



# **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

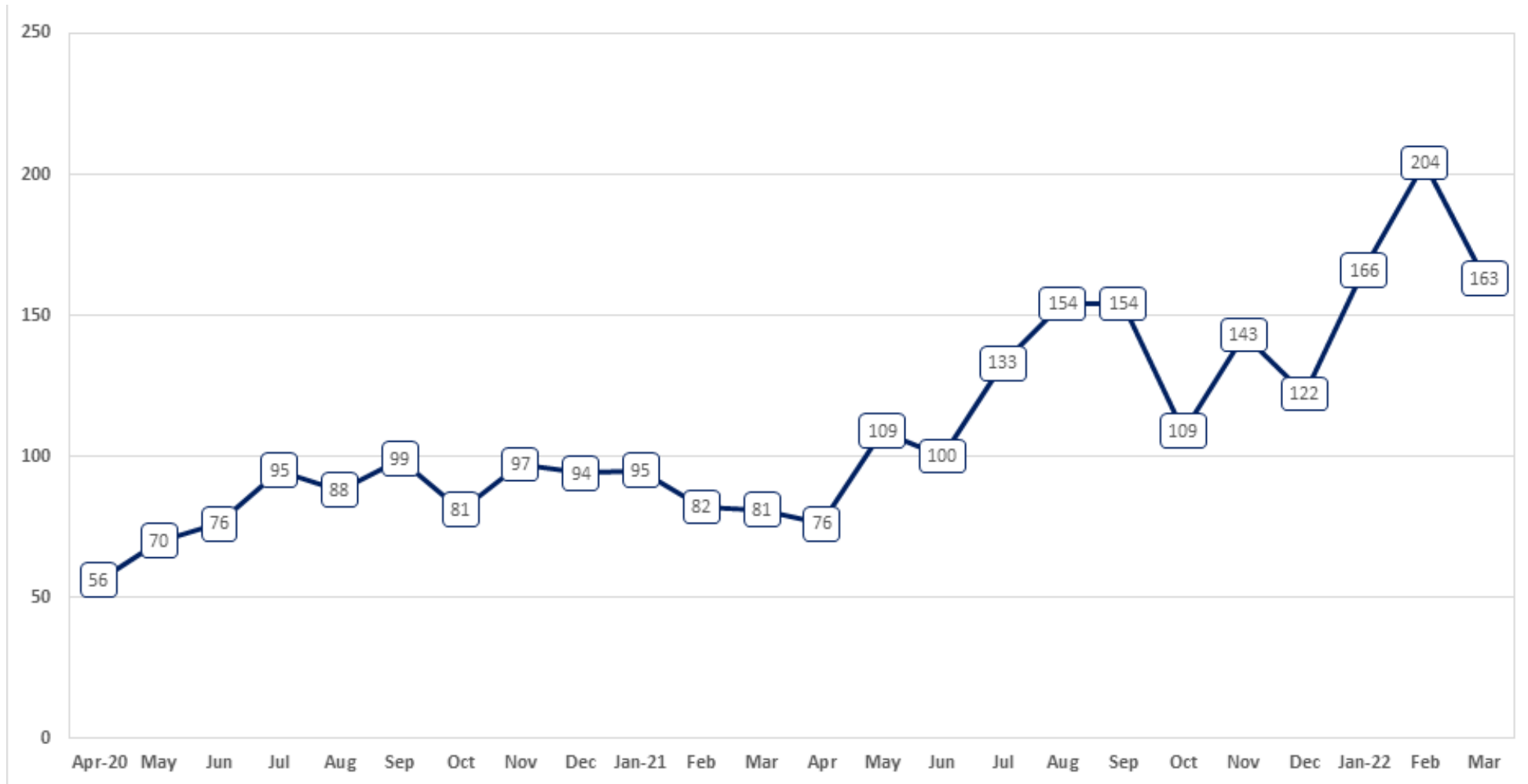


The Tacoma Police Department plays a key a role in maintaining public safety, but it cannot lead efforts to reduce violent crime without the active involvement of the community, other city agencies, and key stakeholders

# 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

# Long-Term Strategies (2 of 2)



## 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



# **TACOMA POLICE CRIME PLAN**

City of Tacoma | Police Department

**City Council Study Session**

**April 19, 2022**

