



TACOMA POLICE CRIME PLAN

City of Tacoma | Police Department

City Council Study Session

April 19, 2022





Agenda



Background

- Current State
- Principles & Prerequisites

Tacoma Police Department's Plan

- Immediate Violent Crime Response
- Mid and Long-term Strategic Crime Reduction Plan Process



Background

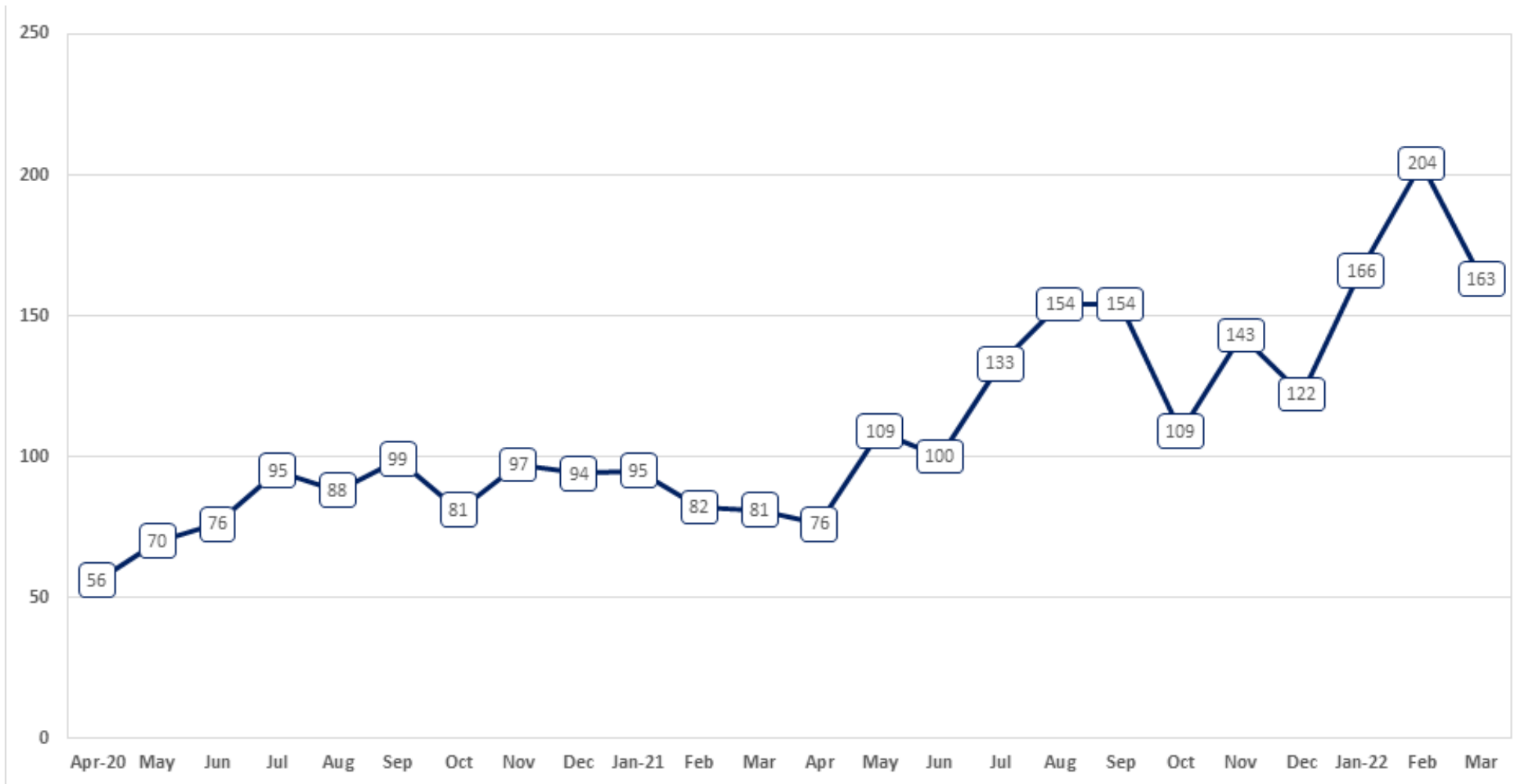


The Tacoma Police Department plays a key a role in maintaining public safety, but it cannot lead efforts to reduce violent crime without the active involvement of the community, other city agencies, and key stakeholders

