

# Anti-Violence Working Group

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*2025 Report*



Mayor  
Katjana Ballantyne

DEPARTMENT OF  
**RACIAL &  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MA

# Anti-Violence Working Group

The list below reflects the membership of the Anti-Violence Working Group. The Anti-Violence Working Group comprised Somerville constituents, elected officials, subject matter experts, City staff, and community partners.

As a part of this community-driven process, these individuals have all played a role in forming these recommendations and developing this report. They have worked together to ensure the recommendations capture the community voice and needs of Somerville.

Supported by the Department of Racial and Social Justice, the Anti-Violence Working Group received extensive training and opportunities to meet with local, regional, and national experts operating in their focus areas.

## Anti-Violence Working Group:

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# INTRODUCTION

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The City of Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) reached out to the Urban Peace Institute (UPI) for technical assistance to ensure safety priorities and solutions were community driven.<sup>1</sup> Urban Peace Institute provided technical assistance by reviewing relevant data, including crime data, Massachusetts Department of Transportation data, City survey data, assisting with strategy development, and co-facilitating a series of working group meetings composed of community, youth, City partners, and law enforcement. The goals of this work were to collectively develop goals to prevent violence, increase community awareness and improve communication in

**“The goals of this work were to collectively develop goals to prevent violence, increase community awareness and improve communication in the City of Somerville.”**

the City of Somerville. Through this memo, Urban Peace Institute will provide an analysis and make recommendations to address safety priorities while leveraging local assets to ultimately increase community safety. This project was supported and partially funded by Everytown Community Safety Fund.

## Background

Urban Peace Institute creates community safety and dismantles harmful systems to transform justice and ensure freedom from violence. The organization works to end injustice, violence, and oppression of people who have been historically criminalized and

marginalized. By expanding evidence and place-based community violence interventions, building power, and assisting new regions, Urban Peace Institute advances solutions that lead to urban peace across the country.

## Department of Racial and Social Justice

The Department of Racial and Social Justice leads the City of Somerville's equity efforts and collaborates with City departments, constituents, and stakeholders to eliminate the institutional and structural systems that create racial inequities, social disparities, and injustices.

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<sup>1</sup>Technical assistance support provided included strategy development and facilitation to support RSJ's efforts with the Anti-Violence Work Group. UPI's support consists of the following: meeting with RSJ to develop a workplan for the project, co-facilitating the AVWG meetings, and creating a memo with recommendations and next steps.

## Everytown Community Safety Fund

The Everytown Community Safety Fund supports 501(c)3 organizations implementing community-based violence intervention (CVI) programs operating in cities nationwide as a core component of a comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence in America. They deliver resources to help community-based violence intervention organizations sustain and scale their essential, lifesaving work via direct investment through grants, capacity-building training, peer convenings and advocacy campaigns. The Everytown Community Safety Fund has granted \$11.3 million to 119 organizations in 68 cities, each delivering a community-based model in preventing and interrupting violence.

# METHODOLOGY

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### **In March of 2023, RSJ and UPI met to discuss the scope of work and the timeline of the project.**

In April 2023, UPI conducted data analysis on pre-existing quantitative data and provided a snapshot of the top five safety concerns. The Department of Racial and Social Justice identified three safety priority issues to focus on for this project which included: gun and gang violence, traffic violence, and domestic violence. The Department of Racial and Social Justice then established an Anti-Violence Working Group (AVWG) with diverse stakeholders and residents with the intention to collectively discuss and develop goals to address each safety priority. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, RSJ hosted an information session to introduce the AVWG members to UPI. Thereafter, RSJ and UPI co-facilitated the AVWG meetings virtually via zoom on a monthly basis from May 2023 through March 2024. Please see timeline/work plan in the Appendix.

