

**SAFE Task Force:  
Annual Update**



# Members of the SAFE Task Force

- Chris Becker: Kent County Prosecutor, Kent County
- Deputy Chief Trigg: Grand Rapids Police Department
- Eric D. Brown: Urban League of West Michigan
- Kerby Killingham: Decision Counseling
- Larry Johnson: Chief of staff/Assistant Superintendent and Executive Director of Public Safety, Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Marian Berrera-Young: Crime Prevention Coordinator, Baxter Neighborhood Association
- Milinda Ysasi: 2nd Ward Commissioner
- Richard Griffin: The Justice League
- Senita Leneer: Third Ward Business Owner
- Shannon Harris: Our Community's Children

Staff Liaison- Asante Cain, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Grand Rapids

# Funding of Community Violence Reductions Programming

- Pitch and Highlight Nights
- RFPs

# SAFE Task Force Pitch and Highlight Night





## **We Matter Now**

A 1-day conference that will provide conflict resolution, problem solving and self-efficacy training for youth.





## Taylor Made Re-Entry

The Taylor Made Re-Entry Non-Profit is launched an initiative in Grand Rapids to reduce crime, particularly gun violence, through a plan aligned with the SAFE organization's PEACE pillars and the Grand Rapids Police Department's Strategic Plan. Their program includes workshops on conflict resolution, a mentorship program for at-risk youth, a public awareness campaign on responsible gun ownership, and expanded job training opportunities. This initiative aims to prevent violence, support reintegration from the criminal justice system, foster community cohesion, reduce crime rates, increase trust in law enforcement, and improve prospects for at-risk individual





## **Hatchett Player Development**

The \$10,000 provided the financial leverage to hire men and women dedicated to uniting against violence, using basketball as a tool to create champions on and off the court. By turning lessons (L's) on the court into wins (W's) off the court, we have positioned our youth to overcome the challenges of fatherless households, trauma, and impulse control. With the involvement of the Grand Rapids Police Department, this funding has allowed us to collaborate with other community organizations to change the normalization of violence, distrust, and blurred visions for a greater Grand Rapids





## **Freedom Elevated Defense Solutions**

In response to increased sales of guns, Freedom Elevated will provide training to those who wish to learn how to store and handle firearms in areas most affected by crime. It will offer free basic firearm safety training and ways to properly secure firearms. With the use of a virtual simulator, the program develops safer and more responsible gun owners, with legal feedback from an attorney. Additionally, Freedom Elevated will collaborate with GRPS <sup>8</sup>



# SAFE Task Force 2023-2024 RFP

The SAFE Task Force understands the need to educate the public on practical living tools and mental health resources for parents and youth, aged 15-24. Parents are critical in the lives of youth and set the foundation for values and behaviors. When families struggle with the many stressors of daily life and for some, past abuses, healthy family relationships are often compromised. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is to develop or enhance existing violence prevention programs to focus on parent engagement and education.

# Family Outreach Center

The Start NOW program provides a supportive environment to allow parents of youth impacted by trauma a safe space to process their experiences and develop tools to better understand and support their youth. Family Outreach Center will offer Six (6) week learning series addressing the following areas of concern impacting our most vulnerable families

- Create and set appropriate parent/child boundaries, interactions, and communication;
- Process grieving, loss and trauma that often accompanies delinquent patterns of behavior;
- Specific techniques to resolve parent/youth conflicts in healthy ways;
- Understand family patterns of interactions that are often repeated over generations;
- Better understand adolescent development;
- Promote healthy child and parent choices and activities that will enhance a better future.



# Safe Gathering

The SAFE Task Force invited past attendees of Pitch and Highlight Night, along with other guests, to come together and discuss strategies to reduce gun violence in our community before summer arrived.

## Topics discussed Included:

- Need jobs for young people. All must thrive, not just some.
- People need help retaining jobs.
- Financial literacy training for young people, even if they have jobs.
- Hire high school students to be leaders and mentor young people.
- Consistent and safe transportation for young people
- A continuum of care for these young people.
- Programs need to be focused on mindsets and family is what needs to be repaired.
- 15 to 20 young people who need a lot of help. Programs need to come together to help these young people.
- Need a 24/7 service to help young people.

## FY24 SAFE Task Force Investments

<i>Item Description</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Pitch and Highlight Nights	\$ 42,000.00
RFP's	\$ 35,000.00
Community Promotion	\$ 1,597.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,598</b>



Questions?