Violent Crime Rates



Tacoma has seen rising levels of violent crime in recent months





Principles of Violence Reduction



Minimize unintended harm

Violent crime is not random or evenly distributed in urban areas

- Violence is highly concentrated in a small number of street segments
- Research consistently demonstrates that approximately 5% of street segments and intersections account for 50-75% of violent crime

Crime is disproportionately committed by a small number of people

- A recent meta-analysis found that about 5% of the population accounts for about 50% of all crime and;
- The most prolific 10% of offenders account for about 40% of crime

Prerequisites for a Successful Violent

••• Crime Reduction Strategy



- Evidence-based and responsive to emerging data
- Tailored to fit the problem
- Focused on the small number of places and people responsible for the majority of violence
- Carefully planned and executed to avoid “over-policing” -- **Not “stop and frisk” or zero tolerance policing**
- Scaled to be feasible and realistic given known resource constraints
- Managed synergistically to create immediate momentum with deeper impact in the mid and long-term
- Informed by the community, city agencies, and other stakeholders
- Supported by all stakeholders, including rank & file officers

TPD Violence Reduction Plan



Immediate Violent Crime Response

- Precision approach to violent crime aligned with the outlined Principles & Prerequisites
- Contracting with experienced criminologists from the University of Texas, San Antonio, to assist in developing and evaluating the strategic plan

Mid & Long-term Strategies

- The Tacoma Police Department (TPD) is leading the development of a strategic plan to reduce violent crime
- Community input will be sought
- Involvement by other city agencies and departments
- Non-profit and other stakeholders will be needed



••• Immediate Violent Crime Response

Hot Spot Policing

- Our crime statistics will be used to identify where and when violent crime occurs in Tacoma
- This data will be used to focus proactive, high-visibility presence
- This approach results in minimal displacement of crime to surrounding areas and reduces violent crime across larger geographic areas
- Can reduce rates of other crimes, e.g. property crimes

Mid-Term Strategies



Place-Based Strategy

- Crime is concentrated among a relatively small number of offenders, victims, and places
- A small number of places account for most violent crime in any city
- Law enforcement strategies that target criminal networks can reduce violent crime (e.g. gang violence reduction evidence)
- Criminogenic places may be linked or networked

A place-based approach targets violence-prone places through a multidisciplinary strategy that involves Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles *and* intelligence-led targeting of violence-prone offenders who make use of place networks to facilitate crime



Focused Deterrence

- Evidence-based strategy first designed and implemented in Boston in the 1990s and successfully replicated in cities nationwide
- Goal is to change the behavior of high-risk offenders through a combination of deterrence, incapacitation, community involvement, and alternatives to a violent lifestyle



Blight and Disorder Abatement

Growing body of literature has documented an association between blight and violent crime

- Randomized controlled trial of strategy to “green” vacant lots in Philadelphia showed reductions in reported crime, including gun assaults, in treated areas vs. untreated areas, especially in low opportunity neighborhoods
- Similar study found reductions in violence associated with fixing-up the facades of vacant properties

This phase will include coordination with City Departments that provide these services to focus on areas with highest crime.

2022 Timeline



- Present/Ongoing: Continue hot spot response to address crime trends
- April – May 2022
 - Community & stakeholder input sought
 - **Mid & Long-term Strategic Plan development**
- June – August 2022
 - Crime analysis and input from expert consultants will inform and refine the focus and breadth of hot spot policing
 - Present draft plan to City Council and **finalize plan**
 - June – August 2022 **Begin implementation** of mid-term strategies
- August – December 2022
 - Initial assessment of results; adjustments made as needed



2023 – 2024 Timeline



- January – December 2023
 - **Additional phases begin**; ongoing quarterly assessment continues
- January – December 2024
 - **All phases operational**; ongoing assessment and adjustment as needed



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