

# COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

---

## VISION 2025

CITY OF YAKIMA, WA

129 N. Second Street  
Yakima, WA 98901





# COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

## VISION: 2025

### CITY OF YAKIMA

#### I. 2025 VISION

This Plan provides a vision for community wellbeing for 2025. This vision statement provides inspiration for the type of community Yakima wants to be.

This Plan addresses community health by looking at conditions of youth violence, domestic violence and neighborhood crime. The Plan focuses on these conditions because they are perceived as obstacles for wellbeing.

*We envision a City that is healthy, welcoming, responsive, inclusive, engaged, organized, active and that prioritizes its residents' wellbeing.*

We value and thrive to improve conditions through activities designed using this motto:  
NOTHING FOR THEM WITHOUT THEM.

This Plan recognizes the assets in the City of Yakima: Health services providers, natural resources, community based policing, responsive local government structures, diverse economy, employment, diversity and civic engagement.

The City of Yakima is grateful to all the community-based partners that guided this document and to City staff for sharing their perspective.

## II. CURRENT CONDITIONS

### a. THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY (NCS)

Under the leadership of the Public Safety Committee, we reviewed and selected the following key points from the National Citizen Survey (NCS). In 2015, the Community Livable Report provided the opinion of a representative sample of 735 residents of the City of Yakima. This report showed that residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Yakima community.

For this Plan, we identified the following conditions:

- i. 31% of residents indicated overall feeling of safety.
- ii. 78% of residents indicate feeling of safety in their neighborhood.
- iii. 63% of residents indicated feeling of safety in downtown.

### b. NEIGHBORHOOD FORUMS

In 2017, under the leadership of Councilwoman Dulce Gutierrez the City Council sponsored five neighborhood forums to discuss neighborhood safety. These forums took place on the following dates at the following locations:

June 17, 2017	Corner of 8 <sup>th</sup> Street
October 14, 2017	St. Michael's Episcopal
October 25, 2017	Garfield Elementary
November 15, 2017	Henry Beauchamp Community Center
December 6, 2017	Robertson Elementary

During these forums, the community outlined a number of desires and ideas that could enhance public safety. These ideas fall under three distinct but complementary categories:

1. City Protocols
2. Prevention Activities
3. Environmental Design

These are the actual suggestions from these forums:

- Updated protocols

- Communication protocol for YPD and affected parties before and after incidents
- Transportation protocols for victims
- Public education to enhance transparency of how calls are prioritized and how cases are investigated

- Prevention Measures

- Enhanced relations and integrated approaches:
  - Community- police; community policing
  - City- Schools

- Neighbor-Neighbor
  - Spanish speaking capacity improvement among YPD
- Use of community gathering places such as school, churches and other spaces more effectively
- Integrating mental health/ case management component to victim treatment
- Children and Teen
  - After school programming
  - Alternative programming
  - Curfew
  - Parenting classes
  - Respite
  - Free bus passes
- Increased social worker, mental health practitioner and police force
  - Permanent presence in key areas
  - Cameras
- Home ownership
  - Incentives for City staff to live in District 1 or 2.
- Rethinking of staffing for various police districts
  - Number of sworn staff
  - Number of mental health and case management staff
  - Number of safety staff
- Code enforcement or Code revisions or both
- Homeless services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Environmental Design</li> </ul>
--

- Cleanups
- Speed bumps
- Graffiti
- CIP focus for such programs:
  - Lincoln Underpass
  - Surveillance cameras
  - Sidewalk on Powerhouse Rd
  - Sidewalks leading to schools
  - Lighting
  - Naches Park
  - Eastside Pool
  - Sidewalks (period)

### **III. BARRIERS TO WELLBEING**

**This Plan identifies conditions we want to change in three areas: youth wellbeing, domestic and neighborhood safety. Yakima Police Department provided these data points in early 2018.**

#### YOUTH VIOLENCE BASELINE

- i. 29 of recognized gangs in the City of Yakima.
- ii. 40 addresses linked to known gang members within the City limits

In addition, we include a third baseline from the Yakima Gang Free Initiative Retrospective Document (2010-2015):

- iii. Gang involvement (membership and affiliation) rate is 15% in middle schools.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BASELINE

- i. 1216 of DV cases reported

#### NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY BASELINES

- i. 80 of robberies by police district
- ii. 998 of assaults by police district

## IV. RESOURCES

This Plan addresses financial resources needed to support operational models and the activities listed in subsequent sections. This section is not a fundraising plan; instead, this section recognizes potential funding available in 2018 and outlines the role of the City as a facilitator (not as funder).

This plan recognizes:

- 1- Importance of using City contributions as seed funding to design programs and organizational structures or as gap funding.
- 2- Importance of program structures to include media/marketing and evaluation to capture and promote outcomes.
- 3- Importance of developing capacity of governance bodies of key partners to direct programs and to fundraise.
- 4- Core funding from the City should not be a strategy for sustainability of programs.

Public, philanthropic, charitable, corporate and private funding may be accessed to support the activities listed in this plan. In 2018, the Governor’s Office may provide seed funding for coordination of gang prevention programs. If the funding does not materialize, then like the other components of the plan, funding will need to be identified.