The Anti-Violence Working Group developed Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Bound (SMART) goals from the meeting discussions to generate community-based solutions with a structured approach. SMART goals were used because this strategy has been seen to successfully implement projects while helping to ensure all involved are held accountable, efforts are time bound, and progress that has been made towards accomplishing goals is tracked.<sup>2</sup> UPI recommended the use of SMART goals to address the specific safety needs of Somerville residents. For each AVWG meeting, the UPI team gathered feedback from AVWG members on each safety priority. UPI then drafted the SMART goal(s) which were reviewed and approved by the RSJ team. The SMART goals were then presented to the AVWG members for further edits and/or approval.

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<sup>2</sup>Setting Goals and Developing Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound Objectives  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/nc-smart-goals-fact-sheet.pdf>

# SAFETY PRIORITIES

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## Gun and Gang Violence

The first safety priority discussed with the AVWG was gun and gang violence. The Department of Racial and Social Justice shared Somerville Police Department (SPD) crime and violence data to provide a better understanding of this safety concern. The data reviewed included the recent upward trend of violent crime, particularly from 2021 (290) to 2022 (424) with an increase of 134 incidents. Data on the total gunshots fired from 2017 to 2023 showed an uptick in 2020 and 2021 with both years having 18 confirmed shots compared to 2019 with 11 confirmed shots fired.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the AVWG reviewed gunshot data by ward and pointed out that Wards 1 and 4 were

most affected by gun violence.<sup>4</sup>

Lastly, it was noted that there was a correlation between gun and gang violence and other reported crimes in Somerville such as aggravated assault and vandalism and destruction.

UPI composed a set of questions for the AVWG to better understand gun and gang violence dynamics as well as community assets and strengths. Some of the questions asked included: *What type of gun and gang violence is happening? Who is causing the violence? Who is being impacted? Has anyone experienced*

**“UPI composed a set of questions for the AVWG to better understand gun and gang violence dynamics as well as community assets and strengths.”**

*gun and gang violence in their community? Are there violence trends you’re aware of (demographic, time of day, areas)? Who is trusted in the community to help and/or provide services?* The AVWG discussed their perception of safety and community sentiment on gun and gang violence dynamics. When asked what a safe community looks like to them, an AVWG participant shared “Freedom, free going to places without violence.” Based on their feedback and input, UPI highlighted the following four important themes.

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<sup>3</sup>Gun shots that were reported to law enforcement and have information regarding the time and place of the incident.

<sup>4</sup>An administrative division of a city or borough that typically elects and is represented by a councilor or councilors.

AVWG members discussed SPD crime data and uplifted the need to allocate more attention and resources to Ward 4. AVWG members also discussed the landscape of Ward 4 and identified that access to highways near a large concentration of public housing allows for a fast route in and out of town for those committing acts of violence and crime and focuses the violence on those areas of public housing. The second theme that arose from group discussion with AVWG members was that youth are more likely to be involved with gun and gang violence. Recent and ongoing gun and gang violence incidents continue to involve youth from Somerville and youth from surrounding cities like Cambridge.<sup>5</sup> While public programming and youth resources are acknowledged and are available to the community through the Mayor's Office Summer Job Program, recreation department and libraries, AVWG members agreed more youth engagement is needed. For instance, an AVWG member mentioned, "there are lots of resources, but we have to get the word out to all Somerville residents."

Another theme identified was the need for more allies to advocate for community safety. In particular, AVWG members mentioned a need for parents of young children to be more informed and involved in these efforts due to shooting incidents happening near local schools.<sup>6</sup> Lastly, a lack of communication/information on crime and violence was uplifted. AVWG members expressed being uninformed as one Working Group member shared, "the information we get is by word of mouth." Another mentioned, "We receive calls/messages from the colleges or the schools, but not about violent incidents from the city." The feedback shared by the AVWG stressed the need for a stronger communication infrastructure and platform where all residents and stakeholders are able to receive current and timely information and updates on crime and violence.




