

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subcommittee Name	Guns
Subcommittee Chairperson(s)	David J. Garrow
Title of recommendation	#1: Enforcement of Lost/Stolen Gun Ordinance
Describe the recommendation	Mayor Peduto directs the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to begin enforcement of the Lost and Stolen gun ordinance passed by Council in 2008. It is the position of the City of Pittsburgh that this ordinance does not violate Section 6120(a) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Uniform Firearms Act.
Is this an immediate or long term recommendation?	Immediate
How will this address our challenges or reach our goals?	It will assist in the investigation of firearm trafficking, while also ensuring that the police and citizens have an accurate understanding of the scope of the firearms theft/loss problem.
What are the obstacles to implementation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police must be trained on the enforcement of the ordinance, which may take several months. • The National Rifle Association has threatened to file lawsuits on behalf of anyone charged under this ordinance. However, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence has defended the City in a previous lawsuit regarding this ordinance and the Center's continued assistance is likely.
Who needs to be involved?	Solicitor's office; Police Bureau Firearms Tracking Unit; Police Academy
What city resources need to be invested?	N/A: this recommendation would involve enforcement of an existing ordinance using existing resources.
What will be different if the recommendation is adopted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun owners will be more likely to file police reports when their firearms are lost or stolen. • Gun traffickers (i.e. straw purchasers) will be

	easier to identify and prosecute.
Describe any background materials that you consulted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Crimes Code, Section 6120; • www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org, Lost/Stolen Guns Initiatives; • www.bradycenter.org, Legal Action Project
Have other cities implemented this recommendation?	Thirteen other cities and towns across Pennsylvania have passed such ordinances but have not enforced them due to fears of an expensive NRA lawsuit.
Are there any other considerations?	N/A



THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR-ELECT
BUILDING A NEW PITTSBURGH

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subcommittee Name	Guns
Subcommittee Chairperson	David J. Garrow
Title of recommendation	#2: Create Violent Crimes Reduction Team: VCRT
Describe the recommendation	<p>The City of Pittsburgh will create a Violent Crimes Reduction Team (VCRT) which will target armed criminals in “hot spot” areas of the city. The VCRT will include both uniformed patrol officers who work every day in the affected target areas as well as plainclothes officers who can provide real time surveillance and utilize multiple avenues of intelligence gathering to target armed criminals. Camera systems and the soon-to-be implemented ShotSpotter system can both provide crucial intelligence. The VCRT will also create and publicize a citizen “Tip Line” whereby citizens can report information about armed persons in their community. Use of uniformed as well as plainclothes officers is vital because it allows the community to observe the police presence and to appreciate that officers’ conduct is based upon accurate intelligence identifying armed criminals rather than subjective demographic judgments. Communities most affected by violent gun crime must perceive that <i>they</i> are not the target of increased police attention, and that only armed criminals are.</p>
Is this an immediate or long term recommendation?	<p>This is both an immediate recommendation, because it will quickly begin removing the guns from Pittsburgh’s streets, and a longer term one, as it embodies the goal of fostering vastly better police/community relations through supportive interactions aimed at eliminating violence.</p>
How will this address our challenges or reach our	<p>This style of enforcement will directly address, and drastically reduce, complaints that police target</p>

goals?	citizens based upon their race by demonstrating that police contacts with suspected armed persons take place when officers possess specific articulable facts obtained through investigation and observation.
What are the obstacles to implementation?	Police manpower constraints, due to the present understaffing of the PBP, as well as budget constraints that in part can be addressed if relevant grant money is obtainable. Performance measures utilizing carefully gathered data can demonstrate VCRT's effectiveness and be used to pursue federal grant money.
Who needs to be involved?	Mayor's Office, PBP, Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Ideally an expanded collaborative partnership building upon existing working relationships with the ATF, the U. S. Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, the U. S. Marshals Service, the Allegheny County Police, and the Allegheny County Sheriff should soon be developed.
What city resources need to be invested?	Ideally, expanded staffing for the presently understaffed Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Please see our attached Addendum, "Guns and Manpower."
What will be different if the recommendation is adopted?	This strategy will significantly improve police/community relations and will allow residents to have greater trust in and less fear of police. Closer police/community ties will result in increased crime solving and improved community safety.
Describe any background materials that you consulted	U. S. DOJ, ATF Violent Crime Impact Teams: Best Practices, ATF Publication 3501.1; Jacqueline Cohen & Jens Ludwig, "Policing Crime Guns," in Ludwig & Philip J. Cook, eds., Evaluating Gun Policy: Effects on Crime and Violence (Brookings Institution Press), pp. 217-39; U.S. DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Promising Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence; Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Drug & Violent Crime Task Forces 2012 Annual Report.
Have other cities implement-	Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Tampa, FL;