In 2015, Washington Fruit Company partnered with the City to improve Miller Park Community Center. It provided \$150,000 for capital improvements- these are not programmatic dollars.

Based on the Magellan Consultancy LLC’s GFI Retrospective report, to run a soundly designed program, the City would need to allocate or to access from 1.5M to 4.0M. The Wallace Foundation indicates that costs for serving elementary and middle schools are between \$3,000 and \$7,000 per student.

PLAN ELEMENT	FUNDED ACTIVITY	Suggested Resources
Youth Wellbeing	Creation of Gang Prevention Steering Committee	Seed: Governor’s grant
	Gang Prevention Lead Agency + Coordinator	Seed: Governor’s grant
Domestic Health	DV Prevention Steering Committee	Seed: TBD
	DV Prevention Lead Agency	Seed: TBD
	Technical Assistance Partners	Seed: TBD
Neighborhood Safety	Creation of SPA’s	City can act as convener and provide staff support to get each SPA off the ground. Specific resources for each SPA: TBD if needed

This plan recognizes that funding, like program delivery, must be multidisciplinary (diverse sources) and creative. The City is ready to examine availability of Federal, State, Corporate and Philanthropic funding for two to three year initiatives related to youth, family and neighborhood wellbeing.

## **V. DESIRED CHANGE**

### **a. Youth Wellbeing**

The City of Yakima envisions that in comparison to the 2017 baseline, by 2025 we will:

- A. Eliminate and eradicate at least two known gangs within the City of Yakima.
- B. Reduce by the number of homes (addresses) associated with gang activity to no more than 20 within the City.
- C. The rate of gang involvement at Washington Middle School and MLK Junior High will decrease to 2-4% points.

### **b. Domestic violence reduction**

The City of Yakima envisions that in comparison to the 2017 baseline, by 2025 we will:

- A. Reduce by 25% the number of DV identified in local hospitals.
- B. Increase by 100% the number of school based activities that address healthy relationships in a manner that is respectful and age appropriate.

### **c. Safe neighborhoods**

The City of Yakima envisions that in comparison to the 2017 baseline, by 2025 we will:

- A. Reduce the number of robberies by 25%
- B. Reduce the number of assaults by 25%



## **VI. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

The programs and activities in the following table are categorized under Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression. These components are found in violence prevention and public health approaches and recognize the importance of multi level approaches that address the complexities of violence prevention and public safety.

Community wellness shall incorporate the following principles in the design and execution of any of the activities listed in this section:

Community driven, community designed.

Integration of target groups during design and evaluation.

Inclusion of sectors.





**VISION 2025 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

<b>SUPPRESSION</b>		<b>Aggressively respond to incidents</b>		<b>Reduce domestic violence</b>		<b>Increase neighborhood safety</b>	
Youth	Family	Victim	Offenders	Residents	Police	Planning/Code	
Close supervision of specific households	Close supervision of families affiliated to specific gang members	Housing and shelter services	Improved accountability for offenders	Police assistance	Resident friendly protocols	Integrate mental health/case management components	
Close supervision of gang activity	Support groups	Workforce development	Asset seizure; wage garnishing	Family supports	Information		
Coordinated enforcement with Federal and State entities		Streamlined restraining orders		Body cameras			
Peer to peer interventions		Faith based and community based support		Promotors			
Fast sharing agreements with regional partners							

## VII. TWO YEAR OPERATIONAL MODELS: YOUTH AND DOMESTIC HEALTH

We have learned lessons from the GFI and from the fields of gang prevention, youth development and domestic violence about effective organizational models to implement violence prevention initiatives. In this section, we outline the option of adopting a model used by the U.S. Department of Justice and other violence prevention initiatives such as the Wellness Foundation's Violence Prevention Initiative. In the latter, youth violence was addressed using a



public health framework in which prevention as the key to healthy communities and that gang violence, like disease, has to be addressed regionally.

It calls for a centralized lead agency (governmental or community based) that is guided by a steering or advisory committee. The effort's lead is accountable to the steering committee and serves as the connector of resources needed to implement the activities in the table. The lead oversees an inventory of resources and community assets. This person acts as a connector and broker of human, social and financial capital. Securing capital for long term sustainability is

an essential function of the lead so that this position is less of a program implementer and more of a development officer/fundraiser.

It is important to recognize non-program partners that are essential for long term sustainability under this model:

- Capacity Building- These partners will work with all services providers to identify evidence-based approaches for service delivery and program design. They will also work with governance bodies of various organizations to increase their effectiveness in long-term sustainability and resource development.

- Media Relations/Access- These partners will work with services providers to educate the public and policy makers. They will build the capacity of all those involved in violence prevention to effect public perception and public opinion.
- Evaluators- Finally, these partners will evaluate the effectiveness of programming and will track performance measures and indicators.
- Multidisciplinary Intervention Team approach- services providers will be linked and provide wrap around services that are evidenced based and specific in their targets.
- 211. This model acknowledges the importance of working with the current 211 structure and avoid duplication.