Based on the data and AVWG feedback collected, UPI drafted two SMART goals for gun and gang violence. The first goal seeks to coordinate a multi-layered communication system to provide updates to all Somerville community members regarding gun and gang violence. The second goal focuses on engaging and connecting youth ages 18-26 with existing community programming in areas with highest issues of gun and gang violence. Below are the two draft SMART goals and details.

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<sup>5</sup> Levy, Marc. "Seeing Rising Violence across City Borders, Cambridge Seeks Summit with Somerville." *Cambridge Day*, 5 Mar.2022, [www.cambridgeday.com/2022/03/03/seeing-rising-violence-across-city-borders-cambridge-seeks-summit-with-somerville/](http://www.cambridgeday.com/2022/03/03/seeing-rising-violence-across-city-borders-cambridge-seeks-summit-with-somerville/).

<sup>6</sup> Monahan, John. "Parents Push for Safer Streets in Somerville as Violence Is on the Rise." *Boston 25 News*, 28 Mar. 2023, <https://www.boston25news.com/news/local/parents-push-safer-streets-somerville-violence-is-rise/HZHLWQ22Q5GONIYF63YZCGRTM/>. Accessed 11 Jan. 2024.

**Goal #1:** Coordinate a multi-layer communication system to provide updates to all Somerville community members regarding gun and gang violence.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify existing communication systems and stakeholders who operate them (e.g. schools, colleges, existing City communication systems).				Assessment of communication systems.
Outreach to stakeholders to get buy-in to participate in the communication system.				Awareness of the need and types of communication desired around gun and gang violence.
Identify needed points of communication and frequency after an incidence of gun violence occurs (e.g. immediately after a gunshot is reported, letting residents know to avoid the area).				Increased access and awareness of up-to-date information on gun and gang violence incidents and efforts to address it.

**Goal #2:** Engage and connect youth ages 18-26 with existing community programming in areas with the highest issues of gun and gang violence.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Create a survey to better understand programming and resources needed and/or interested in by youth.				Increased understanding of needs and gaps in youth resources.
Identify current/upcoming local programs, activities, and resources for youth ages 18-26.				Established resources/referral network.
Conduct youth outreach to connect with local programs, activities, and resources.				Engaged youth in positive programs and with other youth in safe spaces. An enhanced prevention infrastructure.



## Traffic Violence

The second safety priority discussed with the AVWG was traffic violence. Traffic violence was defined as car-related collisions, particularly when a pedestrian or cyclist is injured or killed. The Department of Racial Social Justice held a data primer meeting to share Massachusetts Department of Transportation data on the number of severe vehicular crashes, fatal vehicular crashes, bicycle crashes, and pedestrian crashes in Somerville. The data provided by RSJ from the Mobility Division of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (Mobility) in Somerville as well as the MassDOT Impact Crash Portal illustrated a decrease in the number of severe vehicular crashes in Somerville from 2012 to 2022, yet a consistency of 1 fatal crash per year has occurred from 2019 to 2022. Additionally, it was highlighted that vehicular crashes that involved pedestrians had significantly decreased from 2012 to 2022, but in 2019 Somerville experienced a high number of crashes, with more than 50 reported pedestrian crashes. Lastly, the data showed that on average, Somerville experienced roughly 45 bicycle crashes per year. According to Mobility and the MassDOT portal, traffic-related crashes also appeared to occur on specific streets and near highways including Broadway Street, College Avenue, Holland Street, Elm Street, Highland Avenue, Summer Street, Washington Street, Prospect Street, Webster Street, Temple Street, and state highways like Route 28 (McGrath), Route 38 (Mystic), Route 16 (Alewife Brook), and I-93.

