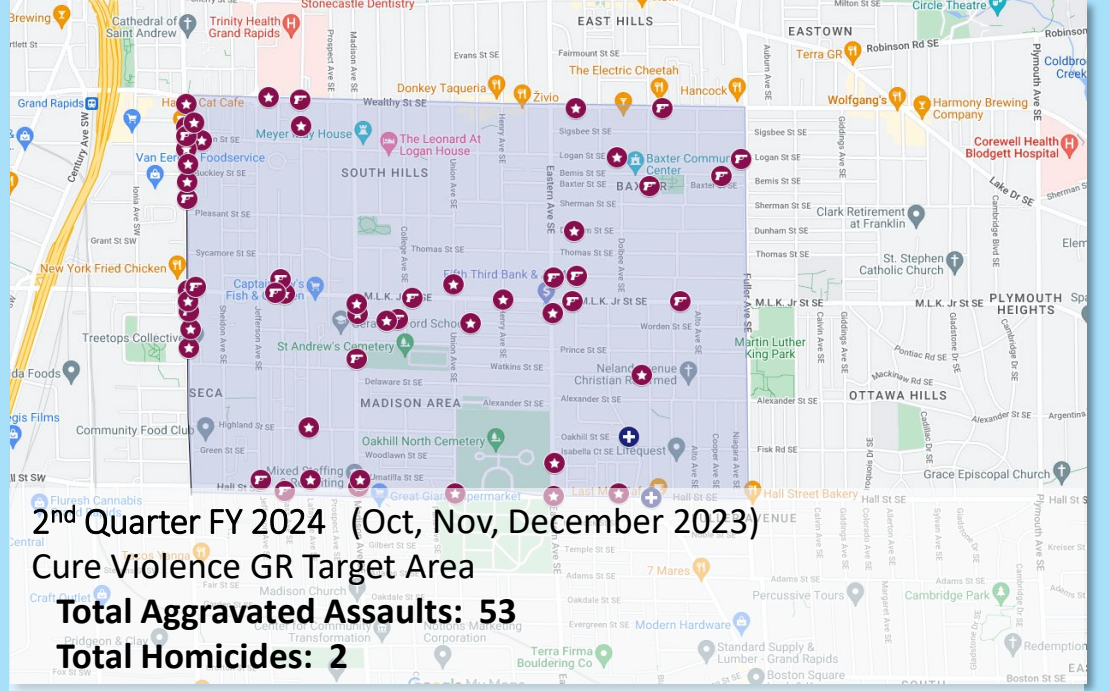
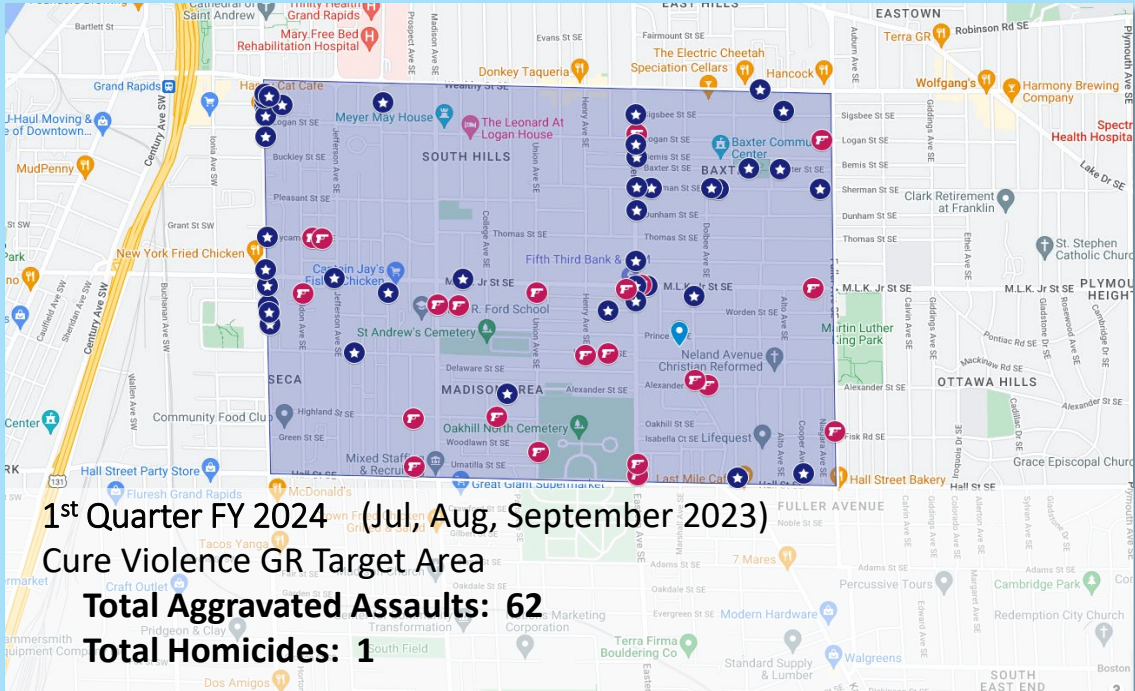
*"Hey Ahmad, my heart just breaks  
for you. It took a lot of bravery to  
share with me [your lived  
experience of incarceration]...  
I feel confident that your heart is  
in the right place...I'm looking  
forward to my boys meeting you,  
I know they are in good hands."  
~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Parent  
to A. Williams, V.I.*