It is equally important to recognize the value of the steering committee membership. One option that should be carefully considered is the selection of a cross disciplinary steering committee to guide, monitor, modify and promote programming. The steering committee may include representatives from the following sectors:

- Those impacted by youth, family and neighborhood violence
- Police Department
- Sheriff Department
- District Attorney's Office
- Department of Corrections
- Adult and Juvenile Probation
- Community based organizations
- Human Services
- Faith based
- School District
- City
- Civic organizations
- Workforce development
- County Public Health

Selection of a lead agency that is either faith based, community based or school based and that will be accountable to the steering committee should also be considered. This agency will be the main administrator and connector of all the activities and services. One of the most important functions of the lead agency's governance body will be resource development. It is imperative that lead agencies understand that municipal resources are limited and should be used mostly for leveraging other funds. Examples of organizations that can serve in this capacity include:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Faith based organizations
- Non-profits
- Community Foundations
- Public-private partnerships
- Community Action Groups

Under this model, the lead agency hires a coordinator and is directed by a steering committee. The lead agency enters into formal partnerships (MOU's) with community and faith based organizations with proven history of working with the target populations and their families; these partners must document that their approaches are evidenced based.

The GFI Retrospective report indicates that two key alliances were desirable but unattained at the time of the GFI implementation. Partnerships and key leadership roles for the United Way and for the Yakima Valley Community Foundation are highlighted as highly desirable.

The University of Washington Gang Prevention & Intervention Project: Final Evaluation Report of 2013 includes five recommendations that are relevant to this plan:

1. Future funding initiatives should require the adoption of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model.
2. MOU's with service providers should include definitive language related to the agency's role and responsibilities specifically regarding the types of program youth to be served e.g., gang involvement, level and dosage of prevention and or intervention services, and requirements for data collection.
3. To increase the likelihood of youth achieving targeted youth centered outcomes, service providers should implement evidence based programs designed for youth of focus e.g., gang involvement or high risk.
4. Data on program performance should be monitored by the Project Coordinator as well as the Project Evaluator, to assess how well prevention and intervention services are working for individuals youth, to problem solve issues related to service barriers and ensure that service providers are meeting contracted deliverables.
5. Finally, as projects are required to implement the OJJDP CGM, the evaluation, too, should follow the recommended data collection process including the collection of gang related crime data, individual client data, key agency participation data (process and outcome) and community perception data.

Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are incorporated in the business model proposed in this section. As far as lessons learned from previous gang initiatives, the lead agency will have to be ready to:

- 1- Enter into contracts within one week of the initiative's official start date.
- 2- Give potential partners a list of competencies that will be needed to participate in initiative.
- 3- Ensure that partners have all key program components in place prior to formally requesting to enter into the initiative
- 4- Mobilize staff to go to target households to secure parental consent- we can't wait to parents to get around giving consent.
- 5- Execute the initiative in a 2 to 2.5 years program period with proper start up, execution, evaluation and documentation phases.
- 6- Build capacity of potential partners ahead of the start up phase

## VIII. OPERATIONAL MODELS: SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

For the safety program implementation, we have found that police and city support for resident efforts is imperative. Unlike the model above, resident based activities do not require a formal lead or lead agency. The operational model for safer neighborhood and crime prevention presented in this section is grounded on stronger coordination between city government, organized neighborhoods, community based organizations and county services.

One option is the creation of Services Planning Areas (SPA) for specific sections of the City. Each SPA will be composed of residents, PD and city reps. Together, they will share data, trends, and prioritize neighborhood activities. The model does not require funding other than in-kind participation of police officers and community liaisons from different departments within the City. The plan recommends the creation of SPA, which could coincide with police beat districts.

The benefit of establishing SPAs is that each beat or area will have its own approaches for addressing safety in a manner that is consistent with the characteristics of the area. Evidence shows that safety approaches should be tailored to the trends and attributes of specific neighborhoods. Each SPA will have membership based on the region it covers; members will outline priorities for their public parks and streets while city staff would act as advocates and liaison to facilitate services and resources. We expect that some SPA's will be self-motivated and active while others may rely more heavily on staff to promote change. It is possible to link leadership programs currently implemented for City staff to identify personnel that may want to volunteer to serve as SPA staff. Police participation can be tailored to work with non-sworn officers as human resources are limited at YPD.

The purpose of these SPAs would be:

- Assess the safety assets and needs of defined areas in the City
- Provide evidence-based best practices for neighborhood crime prevention
- Promote safety measures and activities through broad collaboration with key stakeholders such as schools, faith based organizations, businesses and housing associations.

We recommend that specific partners be selected to execute programs and activities in each SPA. Again, since each SPA will likely have its own programming, a single citywide agency is not likely to be positioned to do this neighborhood level work well. For this reason, the City's role would be to facilitate the process leading to the identification of the appropriate entity to gather data on needs, identify crime prevention activities and convene stakeholders.

SPA leading organizations would convene stakeholders to work on an array of crime prevention activities such as:

- i. Neighborhood watch/block groups
- ii. Situational crime prevention
- iii. Environmental Design
  - a. Housing
  - b. Streetscaping
  - c. Code
- iv. Comprehensive community partnerships



- v. Community Policing
- vi. Social Capital Development
  - a. Tenant Management
  - b. Homeownership
  - c. Schools as a community asset
  - d. Organized recreational activities

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

- 1. Staff report to Council dated 3.6.18**
- 2. Notes from public safety community meetings from 2017 and 2018**

## APPENDIX 1- COUNCIL REPORT. 3.6.18

To: City Manager, Cliff Moore  
From: Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager  
Date: March 6, 2018  
Subject: Comprehensive Community Safety Plan- Vision 2025

Under the guidance of the City of Yakima Public Safety Committee, staff embarked on a process to develop a safety plan that connects three areas of priority for the City: youth, domestic and neighborhood safety. The original purpose of this plan was to guide the work and funding of anti-gang activities. However, we quickly discovered that we needed to broaden the focus and that we could not engage in a youth/gang discussion without also addressing general safety and domestic violence.