ed this recommendation?	Richmond, VA; Columbus, OH.
Are there any other considerations?	A major priority is placing highly motivated and capable persons who believe in the VCRT program in charge of it, individuals who will work hard to achieve its goals.

Addendum
 “Guns and Manpower”
 (Statistics Current As of 13 December 2013)
 Prepared in significant part by Jim Malloy

In 2013 there have been a total of 866 guns collected by Pittsburgh Police Officers. Two officers have been shot in the line of duty, one of whom will probably never return to duty. To date this year there have been 45 murders in the City of Pittsburgh, a total of 218 individuals shot within the city, and over 1,100 gun calls received from the public.

At the present time, there are six uniformed patrol zones and the manpower in each of the Zones is as follows:

	Total Manpower	AM	PM	Night	Plainclothes	Supervisors	Patrol
Zone One	92	24	27	23	6	14	74
Zone Two	87	24	24	19	6	14	69
Zone Three	87	18	28	21	6	14	68
Zone Four	84	24	25	20	3	14	69
Zone Five	91	24	29	24	10	14	77
Zone Six	67	19	20	16	4	10	55
SDD	46	14	20	4	3	5	35

On any given day of the week, 33% of patrol officers are off duty, and there are only 447 officers divided between seven different locations. These numbers do not reflect court time, sick time, vacation time, and training time. *On many days and nights, forced overtime is required just to put two or three cars into service per Zone.*

Out of today’s current total Police Bureau manpower of 857 members, 296 are assigned to Command Staff, Investigations, Narcotics, SWAT Units, Training Academy Staff, and other necessary duties. Returning Police Bureau manpower to a measurably higher level will allow for additional patrol officers to be assigned to Zones where they can most strengthen VCRT enforcement efforts. There must also be a greater bond between the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office and the Police Bureau concerning appropriate sentences for repeat offenders who possess a firearm while committing a crime.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subcommittee Name	Guns
Subcommittee Chairperson	David J. Garrow; Constance Bowden, Co-Chair
Title of recommendation	#3: Refocus PIRC Into a Shooting Incident Response Team
Describe the recommendation	Review and assess the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC) program with an eye towards refocusing PIRC into a Shooting Incident Response Team which will utilize a diverse roster of knowledgeable community members and law enforcement officials to focus upon the prevention of further incidents of gun violence by identifying and deterring those individuals most likely to be gun crime offenders. In addition, the Response Team could partner with 'second chance' programs that focus on individuals who are about to re-enter society after having been convicted of violent crimes. At present the U.S. District Court for the Western District operates such a program for individuals convicted of drug crimes, and it should be expanded to include gun offenders.
Is this an immediate or long-term recommendation?	Immediate.
How will this address our challenges or reach our goals?	PIRC at present is a group-oriented, deterrence based program emphasizing collective community responsibility. Programs which are alternatives to the PIRC model may well be more effective in Pittsburgh. Cities such as Chicago and Baltimore have adopted programs which focus on identifying the individuals involved in gun violence and preventing future gun crime. These programs

	involve the use of street workers as well as victim oriented activities that emphasize the impact of violence on communities. Such outreach is not PIRC's present focus, but refashioning PIRC into a Shooting Incident Response Team would allow it to work in coordination with the new Violent Crimes Reduction Team (see this Subcommittee's Recommendation #2). Targeted policing that focuses on high risk 'hot spots' and particularly high risk individuals is exemplified by the recent law enforcement targeting and prosecuting of members of two Northside gangs, which appears to have had a lasting impact on Northside gun violence.
What are the obstacles to implementation?	Identifying and recruiting the individuals necessary for the Shooting Incident Response Team to operate effectively.
Who needs to be involved?	The Mayor, Director of Public Safety, PIRC Coordinator, Pittsburgh Police Department, Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, diverse, motivated members of the community.
What city resources need to be invested?	Manpower time including participation by the Director of Public Safety and the Police Department; funds to refocus PIRC.
What will be different if the recommendation is adopted?	The City will have a more effective approach to combatting gun related violence, leading to a reduction in gun crime in the City.
Describe any background materials that you consulted	Pitt Public Health Community Violence Prevention Project Findings Report (2012); Jeremy M. Wilson et al., Community-Based Violence Prevention: An Assessment of Pittsburgh's One Vision One Life Program (RAND Corporation, 2010); Edmund F. McGarrell et al., Project Safe Neighborhoods Case Study: Promising Violence Reduction Initiatives (Michigan State University, 2011); Daniel W. Webster et al., Evaluation of Baltimore's Safe Streets Program: Effects on Attitudes, Participants'