# Cure Violence: Impacting the Numbers



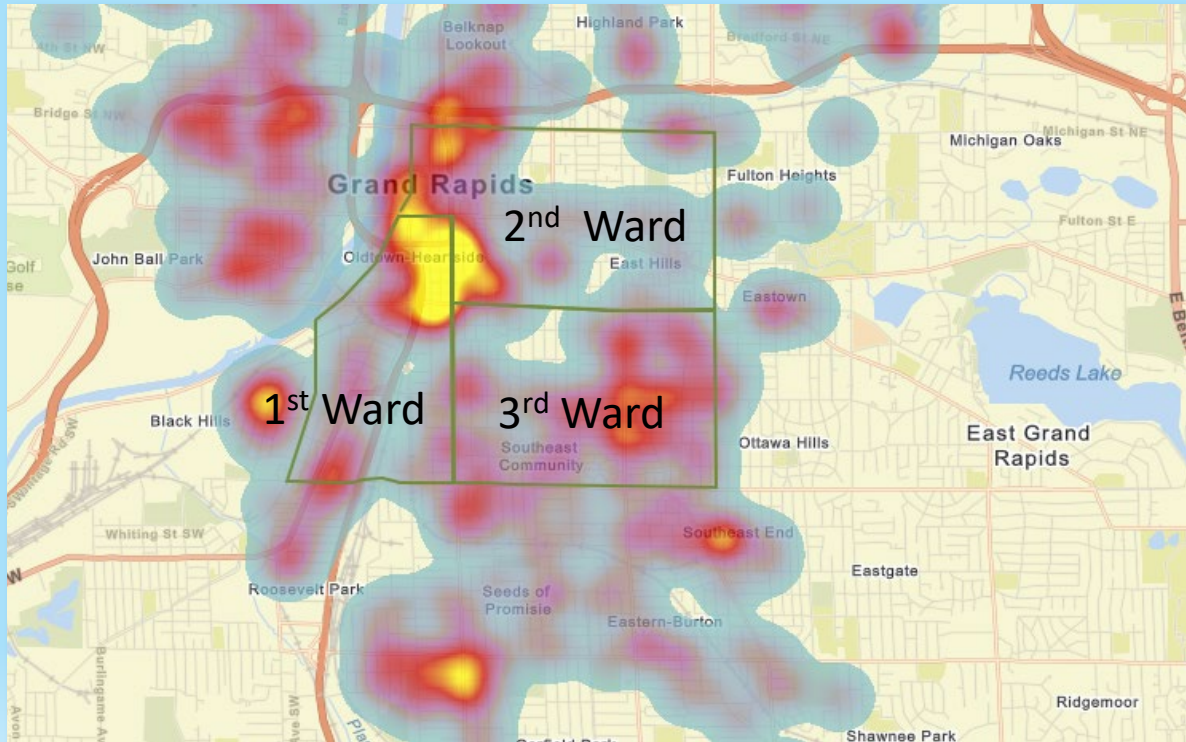
# 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Target Violent Crime May '21-June '24



