

COUNTY OF KANE

Public Information Office



Kane County Government Center
719 South Batavia Avenue
Geneva, IL 60134
MannJulie@co.kane.il.us
www.countyofkane.org

Media Release

5/13/22

Work Underway for Local Reimagine Public Safety Council



In November of 2021, the Governor declared gun violence a public health crisis and pledged \$250 million in state funding over the next three years to implement the ‘Reimagine Public Safety Plan.’

One component of the plan is the creation of community-based councils located in areas hardest hit by gun violence.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022 members of the Reimagine Public Safety Act Local Advisory Council (RPSA-LAC) held their first meeting in Aurora. The LAC will develop a public health approach to reducing gun violence in Aurora.

Aurora is the second largest city outside of Chicago with a population of 180,542.

According to numbers provided by the Aurora Police Department, there were six murders in Aurora in 2021, with 105 reported shootings compared with 2020 when there were 11 murders and 154 reported shootings. Last year Aurora Police recovered 201 firearms.

“We want to help our young people understand that there are other ways of expressing their anxiety or rage except with a gun,” said Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog who was appointed to the Council by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

During their first meeting, attendees were tasked with identifying summer crime reduction strategies that were most needed to interrupt firearm violence including, street outreach, youth development, mentorship and trauma-informed mental health services.

“I think we need to develop programs where kids of all races are spending time together and getting to know each other,” said Dan Barreiro, Vice President of the East Aurora District 131 School Board. “If you keep them apart they don’t know each other, they are strangers and it’s easier to become violent.”





The group was also asked to prioritize violence prevention programming based on specific locations of the city, talk about what is fueling gun violence and what interventions are currently working to reduce gun crimes.

“We need to figure out how to instill hope in our youth,” said Kane County Board member and Aurora resident Dr. Monica Silva.

Numerous other stakeholders attended the first meeting on behalf of the state, city, school district, social service and safety net organizations and leaders of various mentoring groups.

The next meeting of the Kane County RPSA-LAC is Tuesday, May 17 at the Aurora Township Youth Center.