UPI and RSJ co-facilitated a discussion with AVWG members to get insight on the traffic violence dynamics in their community. They were asked a series of questions which included: *Are you aware of traffic violence in your community? Where is traffic violence happening? Who is causing traffic violence? What are the impacts of traffic violence?*





The feedback collected raised two major themes. The first theme was the concern over excessive road construction contributing to reckless driving.<sup>7</sup> For instance, an AVWG member stated, “the amount of construction is absurd,” and often leads to commute times excessively longer for short drives and additional detours. Another AVWG member mentioned, “there’s not one day where I don’t encounter some kind of construction.” As a result, drivers are often confused and ultimately create their own detour/path. For instance, an AVWG member shared, “there is a huge detour sign on Main and Broadway, but the detour is no longer in effect.” Unfortunately, these self-made detours lead to cars driving on bike lanes, forcing cyclists on sidewalks which affects pedestrian safety. In addition to driver confusion, increased traffic delays also lead to restless drivers who become reckless behind the wheel. One AVWG member mentioned, “there are aggressive drivers, with lots of honking, they drive extremely fast, and they show impatience with people crossing the street.” It was shared that reckless driving happened.

**“Traffic violence was defined as car-related collisions, particularly when a pedestrian or cyclist is injured or killed.”**

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<sup>7</sup> Driving that can endanger other drivers, pedestrians, or cyclists.

**Goal #1:** Implement a public education campaign to promote safety for all modes of transportation.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Committee connects with OSPCD <sup>8</sup> , ISD <sup>9</sup> , Mobility Department, and local CBOs to implement public education campaign.				Increased awareness for safety for all modes of transportation.
Create a communication plan.				Increased coordination and communication among City departments in consultation with AVWG.
Organize a community event that kicks off a public education campaign.				
AVWG members advocate for transportation needs for their ward.				

## Domestic Violence

The last safety priority discussed with the AVWG was domestic violence. Prior to the meeting, UPI shared a survey via email to gauge the level of awareness on domestic violence issues in Somerville (please see survey in Appendix). The results showed that 60% of AVWG members were unsure of domestic violence issues happening in their community. As such, RSJ hosted a panel discussion for the AVWG with key partners working directly with domestic violence victims. The panelists included Rachel Angerhofer from RESPOND, Maureen Dipaolo, SPD (Victims Advocate Department), Captain Richard Lavey, SPD, and Sergeant Devin Schneider, SPD (Family Services Unit). Panelists discussed their roles, services, and shared different types of domestic violence as well as contributing factors such as mental health and substance abuse.

The panel discussion highlighted three major themes. First, certain groups such as roommates, intimate partners, children, and undocumented individuals<sup>10</sup> were identified as the most vulnerable to domestic violence in Somerville. One panelist shared how these victims are often most vulnerable due to, “financial and emotional stress.” In addition, undocumented individuals fear immigration repercussions. Another panelist shared, “many times the person committing domestic violence often threatens withholding citizenship documentation from the victim.”

<sup>8</sup> OSPCD: Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.

<sup>9</sup> ISD: Inspectional Services Department

<sup>10</sup> Undocumented individual: Individuals who live in the United States without legal immigration status.

The second theme identified was the high level of distrust between the community and law enforcement. For instance, panelists shared that domestic violence is “grossly underreported,” due to fear, stereotypes, and distrust with law enforcement. Domestic violence victims often lack trust with SPD due to prior negative experiences with law enforcement. One panelist noted that it can be a struggle to repair and build relationships with domestic violence victims. He noted, “Victims of domestic violence move around a lot so it’s hard to build a relationship with them.”

The last theme highlighted was the hesitancy of victims to seek services. A panelist mentioned that ‘victims’ trauma is one of the biggest barriers for victims accessing resources.” Many times, victims bring trauma from their past negative interaction with law enforcement in their home country. Additionally, the fear of being at risk of






deportation or other immigration repercussions create a barrier for undocumented individuals to report incidents of domestic violence. The SPD also mentioned the barrier present because of the community’s misconception that SPD forces residents to participate in resources/services available. An example of this is the residents’ perception of being required to participate in domestic violence support classes and if they fail to do so may cause law enforcement to either not respond or provide help/support, when in fact all services are voluntary.