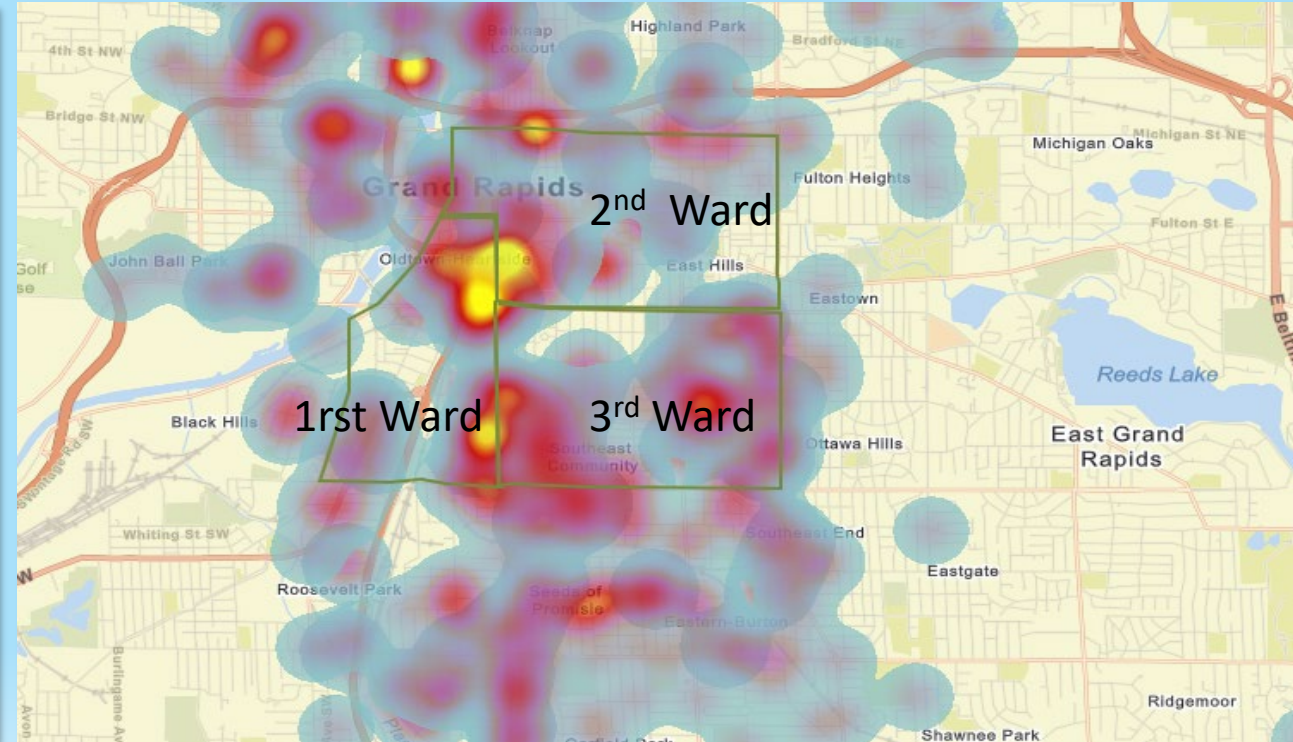




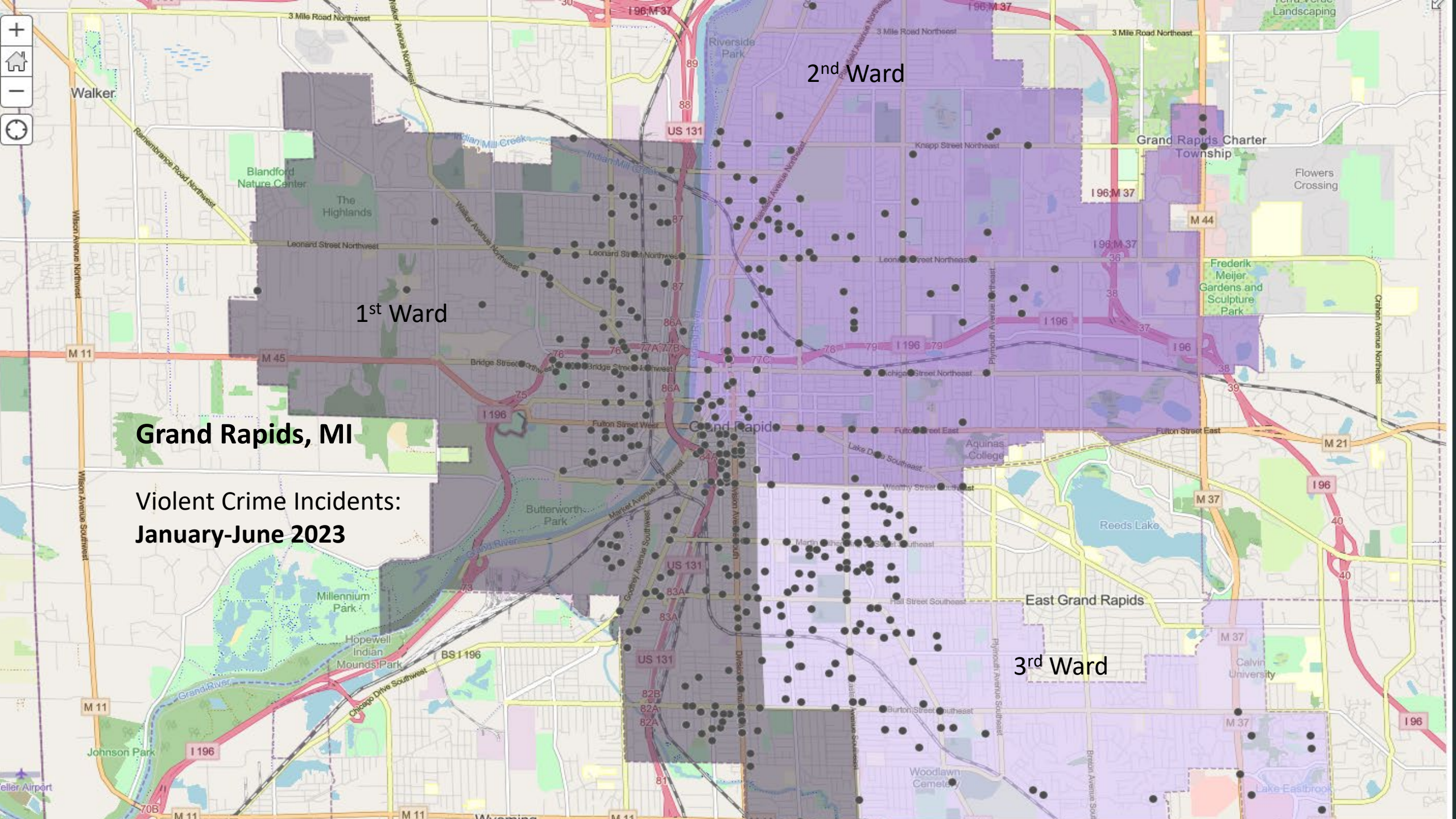
# Cure Violence Expansion to Ward 1 & Ward 2