On January 30, 2018, staff presented the first draft of Vision 2025 to the Public Safety Committee. On February 1, 2018, staff presented a second draft to the full Council at its briefing session. The second draft was also presented to a group of community-based organizations on February 21, 2018. The following agencies attended the convening or provided input for the third draft:

Yakima County  
United Way  
Yakima Housing Authority  
Rodshouse  
La Casa Hogar  
Safe Yakima  
People for People  
Comprehensive Healthcare/Aspen Victim Advocacy Services  
YWCA  
Catholic Charities

These partners gave tremendous direction and perspective, which staff incorporated in the third draft of the plan. Staff presents this third draft for adoption by Council on March 1, 2018.

### KEY THEMES

Input has clearly indicated that the plan should focus on community health and wellbeing. For this reason, staff recommends changing the title to COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN- VISION 2025.

Input also enlighten staff to change the plan's tone from needs based to asset driven. This third draft starts with a vision for community health:

*We envision a City that is healthy, welcoming, responsive, inclusive, engaged, organized, active and that prioritizes its residents' wellbeing.*

The Plan provides current conditions and obstacles to improving community wellbeing. These are listed as:

- i. 29 of recognized gangs in the City of Yakima.
- ii. 40 addresses linked to known gang members within the City limits
- iii. Gang involvement (membership and affiliation) rate is 15% in middle schools.
- iv. 1216 of DV cases reported
- v. 80 of robberies by police district
- vi. 998 of assaults by police district

These conditions inspired the change we envision for 2025; specifically, the indicators that should reflect improved community wellbeing:

- i. Eliminate and eradicate at least two known gangs within the City of Yakima.
- ii. Reduce by the number of homes (addresses) associated with gang activity to no more than 20 within the City.
- iii. Decrease the rate of gang involvement at Washington Middle School and MLK Junior High by 2-4% points.
- iv. Reduce by 25% the number of DV identified in local hospitals.
- v. Increase by 100% the number of school based activities that address healthy relationships in a manner that is respectful and age appropriate.
- vi. Reduce the number of robberies by 25%
- vii. Reduce the number of assaults by 25%

An equally important topic has been the type of operational model that the City could adopt for the implementation of programs and activities. This model is discussed in page 8 and reflects important principles:

- 1- Wellness approaches need comprehensive programming guided by a diverse steering committee that includes former gang members, perpetrators and victims. City's role is best defined as a broker.
- 2- Many community-based organizations have visions and missions that seek the same outcomes. City's role is to connect these agencies.
- 3- Evaluation, coordination, media and fund development capacity must be developed among partners. City's role is to build capacity.
- 4- Programming must be driven by clear timelines, agreements, standards and metrics. The City's role can be to facilitate this framework.
- 5- Finally, funding needs are great and the City can't be an effective funder. However, the City can leverage funding for organizations that demonstrate evidence based programming and sound fund development capacity.

For neighborhood safety, the operational model is more fluid. The Plan proposes small Service Program Areas throughout the City that convene residents, businesses, school staff, police and other City staff and focus on next steps towards implementation of community changes. These Service Program Areas are simply spaces where specific requests for services can be made through direct interaction between

residents and city staff. The City's role is to convene these groups, to facilitate dialogue, to provide immediate solutions and to increase social capital one small area at a time.

#### NEXT STEPS

Council has the option of formally adopting the COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN- VISION 2025 so that as we implement programs and activities, these are connected to the framework included in the plan and most importantly, contribute to the changes we wish to achieve by 2025. For example, this Plan can drive summer programming design so that addresses one, several or all of these indicators:

- Gang membership reduction
- Domestic violence reduction
- Crime reduction

## **APPENDIX 2- 2017 AND 2018 NOTES FROM SAFETY COMMUNITY FORUMS**

**City of Yakima**  
**Public Safety Neighborhood Forum summary**  
**(5/12/17, 5/15/17, 10/14/17, 10/25/17, 11/15/17, 12/6/17)**

- 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?
  - Several people acknowledged they knew other people in the room at each forum
- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Several people believed it was important for people to know their neighbors – this was consistent at each forum
- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - The safety of our children and our neighbors.
  - When crime occurs, that police keep in touch with the family of victim to share updates (relatives may know information helpful to the investigation).
  - Arresting criminals before they become embolden to harass, threaten, or taunt the family members of victims.
  - When parents have any information on the homicide of their child, that detectives listen respectfully and investigate information thoroughly.
  - Ensure police have the ability (time) to build positive relationships with residents and bridges of communication **prior** to crime occurring in the neighborhood.
  - Homicide victims be picked up from crime scene within reasonable timeframe.
  - Communication is necessary.
  - Action is key.
  - Extend the downtown district to Walnut.
  - Use churches – hub of activity.
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - If no arrest is made after a homicide, those close to the deceased victim feel compelled to retaliate against suspected individual, even if unlawfully.
  - Reports of a family party are sometimes responded to within a shorter timeframe than reports of gunshots.
  - Some residents may feel resentment towards LEO for underperforming in duties (specifically, delayed police response time).
  - There's more talking about the problem than action being taken to solve the problem.
  - Some residents have felt disregarded by detectives when reporting new or additional information related to a crime committed against their family member.
  - Inadequate lighting in district 1.
  - Lack of programs for kids after school and on weekends.
  - Not enough police officers in neighborhood.
  - People need to care and intervene.
  - Not everyone is on the same page.
  - Police cannot be everywhere.

