

Stronger, Commonsense Gun Laws

Council approved a local lost or stolen handgun reporting law to help police combat illegal straw gun purchases.

Lawsuit Against Commonwealth of PA for Exacerbating Gun Violence

Council sued the Commonwealth of PA and legislative leaders, arguing their failure to pass stronger gun laws contributes to dangerous, escalating gun violence in Philadelphia and other cities.

Special Council Committee to Strategize Jobs Training and Workforce Development

Council is forming a Special Committee to Strategize Jobs Training & Workforce Development, as a jobs and violence prevention strategy. As part of its work, the special committee will work to ensure that American Rescue Plan funding for jobs training is tied into violence prevention strategies.

Office of the Victim Advocate

Last fall, voters approved creating a new Office of the Victim Advocate, for victims of serious crimes and their surviving families. Work is ongoing to stand this new office up this summer.

Curfew Centers

Council is exploring the idea of curfew centers, a violence prevention strategy that mixes community engagement, social services and law enforcement to reach at-risk youth.

Group Violence Intervention

This proven strategy combines group persuasion, social service and job training support, and focused law enforcement. It led to a 35 percent decline in shootings and violent crime in certain city neighborhoods. A new pilot program is underway.

Engaging at-risk youths

Council is actively exploring engagement strategies with community organizations that focus on young people who are most at risk for becoming involved in gun violence.

Anti-Violence Resources Network

Council approved a one-stop shop where residents can call 24/7 to learn what resources are available to keep the peace in their communities. The city utilizes more than 90 such programs; this network will help residents find the program for their needs.

New Normal Jobs Initiative

Council authorized \$10 Million in programs that create jobs – a proven deterrent to violence. Programs received funding to hire people to clean vacant lots and neighborhoods; train workers for environmental efforts; hire workers to revitalize commercial corridors; and train health care workers for higher-paying nursing jobs.

Neighborhood Preservation Initiative

A \$400 Million program approved by Council and the mayor that will invest deeply in neighborhood revitalization, jobs training and other strategies that lift and stabilize neighborhoods and preserve public safety.

Poverty Action Fund

Council authorized \$10 Million to fund a public-private partnership focused on lifting 100,000 city residents out of poverty by 2023.

Hearings to Explore Relationship between Poverty, Gun Violence & Systemic Racism

A joint hearing by the Committee on Finance and Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention will explore ties between Philadelphia's high poverty rate, escalating gun violence, and systemic racism.

Hearings to Examine Police, District Attorney's Office & Criminal Justice System's response to gun violence

A series of hearings by Council's Special Committee to Prevent Gun Violence, exploring the response of Philadelphia police, the DA's Office & other law enforcement agencies to gun violence.

Cracking down on Ghost Guns

Council approved legislation strictly regulating the manufacture of "ghost guns" – firearms with no serial numbers that are increasingly linked to gun crimes in Philadelphia.

Gun Buybacks

Council is working with non-profit groups, faith leaders and police to get firearms off the streets by offering gift cards for groceries in exchange for guns.

Jobs Training & Workforce Placement

Supporting jobs training and workforce placement strategies with community groups through organizations such as Philadelphia Works, Inc.

Residency Requirement

Council passed a law requiring all new hires by the Police Department (and other city jobs) be Philadelphia residents for one year before hiring – making the force look more like the population it serves.

Public Safety Enforcement Officers

Voters approved a new class of Public Safety Enforcement Officers to take over various duties, freeing up police officers to focus on serious crime.

Declaring a Citywide Emergency

Council approved a resolution urging the mayor to declare a citywide emergency around gun violence, and adopt tactics similar to the handling of COVID-19. The mayor began public briefings on gun violence recently.

Security Cameras

Council advocated for security cameras at recreation centers to deter violence, as well as in areas where illegal short-dumping occurs, contributing to neighborhood blight and unsafe conditions.