Domestic violence data was additionally shared with the AVWG to provide a comprehensive overview of the safety priority. Somerville Police Department data showed that although the number of domestic disturbances had a decreasing trend from 2017 to 2022, there was a fluctuation of domestic violence incidents, with an increase from 2017 to 2019, a significant drop in 2020 and an uptick in 2022 with a total of 167 incidents. Additionally, the ward with the highest number of total domestic violence incidents was Ward 4 with a total of 48 incidents in 2022, followed by Ward 1 with 46 incidents.

For the last safety priority of domestic violence, there were four SMART goals drafted to create a community-based solution. These goals aim to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence and better connect victims and stakeholders to resources and services. There are various activities that include elements of research, coordination, and collaboration. Below are the details and layouts for each goal.

**“A panelist mentioned that ‘victims’ trauma is one of the biggest barriers for victims accessing resources.”**

**Goal #1:** Identify ways to proactively educate the youth about domestic violence, healthy relationships, and boundaries.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Research what is being done by City Departments, Community Partners, and previous programs that existed with the high school.				Increased understanding of needs and gaps in youth resources.
Identify community partners who can help design, implement, and facilitate programming.				A network of providers who can collaborate on this initiative.
Identify the budget, staff, and timeline that is needed to support efforts.				An understanding of the resources and scope of this project.
Identify age groups and corresponding programs for each age group.				An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.
An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.				An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.


**Goal #2:** Promote an educational communication campaign that provides information to the community on what to do if you are experiencing domestic violence or if you are aware of someone who is experiencing domestic violence. Resources should emphasize the following:

- Community Organizations as viable alternatives to SPD
- The role of the Victim Witness Advocate with the SPD
- Somerville as a Sanctuary City




Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify what geographic areas within the City statistically experience more domestic violence.				Understanding where domestic violence happens in the City.
Identify avenues for community engagement for all constituents of English speaking and non-English speaking communities.				Access and form relationships with communities who may be affected by domestic violence.
Identify local organizations working to address domestic violence in Somerville.				Form partnerships with domestic violence organizations.
Identify what materials or resources exist to educate constituents about Somerville being a Sanctuary City (SOIA & HHS). - promotional materials				Targeted awareness of domestic violence resources and partners in the City along with avenues for support for all residents.
An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.				An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.

**Goal #2:** Promote an educational communication campaign that provides information to the community on what to do if you are experiencing domestic violence or if you are aware of someone who is experiencing domestic violence. Resources should emphasize the following:

- Community Organizations as viable alternatives to SPD
- The role of the Victim Witness Advocate with the SPD
- Somerville as a Sanctuary City

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Discuss next steps that will ensure these resources exist and are promoted long-term.				Targeted awareness of domestic violence resources and partners in the City along with avenues for support for all residents.
				A community calendar where staff will be present for questions and resources in the City on a frequent basis (weekly or monthly). The calendar will include events and tabling opportunities
				A micro page that lists contact information for existing groups that are doing this work in Somerville and/or links on RSJ pages to corresponding City Departments that will oversee the work.

**Goal #3:** Facilitate quarterly meetings with stakeholders to share information on what data exists around domestic violence in the City, to identify what resources are needed to promote education and awareness long-term.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify stakeholders and gaining stakeholder buy-in.				Create a list of experts in the field as well as those with deep connections to the community to involve in quarterly meetings.
Schedule a quarterly meeting with stakeholders to share information on what information exists and to identify gaps.				Access and form relationships with communities who may be affected by domestic violence.
Develop meeting topics, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim Safety</li> <li>• High Risk Areas</li> <li>• Planning for and allocating resources</li> <li>• What areas the programs would be needed in the most</li> <li>• What resources would be needed i.e. legal services, mental health, needs for wrap around services</li> <li>• Development of policies to target domestic violence</li> </ul>				Comprehensive programming and collaborative information sharing covering ongoing trends in the community and ways to best address them.