- There is a lot the public can do to reduce incidents of crime but we need to know what that is.
- Young people need wider range of activities.
- Home ownership is a challenge for many.
- Takes YPD a long time to respond in districts 1 and 2. Should staffing patterns be changed to support these areas?

5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?

- Once community conversations begin, communication among neighbors is positive and unified because of shared experiences of neighborhood violence.
- Lots of community activity – Henry Beauchamp, churches.
- The parkway is an asset.
- Block watches and bringing families to events.
- Art Club at the school run by PTA.
- Leadership schools – Habits of Highly Successful People.

6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?

- More lights because it is too dark.
- Have activities for kids while they're still young because some kids in Yakima begin to witness violence from a young age. These kids need protection and prevention work so they don't become violent, as well.
- Have curfew for delinquent youth.
- More neighbors involved in making criminals feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.
- Address and hold responsible landlords who own rental property and constantly rent it out to gang members or drug dealers.
- Having a police officer station his/her vehicle near areas of suspected of criminal activity to discourage overt criminal activity, even if for a short period.
- Crack down on school truancy; enforcement needed.
- Neighbors need to call police and report crimes as they happen.
- Neighbors need to know one another better.
- Cameras located on street intersections that can read vehicle license plates.
- Camp Hope has not reduced homeless in area.

7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?

- Yes, affirmative support from residents to establish "Street Captains."
- Neighborhood watches could help.
- Some might help but would they be vetted?
- Klickitat posse program.
- Use magnetic stick ons on cars.
- Have "baseball" cards for cops.

8.) What are short term needs?

- More neighborhood forums to continue this conversation on public safety.
- "Night Out" gatherings for neighbors to meet neighbors.
- Inform neighbors of the wanted criminals on Yakima's Crime Stoppers list.



- Identify "Street Captains" and create "Street Coordinated Phone Lists."
- Get to know your neighbors. Have churches get involved.
- Need managed surveillance cameras.
- Need volunteers for block watches, community policing, and program leaders.
- Keep schools open in the evenings (gyms, studying, sports, etc).
- Sidewalks on Powerhouse Road

9.) What are long term need?

- More police/patrolling in residential streets.
- Focus on gang prevention and drug prevention with youth.
- Enable older youth to provide mentorship for younger youth.
- Redirect city investments from wine/alcohol events to youth centers/programming.
- Improve lighting.
- Naches Parkway needs to be treated as an asset and be honored.
- Need an eastside pool for kids – giving them something to do.
- City frequently says it doesn't have enough money to do things.
- Alley Cats program.
- Provide transportation to facilities – free bus passes.
- Build and enhance resources in community.
- Offer free mentoring.
- Sidewalks and lighting. Do a better job on code enforcement (junk vehicles and abandoned homes).
- Help people escape homelessness.
- Useful to know your neighbors.

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- (Parental Discipline): Can parents legally discipline by spanking? How does the YPD handle a call made by a minor who is being spanked/disciplined by their parents? How do YPD officers deal with parents in this scenario, specifically how do YPD officers deal with parents who are undocumented immigrants?
- (Witness Safety): If someone calls 911 to report a crime, do police officers disclose at the scene who called 911? Is it necessary for police officers to speak with the individual who called 911 at or near the scene of the crime? Is there a way for witnesses to report a crime immediately as it occurs without speaking with LEO in front of neighbor?
- (Street Captains): How should a street captain report a crime on behalf of a primary witness? What is the best way for a "Street Captain" to be an effective liaison for his/her neighbors?
- South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is very dark – needs lighting.
- Volunteer neighborhood cleanups
- Continue to have codes work on abandoned houses.
- Nuisance ordinance – do we have a legislative approach
- Share with public when calls are made about a drug house, etc.
- Need faster response, or even a response, from police when they are called.
- Police shouldn't look so intimidating.

- Need people to answer 2-1-1 calls.
- Talk with kids in juvenile detention and ask them how we failed them.
- Need better collaboration with the school district.
- Help, protect, and engage children.
- Open up gyms and churches for use.
- City and school district need to get on the same page when dealing with kids getting involved in gang activities.
- Ask kids what they think they need to keep them safe.

