



PRESS RELEASE ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA RELEASES 100-DAY REPORT CARD

The City of Alexandria Reports to Citizens about Where We Stand on 100-Day Goals in Public Safety

March 15, 2023

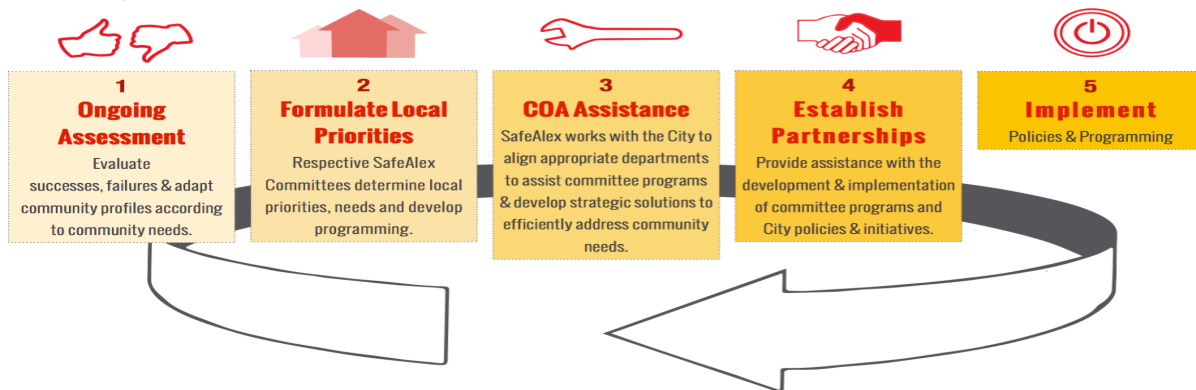
Alexandria, Louisiana —“Every citizen has a fundamental civil right to be secure and safe. While the causes of crime may be multi-factorial, we cannot allow violence to rule our City. Today, while it does not rule us, it controls how we feel; it dictates our travel and recreation decisions; and has a quality of lawlessness that must be stopped with all deliberate speed recognizing our desire to live freely and maintain constitutional policing. Illegal gun use is at an intolerable level.

“It will get better because we have a plan to work, with the best resourcing and personnel available. With these plans, we will put our money, resources, and committed personnel where our mouths are; but know it will not be solved overnight or come easy. Working with the Alexandria Police Department, and other stakeholders, the Administration identified and made these needed changes over the last 100 days to stand up and support our police department,” explained Mayor Jacques Roy.

Previously, the City of Alexandria and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce launched programs to re-invigorate various neighborhood groups and partnerships. The purpose was to engage citizens in the first phase and then second phase of **SafeAlex**. As a result, many more neighborhood groups and citizens involved in numerous neighborhood vibrancy issues were created and maintained in a very successful ecosystem. The Chamber created a standing committee for public safety to address regional issues and advocate for best-practice programming. In the last four years, the award-winning **SafeAlex** atrophied along each programming line. Not any longer! It worked before and it will work again.

HOW IT WORKS

SafeAlex works directly with neighborhood associations and community leaders to implement “Safe Growth” strategies.



Alexandria is beginning a new round of professionally led focus group study regarding the following subjects:

- #1— Neighborhoods Re-Introduction (April 2023)
- #2— Judges, Prosecutors and Allied Safety Professionals (April 2023)

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- #3— Judges, Prosecutors and Allied Safety Professionals *Part 2*
- #4— Judges, Prosecutors and Allied Safety Professionals *Part 3*
- #5— Constitutional Policing and Special Units (May 2023)
- #6— Neighborhoods Drill-Down Discussion (May 2023)

- #7— Policing and Community Media Campaign Series
 - Intelligence-led and Evidence-based policing, place-based policing and other versions of Focused Deterrence
 - Mental Health and Public Safety
 - Guns and Youth
 - Media and Impacts on Incident Narratives (what is stated and not stated; implicit bias and racism; root-cause avoidance; perceived preferences of intended audiences; and subject bias)

- #8— Recreation, Health and Children
- #9— Education and Workforce

- #10— Community Summit Wrap-Up (June/July 2023)

Where are we on our other aspects of 100-day plans in public safety?

We have adopted the following policies:

1. **OVERARCHING POLICY:** Community policing is the paramount goal toward true change and crime *prevention*. Community policing is the only known, *proven* method of preventing crime followed closely by intelligence-led policing and data-driven outcomes measurements. This is the heart of successful policing. Alexandria will implement all policy with the listed assumptions as foundational guideposts along with the Philosophy.

Philosophy. As found by the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. 2015. Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (the “**Report**”), co-chaired by famed police commissioner Charles Ramsey, we adopt as our overarching guidepost that of building trust and legitimacy “on both sides of the police/citizen divide as a foundational principle underlying the nature of relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.” We note here from that Report:

- Decades of research and practice support the premise that people are more likely to obey the law when they believe that those who are enforcing it have authority that is perceived as legitimate by those subject to the authority.
 - The public confers legitimacy only on those whom they believe are acting in procedurally just ways.
 - Law enforcement cannot build community trust if it is seen as an occupying force coming in from outside to impose control on the community.
 - Law enforcement culture should embrace a guardian—rather than a warrior—mindset to build trust and legitimacy both within agencies and with the public.
 - Law enforcement agencies should adopt procedural justice as the guiding principle for internal and external policies and practices to guide their interactions with rank and file officers and with the citizens they serve.
 - Law enforcement agencies should also establish a culture of transparency and accountability to build public trust and legitimacy. This is critical to ensuring decision making is understood and in accord with stated policy.
2. **CRIME CREATES EXISTENTIAL CRISES TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.** Crime as it relates to public safety requires this firm view: All citizens are constitutionally entitled to a safe city; public safety is a fundamental civil right. Alexandria is required to provide for public safety as the principal responsibility of government. No economic opportunity or quality of life can fairly exist in unsafe communities.