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

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**Advocate for increased investment in community-based gun and gang violence, traffic violence, and domestic violence service providers.**

- RSJ to share recommendations with the Mayor and City Council to gain buy-in. Engage City leaders and elected officials to increase investment in public safety and publicly adopt the AVWG SMART goals.
- Implement SMART goal activities with other City partners/departments. Create subcommittees per SMART goal as needed.

## **Implement a Violence Response System**

- With departmental liaisons, implement communication protocol to better coordinate and deploy services based on issue/incident. Somerville departments to include in these conversations are Somerville Police Department, SomerStat, Communications, and 311 Constituent Services.
- Assess current communication protocols that are in place in Somerville to better coordinate and deploy services based on issue/incident.
- Research communication systems/platforms currently used by other national cities and departments.
- Strengthen relationship and protocols with other City departments, specifically, Somerville Police Department.
- Consider external systems (i.e., Everbridge Nixle, Citizen mobile application, etc.) to notify residents and stakeholders of violence incidents, upcoming road work, etc.
- Purchase the system that will be used by Somerville.
- Conduct pilot implementation to determine effectiveness and areas of improvement to ensure residents and stakeholders receive accurate and current information and updates.
- Train City departments to use the system.



**Prioritize resources and services to Ward 1 and Ward 4**

- Advocate for equitable distribution of resources and services amongst all wards and in particular Wards 1 and 4 who, based on the data, are disproportionately impacted by violence.
- Ensure resources and services are culturally competent and accessible. Relevant departments and directors should include Racial and Social Justice Department, Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, the ADA Coordinator, the Director of Equity and Excellence for Somerville Public Schools, and the Youth Services Director for the City of Somerville.
- Through a public education campaign, inform residents and stakeholders of domestic violence services and other resources available to increase awareness and accessibility.

# APPENDIX

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## Items

**A. Glossary of Terms**

**B. Survey Questions**

**C. Workplan**

**D. SMART Goals**

- Gun and Gang Violence
- Traffic Violence
- Domestic Violence

# A. Glossary of Terms

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- **Communication System:** a set of protocols that guide communication between entities in a specific manner to obtain a desired outcome.
- **Community Asset:** qualities, characteristics, services, and/or resources of a community that can improve quality of life. Examples include neighborhood leadership, community cohesion, hospitals, churches, libraries, local parks, access to public transportation, sidewalks, etc.
- **Immigration:** the movement of people who are leaving one country to enter another country.
- **Mental Health:** a person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being.
- **Public Housing:** housing provided for people with low incomes, subsidized by public funds.
- **SMART Goal:** a goal that is developed with the following parameters to ensure that your objective is attainable within a certain amount of time. The acronym stands for specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time sensitive.
  - Short term goal: a goal that can be achieved within one to three months.
  - Mid-term goal: a goal that can be achieved within three to six months.
  - Long term goal: a goal that can be achieved within six months to a year or more.
- **Stakeholder:** an individual with a vested interest in the community because of living in and/or working that in community.
- **Violence:** a behavior involving physical force, intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone.
- **Violence Response System:** a roadmap that will be used by a safety committee/group to inform City budgets and City priorities that consist of SMART goals addressing gun/gang violence, traffic violence, and domestic violence.

## B. Survey Questions

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Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. The survey results will help guide the conversation for the next AVWG meeting and help inform its SMART goals.

Your responses will be completely anonymous. Thank you for your participation.

\* 1. What ward do you live and/or work in?      1      2      3      4      5      6      7

Other (please specify)

\* 2. Is domestic violence a problem in your community?

Yes

No

Not sure

Other (please specify)

\* 3. Is this a new issue in Somerville? If so, why?

Yes

No

If yes, why?

\* 4. What factors do you think may be contributing to domestic violence in your community?

Please select all that apply.

Lack of accessible resources and/or services

Financial instability

Lack of economic opportunities

Increased stress

Lack of mental health resources

Other (please specify)

\* 5. Are you aware of any resources and/or services for domestic violence victims?