#### Other comments, ideas, requests, etc

- What are we doing in terms of a strategic plan resulting from these forums?
- City pay rent for officers who agree to live in District 1 or 2.
- Council shouldn't just focus on "my district" – lift your head up
- As a result of this meeting, report back on these meetings and focus on highlights of what we learned.
- Show that Council has made this a priority.
- Lincoln should be three lanes – reduce from 4 to 3 to improve walkability.
- Why doesn't police department return calls after an incident?
- Why don't police just reach out?
- What happened to Earl Lee's gang prevention program?
- Can community members provide an anonymous tip or request? Yes, but value is less because it can't help in prosecution.
- Do cases get a case number to follow up on?
- Is there a division where they deal with family victims? Yes, we do have a victims advocate who reaches out to family members and we have chaplains.
- We have low manpower and shortage of police officers but people should call anyway.
- Should there be a community volunteer group to help with recruiting and training?
- YPAL needs to be advertised in the middle schools and high schools.
- Can residents film crimes in process and submit it to support prosecution?
- Speed bumps in local areas for traffic control.
- Clean up neighborhoods and pick up illegal dumps – "We don't have enough money to send someone to pick up trash" and "Garbage truck drivers say they can't tell their supervisors when they see trash." City staff needs to meet us halfway.
- Graffiti should be reported via Yak-Back.
- Use a substation in the area in the evening.
- City frequently says we don't have enough money to do things – Lincoln underpass – sidewalks and bike lane had to be done over. City should be more careful.
- Plaza only benefits businesses.
- March 2018 is next joint meeting with school district (Dulce).
- Police need the public's help – photos of graffiti near the scene of a recent incident – each small piece of the puzzle is helpful.
- Get police officers to volunteer at community centers (Dulce).

- We recognize the community concern and we are not treating this uptick in violence as business as usual.
- We have dedicated and moved around resources to address this situation – with a special focus on breaking what looks like a cycle of retaliation.
- Recommend Council become more involved in supporting federal immigration reform (Kathy).
- Prioritizing Bridge and RAC Acts less so on Farm Relief Act (Dulce).
- Need to have a non-emergency number and text number.
- Need more Spanish speaking officers.
- Yakima Association of Churches do blessings where there is an act of violence – it would be nice to help publicize these moments of blessing.
- YPD responds to a high percentage of drug and alcohol calls – more treatment options at churches would help.
- Need to break cycle of retaliation (Chief).
- We need more community involvement (Dulce).
- Crime Stoppers is part of the answer (Mark Peterson).
- We call cops and they don't respond – there has to be more done (Jason White).
- Continue to have codes work on abandoned houses.

#### Follow up items

- Update Council on current public safety.
- Tell Luz who the HR law enforcement recruiter is.
- Send Raquel the Lea Kroneberg report.

## Community Forum notes

### February 21 – Carmen McClure Elementary

#### Legal:

- Report crimes using 911 or text
  - Stay on line
  - Details are very important
- Use cell phone to take pictures or video if it's safe
- Types of crimes that need to be reported to 911
  - On-going crimes
  - Action
  - In progress
  - Urgent
- Immigration status – City policy
  - Status is not relevant
  - Hate crimes – individual will be asked status
  - City does not keep 411 for ICE
- Police will work with victims to arrange temporary status if needed

#### Police:

- Police department is broken down into 4 shifts
  - 8-10 officers on the street at any time
  - Officers work in districts
  - Officers will work in different districts if needed
- Police work in order of priority (1-5)
- Police resources are limited
- Staffing shortage-even when hired it takes time to get through the academy
- New chief, captains may be retiring
- Police department is respected in Yakima
- Police department works with 15-20 block watch captains
  - People know the streets and their neighbors

#### Public comments:

- School safety
  - Need more drills
  - Lock down procedures
  - Exiting facility
  - Cover windows and doors
  - Scanner would be helpful
- Parents concerned with 2017 shooting of a child by school
  - School wasn't aware
  - Better training
- Counselors are frustrated and not reaching the kids

- Girls have become more violent
  - People shooting up in Safeway parking lot (close to portables) from 3-5:00
    - Call and report to 911
    - Police will reach out to Safeway management
    - Police will patrol the parking lot / have more presence
  - Bad people can find out who reported them but you can request not to be in public record
  - Gun show in town right after school shooting
1. What is needed for neighborhood safety?
    - a. Awareness
    - b. Safeway parking lot
    - c. Sex offenders (add information to YPD website, register to be notified on County website)
    - d. Patrols
    - e. Folks on probation may have restrictions re living by schools – 2 strikes
    - f. Mandated parent nights
  2. Challenges of reducing violence?
    - a. Not enough money for after school programs
    - b. Mandatory training
  3. Positive issues?

## Community Forum notes

### February 22 – Carmen Lewis & Clark Middle School

#### Legal:

- Report crimes using 911 or text
  - Stay on line
  - Details are very important
- Call non-emergency number or walk in
- Call 911 if crime in progress
- Victims and witnesses aren't asked immigration status – City policy
- Crime stoppers hotline to report crimes anonymously (800-248-9980)
- Videos are helpful if it's safe to record

#### Police:

- Calls are prioritized
- 56,000 incidents last year
- Try for 45 minute response
- Efforts are underway to recruit locally
- Block watches – neighbors keep an eye out
  - You know what's suspicious in your neighborhood
  - Detailed information is important
- Gangs are leaving the City
- People should feel comfortable calling the police  
There are laws against witness tampering and intimidation
- Defense attorney is not supposed to share witness information
- Yak-Back cards – report graffiti, potholes, etc
  - App on City website