**CV Target areas: Jan. '23- June '23**



**CV Target areas: Jan. '24 – June '24**



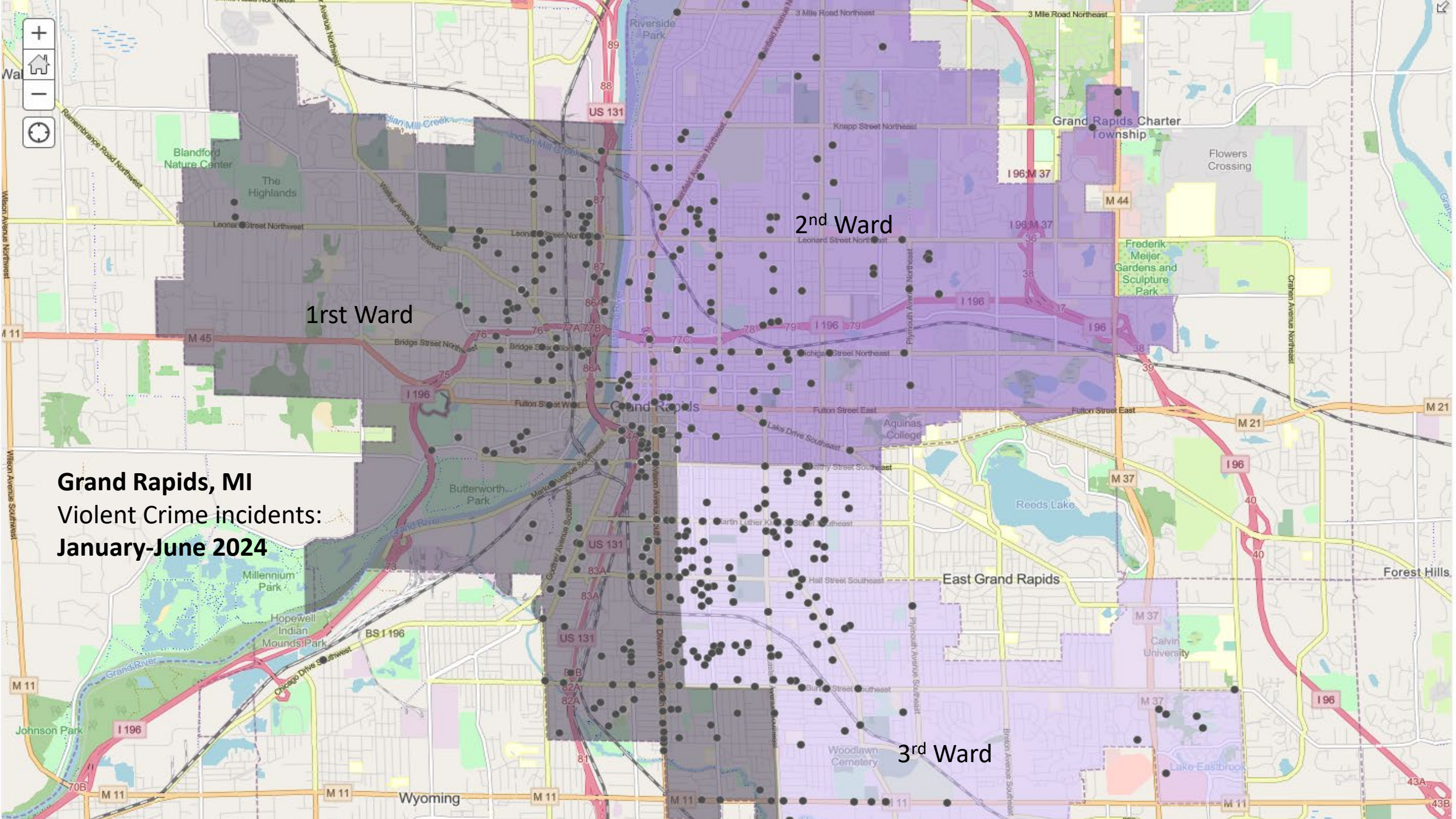
# Grand Rapids, MI

## Violent Crime Incidents: January-June 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Ward

2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

3<sup>rd</sup> Ward



**Grand Rapids, MI  
Violent Crime incidents:  
January-June 2024**

1st Ward

2nd Ward

3rd Ward

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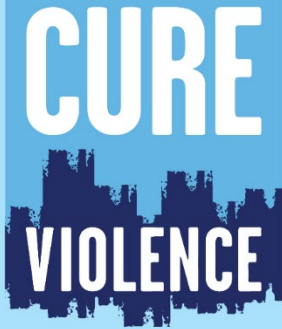
# Summary of Information and Data

The Cure Violence Model does work and is indeed working for our City.

It is not a short-term solution to address increases in violence; rather, the Cure Violence Program is a long-term investment that helps to impact and reduce the disease of violence through a targeted health-based approach.

**Over the last 12 months (*July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*), amazing work has taken place; the community has connected with the Cure Violence Team in tangible ways including, but not limited to the following:**

- Parents are reaching out and requesting help with their children who may be involved in negative (social) peer group activity with the hopes of CV staff detecting and interrupting violence before it occurs.
- Various school districts are actively recruiting the CV Team to visit and make a regular presence to further engage with youth before, during, and after school hours.
- Local businesses have asked for the CV Team's presence to engage with youth and change community norms in such gathering places as Woodland Mall, The Rapid bus transit station, Kent County Juvenile Detention Center and most recently with young adults ages 21-24 currently residing in the Kent County Jail.



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# Summary: Our NEXT...What We Seek to Accomplish

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- Widen our reach > expand our partnership > increase our impact
- Influence long-term changes and opportunities for the highest-risk individuals
- Continue to engage, mobilize, and empower our community
- We look forward to continuing the work in the foreseeable future

A night-time photograph of a city skyline across a river. The sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, a wide river reflects the city lights. A multi-arched stone bridge spans the river. The background features several buildings, including a prominent tall, dark skyscraper with many lit windows, a cylindrical building with purple lighting, and other smaller buildings with warm lights. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters in the center of the image.

**QUESTIONS?**

# THANK YOU



A sign that's a **plus** for everyone