Yes

No

I don't know.

Other (please specify)

\* 6. Do you think people are aware of and/or have access to services in your community?

Yes    No    I don't know.    Other (please specify)

\* 7. Is there anything else you would like to share?




# C. Workplan

Date	Action	Participants	Details
March 2023	SJ Strategy Development Introductory Meeting	RSJ, UPI	Discuss the workplan, roll out of the project, check-in times, workgroup meeting frequency, logistics, etc.
April 2023	Data Review	UPI, RSJ	UPI to review pre-existing qualitative and quantitative data
April 2023	Check-In Meeting	UPI, RSJ	UPI and RSJ to discuss top (3) safety priorities, provide updates, feedback, and discuss next steps, RSJ provides Q&A webinar details
April 2023	Material Preparation	UPI	UPI to provide RSJ draft meeting materials for edits/feedback
May 2023	Information Session	UPI, RSJ	Meet and greet with the community of Somerville
June 2023	AVWG Meeting #1	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Welcome, introduction to UPI, meet the members, discuss the project/objectives, review participant responsibilities and expectations, talk through the proposed process/timeframe and process outcomes for October, discuss priority safety issue 1
July 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on AVWG Meeting #1, plan and discuss AVWG Meeting #2
July 2023	AVWG Meeting #2	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Co-facilitate meeting with RSJ, recap previous meeting, and take notes, discuss assets and potential solutions to safety issue 1
July 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on AVWG Meeting #2, plan and discuss for AVWG Meeting #3
August 2023	AVWG Meeting #3	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Co-facilitate meeting with RSJ, recap previous meeting, and discuss priority safety issue 2
September 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on AVWG Meeting #3, plan and discuss for AVWG Meeting #4




Date	Action	Participants	Details
October 2023	AVWG Meeting #4	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Co-facilitate meeting with RSJ, recap previous meeting, discuss assets and potential solutions to safety issue 2
October 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on AVWG Meeting #4, plan and discuss for AVWG Meeting #5
November 2023	AVWG Meeting #5	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Co-facilitate meeting with RSJ, recap previous meeting, and discuss priority issue 3
November 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on AVWG Meeting #5, plan and discuss for AVWG Meeting #6
December 2023	AVWG Traffic Panel Discussion	RSJ, AVWG	Listening session
December 2023	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on traffic panel discussion and domestic violence goals
December 2023	Draft Memo and Violence Response System	UPI	Review all meeting notes, draft memo, and violence response system
January 2024	Memo and Violence Response System Review	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Provide draft Memo and Violence Response System/Recommendations for feedback/edits
January 2024	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief from RSJ regarding Domestic Violence goal setting w/ AVWG
February 2024	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Review memo feedback
March 2024	Check-In/Debrief Meeting	UPI, RSJ	Debrief on memo, prepare for AVWG Meeting #6
March 2024	AVWG Meeting #6	UPI, RSJ, AVWG	Co-facilitate meeting with RSJ, recap previous meetings, and review SMART goals for the three safety priorities
March 2024	Last Check-In Meeting	UPI, RSJ	UPI will submit a finalized Memo with Violence Response System/Recommendations to serve as a roadmap to inform City budgets/safety priorities

# D. SMART Goals

**Goal #1:** Coordinate a multi – layer communication system to provide updates to all Somerville community members regarding gun and gang violence.





Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify existing communication systems and stakeholders who operate them (e.g. schools, colleges, existing City communication systems).				Assessment of communication systems.
Outreach to stakeholders to get buy-in to participate in the communication system.				Awareness of the need and types of communication desired around gun and gang violence.
Identify the points of communication and frequency needed after an incidence of gun violence occurs (e.g. immediately after a gunshot is reported, letting folks know to avoid the area).				Increased access and awareness of up-to-date information on gun and gang violence incidents and efforts to address it.