1. What is needed for neighborhood safety?
  - a. Sidewalks for kids
  - b. Speeding to be reduced
  - c. Stop cars from parking next to yards before and after school
  - d. More police presence – especially after school
  - e. Repair holes in fences at park
  - f. Neighbor relationships are important
    - i. Build relationships with neighbors and officials
2. Challenges of reducing violence?
  - a. Communication
  - b. Lack of feeling safe can hinder reporting
  - c. Building relationships
    - i. Important to make contact with neighbors

3. Positive issues?
  - a. Neighbors looking out for each other
  - b. Communication with children
  - c. Trust gives confidence to communicate
    - i. A cultural shift
    - ii. "As the normal"
    - iii. Takes time to build
  - d. Asking neighbors to keep an eye out
  
4. What is needed in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - a. Connect with police
  - b. Speak up
  - c. Look for cars that don't belong
  - d. Communication
  - e. Discrepancies language/cultural barriers
    - i. City making efforts for Spanish language outreach
    - ii. Fifth of population doesn't have internet and can't use the app
    - iii. Yak Back available on phone
  
5. Street Captains / Block Watch contact
  - a. They would be helpful – collaboration
  - b. Yakima Police can assist forming block watches
  - c. Helps bridge gaps
  - d. Police offer coffee with a cop, time in the parks, community outreach, getting into neighborhoods
  - e. "no gun" signs at school – help with enforcement
  - f. Keep eyes open
    - i. If you wait until it happens it is too late
    - ii. Tell somebody
    - iii. Put people on notice – see something then say something
    - iv. Reward system at school
  
6. Short term needs
  - a. Sidewalks – kids walking in road
    - i. City has safe routes to school funding for sidewalks
  - b. TBD has been formed
  - c. City receives states support for sidewalks
    - i. 2 or 3 schools per year
  - d. Phone number on Yak Back cards
  - e. Bilingual information officers
  - f. Working with faith community
  
7. Long term needs
  - a. Public safety through environmental design

8. Other issues
  - a. Keep schools informed to build relationships
    - i. Summer event at Lewis and Clark
    - ii. Get parents more involved



## Community Forum notes

### February 24 – Kay Franklin Middle School

- Report crimes using 911 or text
- Call non-emergency number (575-6200) or walk in
- Crime stoppers hotline to report crimes anonymously (800-248-9980)
- Yak-Back works

#### Legal:

- Domestic violence ordinances
- Immigration status not relevant and police do not ask – City policy
- There are some protections for victims and witnesses

#### Police:

- Direct access to database / info relevant to police activity
- Have video and audio in vehicles - accuracy of information
- Gang unit – address related issues through intelligence gathering
- Police community academy
  - Looking for participants
  - Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
  - 12 week course
  - Similar to County's academy
- Police explorer program
  - Youth focused activities
  - 16-21 years of age
  - Background check
  - Check YPD website for more information
- Priority calls are ranked 1, 2, 3, and 4
  - Call for broken window (ranked 4) vs shooting (ranked 1)
  - Lots of officers are tied up on "1" calls so a "4" may have to wait
  - Urgency as in something is happening then the priority ranking goes up – give information to 911
- 138 officers on patrol
  - Nine districts
    - 1, 2, 3 east Yakima
    - 4, 5, 6 central Yakima
    - 7, 8, 9 west Yakima
  - K9 officers (dogs) – no minimum
  - Shifts – 5 days on then 4 days off
- Block watch – neighbors – police
  - 50 active block watches but need more – call 575-6197 for help coordinating
  - Neighborhood watch – watch, listen, know what's going on

- National Night Out – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August
- How is hiring/recruiting going?
  - Nationwide demand for officers
  - We are creating a position to recruit officers
  - We have retirements but we also have people coming in
  - Challenges with academy
  - Veterans can apply
- Affect junior high – good pathway
  - We have school resource officers at high schools
- YPD works with YV Tech (pathway to academy)
- YPD participates in sport events
  - Police athletic league
  - BBQ at Miller Park
  - Run with the cops
  - City internship

1. What is needed for neighborhood safety?
  - a. Registered “sex offender” homes
    1. WSP website has information re offenders and pictures
  - b. Summitview and Tieton crosswalks
    1. Lack of signals
    2. Speed limits
  - c. Alley patrols
  - d. Usefulness of block watches
    1. Barge Chestnut has “digital” block watch
    2. Utilization of video/photos
2. Challenges of reducing violence?
  - a. See it, hear it, report it
  - b. In progress calls – stay on the line
  - c. Knowing when to call 911
    1. Trust your instincts
    2. You can remain anonymous/confidential
      - a. The more information the police have the better
3. Street Captains / Block Watch contact
  - a. Yes, they would be helpful
4. Short and long term needs
  - a. Panhandling
  - b. Consistency of enforcement
    - a. Bike patrols
    - b. Cars parking in yards
    - c. Codes

5. Other comments

- a. Volunteer crossing guards
- b. CPTED
- c. Community Academy volunteers

## Community Forum notes

### February 27 – Dulce Washington Middle School

- Report crimes using 911 or text
  - Be patient, they will ask a lot of questions, details are very important
- Call non-emergency number (575-6200) or walk in to the station at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Walnut between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Call Crime Stoppers with information – anonymous

#### Legal:

- Immigration status not relevant and police do not ask – City policy
- There are some protections for victims and witnesses
- They can help protect your status
- YPD is interested in safety – not immigration status

If you have questions you can call the City at 575-6040

Use Yak Back to report problems

We know that alleys by Washington Middle School are a problem

We know that trees in private yards are a problem.