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3. Policing complements must completely reimagine and be adaptive while maintaining the oldest truths about community-led policing. Both ideas can and must exist at the same time. SAFEALEX will be accorded maximum cooperation in all areas of interaction with APD.
4. APD will hire competitively and not sacrifice quality officers for any reason.
5. Within the office of the Public Safety Commissioner and SAFEALEX, in partnership with our legal, police, and fire departments, there is created and further policy is to be formulated with regard to:
 - A. The SAFEALEX safe, healthy, and informed neighborhoods component.
 - B. The office of pretrial intervention and classification.
 - C. The directorship of Public Safety Special Services, and
 - D. The directorship of Public Safety Social Services.

Based on those policies, assumptions, and our Philosophy, we already have implemented the following:

6. **Leadership**. We have agreed to and implemented a new leadership team on multiple levels, top to bottom, taking effect now. The team is committed to wholesale change and accountability. We have added two competitive positions to aid in change agency and will select a chief of police, while retaining senior leadership to maintain continuity, capacity, and morale.
7. **Equipment and Training**. In the proposed budget, the Administration as promised made record commitments to public safety, diverting dollars to capital and operating needs. We committed over \$3.6 million in this budget to long-term capital and operating capital, along with \$400,000-\$600,000 in additional capital.
8. **Chief of Neighborhoods & Community Development**. The position is a direct report to the Mayor and council leadership on neighborhood issues, requests for assistance, blight, code enforcement assistance, and certifying neighborhood groups and meetings, including working with the Planning Division on *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED). The director of SafeAlex is a member of the Mayor's senior staff and is a dotted line to the Commissioner of Public Safety and Police Chief.
9. **Director of Public Safety Special Services**. As a deputy commissioner of public safety, this qualified policing professional will answer to the commissioner and Mayor. Within this directorship, the following offices will be organized:
 - office of Gun Violence,
 - office of Independent Audit and Internal Affairs for public safety,
 - offices of Juvenile Services, Focused Deterrence, and Organized Crime, and
 - increased role as a liaison to other law enforcement for optimizing interagency and interoperability function, most notably with creating the SAIIF program and Critical Incident Force Review & Response program.

These intelligence-led policing activities will join with community policing and the SafeAlex Chief of Neighborhoods to increase neighborhood-led intelligence gathering, crime prevention, and neighborhood participation in the solutions to City problems. The tracking of illegal guns, particularly in the hands of juveniles, is paramount to stem the epidemic of gun violence within the youth community.

Based on those policies, assumptions, and our Philosophy, we have fully commenced, adopted in policy and budget, and are immediately completing the following:

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10. **Compensation and Benefits.** We have added health and/or retirement benefits for next several budgets as part of recruitment and retention. We will complete a professional pay plan to replace existing agreements as offer to the force; this will require several approvals and modifications to civil service, but will place Alexandria within the top range for rewarding public safety.

More announcements forthcoming in our benefits planning.

11. **Director of Public Safety Social Services.** As a deputy commissioner of public safety, this qualified professional will answer to the commissioner and Mayor. Within this directorship, the following offices will be organized:

- office of Internal Affairs oversight,
- office of Retention & Recruitment, and
- office of Policy, Future Proofing, and Vision:
 - Homeless Policy and Resource Coordinator,
 - Multi-Disciplinary Mental Health Response Team (intervention teams, non-policing, trained personnel directly countering crime with known hot spot agents)(responsible for assistance with introduction of controlled para-policing, controlled neighborhood assessment, safety auditing and documenting, and offender interviewing and assessing for intervention, mental health screening, and job placement).

12. **Judges, Prosecutors and Allied Public Safety Engagement.** This would include the planned safety summit activities.

13. **Pretrial Diversion Coordinator and Classification Officer.** [TBD]. “Decriminalization” through better pretrial diversion and restorative/transformational justice at the City prosecution level—affecting misdemeanor non-violent and some less serious violent offenses—freeing space for serious offenders.

- *Interoperability*, and
- office of Reentry.

Based on those policies, assumptions, and our Philosophy, we are working on but have not completed the following:

14. **Recruitment and Retention.** Executive orders place our commitment to topnotch policing at the hiring and recruitment level back on top and end hiring unqualified officers.
15. **Other:** Physical and mental fitness programs being implemented; interdiction in high schools and follow up with neglectful parents; selecting officer ambassadors; and offering neighborhood grants for approved plans to try new approaches and incubate change.

Based on needs and goals for the Fire Suppression, Prevention, and Training Department, we completed the following:

16. Early turn-in of the property insurance (PIAL) fire rating process.
17. Establishment of the deputy fire chief; study commencement of dual dispatched mental health calls.
18. The Fire Chief selection process.

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