	Experiences, and Gun Violence (Johns Hopkins University, 2012); Wesley G. Skogan et al., Evaluation of CeaseFire-Chicago (Northwestern University, 2008); New York City Council Task Force to Combat Gun Violence Report (December 21, 2012); “Combating Gun Violence in Illinois: Evidence-Based Solutions,” Northwestern Law School, October 17, 2013; PIRC Reports dated January 2012 and November 30, 2013.
Have other cities implemented this recommendation?	Yes: NYC Council Task Force to Combat Gun Violence, December 21, 2012. Pitt’s School of Public Health already has in place a homicide review team.
Are there any other considerations?	Consider coordinating with Allegheny County Chief Executive Fitzgerald to implement the Shooting Incident Response Team countywide.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subcommittee Name	Guns
Subcommittee Chairperson(s)	David J. Garrow
Title of recommendation	#4: Strengthened Firearms Tracking
Describe the recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PBP Firearms Tracking Unit (FTU) will continue to trace each firearm recovered by the Bureau, while also increasing its efforts to investigate, arrest, and prosecute those who engage in firearms trafficking in the form of straw purchases & unlawful transfers of firearms. • The Mayor will direct the PBP to work with law enforcement throughout Western Pennsylvania to address the trafficking of firearms. In recognition of the cross-jurisdictional nature of gun trafficking, the Mayor will request that the Allegheny County Sheriff deputize FTU detectives, allowing them to pursue trafficking leads throughout the County. • To ensure that available technology is being utilized to the fullest extent, the PBP will develop a protocol for assigning and investigating the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) hits generated by the Allegheny County Crime Lab. • The Mayor will annually draft letters to those gun dealers with a disproportionate number of traces in the City. These letters will urge greater diligence in detecting and refusing suspicious and unlawful sales.
Is this an immediate or long term recommendation?	Both: Mayoral request to the Sheriff can be made immediately; further implementation will occur at the direction of the Chief of Police.

<p>How will this address our challenges or reach our goals?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These efforts will send a message that gun traffickers will be pursued and prosecuted, potentially resulting in a deterrent effect that reduces the number of firearms on City streets. • Fewer firearms in the City will lead to fewer shootings and homicides. • Deputizing FTU detectives will allow them to pursue leads and file charges throughout the county, thereby avoiding the cross-jurisdictional hurdles that currently hamper these investigations.
<p>What are the obstacles to implementation?</p>	<p>The FTU will require additional investigators to sufficiently track and investigate the owners of the firearms recovered in the City.</p>
<p>Who needs to be involved?</p>	<p>Chief of Police; Assistant Chief of Investigations; Commander of Narcotics and Vice; Sergeant of Firearms Tracking Unit; Allegheny County Sheriff William Mullen</p>
<p>What city resources need to be invested?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional manpower in FTU • Additional manpower to follow NIBIN leads; a two-person team would be the minimum required to effectively investigate these leads
<p>What will be different if the recommendation is adopted?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FTU will become more of an investigative unit, focused on arrests and prosecutions, as opposed to its current status as an administrative unit focused largely on the return or destruction of recovered firearms. • Deputizing FTU detectives will allow them to pursue leads and file charges throughout the county, leading to greater efficiency.
<p>Describe any background materials that you consulted</p>	<p>http://phoenix.gov/police/gun_enforcement.html</p>
<p>Have other cities implemented this recommendation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few cities have a unit dedicated to firearm source investigations. The NYPD has a very successful Firearms Investigation Unit. • Phoenix Police Department has a squad

	dedicated to using NIBIN leads to solve violent crime cases and support a variety of investigations.
Are there any other considerations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mayor will have to review gun trace data each year in order to draft letters to “problem” gun dealers.• PA State Law [Title 18, Section 6111.1(b)(4)] requires that police return seized firearms to their rightful owner. Any municipality that fails to do so will be responsible for the attorney fees of anyone who seeks judicial enforcement of this law. For this reason, the FTU may not simply shift its focus away from firearm dispositions in order to pursue more investigations.



THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR-ELECT
BUILDING A NEW PITTSBURGH

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Subcommittee Name	Guns
Subcommittee Chairs	David J. Garrow, Constance Bowden
Title of recommendation	#5: Intergovernmental Coordinated Gun Violence Reduction Initiatives
Describe the recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mayor will ask U.S. Attorney David Hickton to energetically step up his efforts to prosecute those who engage in firearms trafficking in the form of straw purchases & unlawful transfers of firearms, as well as “low-level” first- and second-time offenders charged with unlawfully possessing firearms. The U.S. Attorney should also be encouraged to implement CeaseFirePA’s “Court Watch” program in which community members testify at sentencing hearings about the impact that even the mere possession of guns has on their community; far too many gun-related charges are dropped at the plea stage or are not treated seriously by federal judges when sentencing offenders. The Mayor should also ask the U.S. Attorney to appoint a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney whose position will be devoted to prosecuting firearms cases and who can serve as point person in working with city and other law enforcement officers to more effectively prosecute firearms offenses.• The Mayor will ask County Executive Fitzgerald and the County Council to craft--with input from law enforcement personnel--a countywide firearms violation enforcement policy. This policy will trace firearms found in the possession of criminals from the ballistics/crime lab stage through to prosecution and conviction. Only with countywide cooperation can non-federal, cross-jurisdictional state cases be successfully prepared

	<p>for prosecution. This should include consolidating data documenting gun seizures across the entire County, so that individuals purchasing and selling guns across jurisdictional lines can be more consistently prosecuted for illegal trafficking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor will ask District Attorney Stephen Zappala to energetically step up his efforts to prosecute those who engage in firearms trafficking in the form of straw purchases & unlawful transfers of firearms, as well as “low-level” defendants charged with unlawfully possessing firearms, and to continue to work with CeaseFirePA in implementing its “CourtWatch” program in Allegheny County. • The Mayor will ask area state Representatives and state Senators to endorse, co-sponsor and actively promote statewide bills that require background checks on all firearms sold in Pennsylvania, require gun owners to report the theft or loss of firearms to local law enforcement within 72 hours of discovering said theft or loss, and limit ammunition magazine size to 30 rounds.
Is this an immediate or long-term recommendation?	Immediate. There is no better time than the glow of the Mayor’s initial “honeymoon period” to begin forging the alliances necessary to get these initiatives started.
How will this address our challenges or reach our goals?	By using his position to cast influence beyond the city’s executive branch, Mayor Peduto can dramatically increase the level of cooperation between city, county and federal law enforcement officials and can perhaps nudge common-sense statewide gun legislation towards passage.
What are the obstacles to implementation?	Current lack of coordination between agencies; potential concern about overreaching--both from the Mayor’s perspective and from those law enforcement or legislative bodies directly affected.
Who needs to be involved?	U.S. Attorney David Hickton, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Pittsburgh and County police departments plus

	outlying municipalities' police departments (whose crimes are tied to Pittsburgh and vice versa), area state Representatives and state Senators.
What city resources need to be invested?	Pittsburgh police department and attendant crime labs, City solicitor's office.
What will be different if the recommendation is adopted?	There will finally be a coordinated effort by all relevant governmental and law enforcement agencies to accurately trace the sources of illegal guns present in the city, which could lead to a huge reduction in gun violence.
Describe any background materials that you consulted	Conversations with law enforcement officers, former Assistant District and former Assistant U.S. Attorneys, state legislators. Review of pending state legislation (HB 1010, HB 1515, HB 1479).
Have other cities implemented this recommendation?	Individual components' implementation varies across other major cities. Very few cities, with the possible exception of New York, have pursued such a comprehensive approach.
Are there any other considerations?	It will take real outreach, commitment and finesse to get relevant agencies to cooperate.