We know that there are problems with storm drains.

#### Police:

- There are 9 police districts – Washington is in District 3
- Encounter problems with the police, bring to City Attorney's attention
- Work with the police, keep your eyes open
- Police have programs available to better understand how YPD works
- Police community academy
  - One night per week
  - Must be at least 18 years of age
  - No questions on status
- YPD works with ICE but not to expose victims or witnesses
- If you want to start a block watch please do-
  - Can be in Spanish
  - Neighbors take care of neighbors
  - YPD will help
  - Talk to property managers re problems (ie. Too many vehicle)
- Start a group for Spanish
- Many carts – take to police
- Need cooperation from property owners

1. What is needed for neighborhood safety?
  - a. Need more security for schools

- b. Need more lights
- c. Need more police
- d. Need better communication
- e. Need mentor activities for kids
- f. Get to know each other
- g. Need more prevention programs

2. Challenges of reducing violence?

- a. Council to organize neighbors
- b. Alleys between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets are problems
- c. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and MLK – several accidents and bullets
- d. Steal gas
- e. People posing as city staff coming to homes
- f. Parents need to be responsible for gang members
- g. Curfew
- h. Moral reconnection therapy
- i. Boot camp/physical work
- j. Report small crimes – however small

3. What are we doing that is positive?

- a. Gathering people

4. What could we do better?

- a. Talk to 911 – only 5 out of 13 people who witnessed a crime called 911
- b. Have programs for kids
- c. Cooperate with police

5. Block watch and captains

- a. Need 24 hour patrols – neighbors taking care of neighbors
- b. Don't have programs

6. What problems are we facing now? Later?

- a. Stop signs
- b. Tree maintenance
- c. Clean up alleys
- d. Garbage can/service
- e. Be vigilant
- f. Lights
- g. Programs
  - 1. At the school
  - 2. Summer programs
  - 3. Coordination

7. Other

- a. Concerned with violence in schools

1. Have a button for people to enter school – parents need to support measures
- b. Meet with the school district in March
- c. Keep fire arms out of schools – concern for all schools
- d. Discuss how to balance safety with parental access to schools

## Community Forum notes

### March 7 – Brad and Holly Wesley United Methodist Church

#### Ways to report crimes

- Report crimes using 911 (best way, time sensitive, and evidence) dispatcher will ask a lot of questions
- Text 911 – dispatcher will ask a lot of questions
- Walk into Yakima Police Department (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Spanish is ok
- Non emergency – phone tree
- Crime stoppers – website and rewards

#### Legal:

- Immigration status not relevant and police do not ask – City policy, however, police may ask if you are a witness or victim and may be able to take advantage of immigration programs

#### Police:

- Yak Back – report problems, police will respond just like other departments (report graffiti)
- Looking for a full time analyst to collect data and predict crime
- Police districts depend on crime patterns
- Police has mental health practitioner, NARC, Gang DV and bike units, and tenant liaison
- Beat officers assigned 24/7 – what do they do?
  - 4 patrol shifts
  - 10 hour 40 minute shifts
  - Beats vary in size
  - Beats have specific issues
- Priority calls are ranked 1, 2, 3, and 4
  - 1 – crime occurring now – super important – lives at risk
  - 2, 3 and 4 will wait until priority calls (1) are handled
- Suggest police notification when progress is made – should be a priority
- Police/city return calls – ask PIO to return calls
- Community involvement
  - Block watch
  - Know each other
  - Know your block hand out – explain what it is and is not
- Inventory valuables / minimum efforts
- National Night Out
- Yakima Sheriff has citizen police
- Police Academy – English and Spanish, hand on experience and front row seat to police operations including fire arms and finger printing, 12 week course 1 day per week

- Police Explorer programs – first hand training
  - Police do not stop folks at random – race based policing is not OK
  - Police sharing meals at schools
  - 15% of police department is bilingual
1. What is needed for neighborhood safety?
    - a. Chestnut issues – traffic, speeding, school, speed limit, speed humps, traffic cameras,
    - b. N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – need new lights installed
    - c. Yakima and 32<sup>nd</sup> – stop signs ignored, light poles in middle of the streets
  2. Challenges of reducing violence?
    - a. Too few police
    - b. Gangs
    - c. Lack of unity
    - d. Lack of gathering spaces
  3. Street Captains / Block Watch contact
    - a. No, fearful for victims
  4. Short and long term needs
    - a. Yak Back cards
    - b. Gym space is limited
    - c. Satellite police stations (quicker response, going to work in neighborhood, police interaction, put more information out
  5. Other comments
    - a. Sidewalk condition (McKinley and side street)
    - b. No city hall FTEs
    - c. YPD developing protocols/course with school district
    - d. Sidewalk ordinance – put sidewalks on both sides of streets developers
    - e. Quarterly public safety reports to committee, pay for the rent of new police and give them vehicles
    - f. Raise bilingual pay
    - g. Speed humps/speed limits