**Goal #2:** Engage and connect youth ages 18-26 with existing community programming in areas with the highest issues of gun and gang violence.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Create a survey to better understand programming and resources needed and/or interested in by youth.				Understand needs and gaps in youth resources.
Identify current/upcoming local programs, activities, and resources for youth ages 18-26.				Establish resources/referral network.
Conduct youth outreach to connect with local programs, activities, and resources				Engaged youth in positive programs with other youth in safe spaces. An enhanced the prevention infrastructure.

## Traffic Violence

**Goal #1:** Implement a public education campaign to promote safety for all modes of transportation.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Committee connects with OSPCD <sup>11</sup> , ISD <sup>12</sup> , Mobility Department and local CBO's <sup>13</sup> , to implement public education campaign.				Increased awareness for safety for all modes of transportation.
Create communication plan/protocol.				Increased coordination and communication among City departments in consultation with AVWG.
Implement a community event that kicks off public education campaign.				
AVWG members utilize campaign platform to advocate for transportation needs in their wards.				

<sup>11</sup> OSPCD: Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.





<sup>12</sup> ISD: Inspectional Services Department

<sup>13</sup> Community Based Organization







## Domestic Violence

**Goal #1:** Identify ways to proactively educate the youth about domestic violence, healthy relationships, and boundaries.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Research what is being done by City Departments, Community Partners, and previous programs that existed with the high school.				An internal knowledge base of resources for youth around domestic violence.
Identify community partners who can help design, implement, and facilitate programming.				A network of providers who can collaborate on this initiative.
Identify the budget, staff, and timeline that is needed to support efforts.				An understanding of the resources and scope of this project.
Identify age groups and corresponding programs for each age group.				An understanding of the target audience and content for this project.


**Goal #2:** Promote an educational communication campaign that provides information to the community on what to do if you are experiencing domestic violence or if you are aware of someone who is experiencing domestic violence. Resources should emphasize the following:

- Community Organizations as viable alternatives to SPD
- The role of the Victim Witness Advocate with the SPD
- Somerville as a Sanctuary City




Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify what geographic areas within the City statistically experience more domestic violence.				Understanding where domestic violence happens in the City.
Identify avenues for community engagement for all constituents of English speaking and non-English speaking communities.				Access and form relationships with communities who may be affected by domestic violence.
Identify local organizations working to address domestic violence in Somerville.				Form partnerships with domestic violence organizations.
Identify what materials or resources exist to educate constituents about Somerville being a Sanctuary City (SOIA & HHS). - promotional materials				Targeted awareness of domestic violence resources and partners in the City along with avenues for support for all residents.

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Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Discuss next steps that will ensure these resources exist and are promoted long-term.				Targeted awareness of domestic violence resources and partners in the City along with avenues for support for all residents.
				A community calendar where staff will be present for questions and resources in the City on a frequent basis (weekly or monthly). The calendar will include events and tabling opportunities.
				A micro page that lists contact information for existing groups that are doing this work in Somerville and/or links on RSJ pages to corresponding City Departments that will oversee the work.

**Goal #3:** Facilitate quarterly meetings with stakeholders to share information on what data exists around domestic violence in the City, to identify what resources are needed to promote education and awareness long-term.

Activities	Short	Mid	Long	Outcome(s)
Identify stakeholders and gaining stakeholder buy-in.				Create a list of experts in the field as well as those with deep connections to the community to involve in quarterly meetings.
Schedule a quarterly meeting with stakeholders to share information on what information exists and to identify gaps.				Increased information sharing and cohesion of work and services.
Develop meeting topics, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim Safety</li> <li>• High Risk Areas</li> <li>• Planning for and allocating resources</li> <li>• What areas the programs would be needed in the most</li> <li>• What resources would be needed i.e. legal services, mental health, needs for wrap around services</li> <li>• Development of policies to target domestic violence</li> </ul>				Comprehensive programming and collaborative information sharing covering ongoing trends in the community and ways to best address them.