Public Safety & Community Policing

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Public Safety & Community Policing Policy

Dave Biggers for Louisville Mayor 2026

Executive Summary

Louisville faces a public safety crisis rooted not in lack of resources, but in **misaligned priorities and broken trust** between police and the communities they serve. With more than 100 homicides recorded in the city's gun violence data every year from 2020 through 2025 (Louisville Metro open data, Gun Violence Data), traditional policing strategies have failed West Louisville while over-policing has eroded community trust.

My Vision:

True community policing where officers become trusted neighbors, not occupying forces. **Prevention over reaction. Healing over punishment.** A public safety system that makes all Louisville neighborhoods as safe as the East End—not through aggressive enforcement, but through genuine partnership between police and community.

Key Proposals:

1. **Mini Police Substations** – At least one in every ZIP code (63 in all), $80.01 million a year at full deployment, most of it the pay of officers LMPD already employs, moved from patrol
2. **Community Wellness Centers** – 18 centers across West Louisville and underserved areas, $45 million annually
3. **Co-Responder Model** – Mental health professionals paired with officers, $8 million

annually

4. **Violence Prevention Programs** – Community-based intervention, $12 million annually
5. **Police Accountability & Reform** – Constitutional policing, oversight, transparency

Budget Impact:

Total New/Enhanced Public Safety Investment: $153.01 million annually (Year 4, full build) (within Metro's $1.13 billion operating budget; $64.26 million of it is the existing pay of officers reassigned to the substations)
– Funded through reallocation from ineffective enforcement to proven prevention
– Creates 376 to 466 new positions (social workers, community health workers, violence interrupters, oversight staff), some of them paid by federal grants and Medicaid; the substation officers are LMPD officers reassigned from patrol, not new hires
– Evidence shows 15-35% reduction in violent crime within 3 years

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Current Situation: Louisville's Public Safety Crisis

The Numbers Tell the Story:

Violent Crime:
– 137 homicides in 2023 recorded in the city's gun violence data (Louisville Metro open data, Gun Violence Data; preliminary, and may not capture every homicide)
– Non-fatal shootings: 410 in 2023 (Louisville Metro open data, Gun Violence Data)
– Aggravated assault: 3,276 offenses in 2023 (Louisville Metro open data, LMPD Crime Data 2023)

Geographic Inequality:
– Four West Louisville ZIP codes (40203, 40210, 40211, 40212) had 65 of the 137 homicides recorded in the city's gun violence data for 2023 (Louisville Metro open data, Gun Violence Data; preliminary, and may not capture every homicide)
– Russell, Parkland and Shawnee together had 30 of those 137 (22%)
– Eight East End ZIP codes (40207, 40222, 40223, 40241, 40242, 40243, 40245, 40059) together had 5 of them

Police-Community Relations:
– U.S. Department of Justice found in March 2023 that LMPD engaged in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives people of their constitutional rights (DOJ findings report, March 8, 2023)
– Community trust in LMPD: low in many neighborhoods, especially in West Louisville
– Complaint investigation: Lack of independent oversight

Root Causes Unaddressed:
– Mental health crisis: officers are sent to many calls that involve mental health
– Substance abuse: drug overdose crisis, with 501 overdose deaths among Jefferson County residents in 2023 (Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, 2024 Drug Overdose Fatality Report)
– Economic desperation: unemployment in West Louisville ZIP codes 40203, 40210 and 40211 runs 12% to 16%, against 5.5% citywide (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2024 5-year; margins of error 3.5 to 5.3 points)
– Trauma: Generational poverty, violence exposure

What's Not Working:

Traditional "Tough on Crime" Approaches:
– Increased police budgets haven't reduced crime
– Aggressive enforcement erodes community trust
– Arrest-focused policing doesn't address root causes
– Mass incarceration perpetuates cycles of poverty and crime

Current LMPD Deployment:
– Officers respond to calls, then leave
– No consistent officer presence in high-need neighborhoods
– Community policing exists in name only
– Officers don't live in or know communities they serve

Reactive Rather Than Preventive:
– Resources concentrated on response after crimes occur
– Minimal investment in prevention
– Social services separate from public safety strategy
– No coordination between police, health, housing, jobs

Who Suffers Most:

West Louisville Residents:
– Experience both over-policing and under-protection (unsolved murders)
– Bear brunt of failed public safety strategies

Families and Children:
– Children traumatized by witnessing violence
– Families losing loved ones to preventable violence
– Parents terrified to let children play outside
– Generational trauma from chronic violence exposure

Small Businesses:
– Struggle to operate in high-crime areas
– Pay higher insurance, lose customers, face theft
– Can't attract employees due to safety concerns

– Economic vitality drained by crime and fear

My Vision: Community Safety Through Partnership

What Success Looks Like:

Neighborhood Transformation:
– Children playing safely in parks and streets
– Neighbors knowing their local officers by name
– Business districts thriving without fear
– Community events without violence
– Trust replacing fear in police interactions

Measurable Outcomes (4 Years):
– 35% reduction in violent crime
– 70%+ homicide clearance rate
– 50%+ reduction in police use of force incidents
– Community trust in police exceeds 60% (baseline set by the first annual survey)
– Response times under 8 minutes for emergencies
– Zero officer-involved shootings of unarmed individuals

Equitable Safety:
– West Louisville homicide rates decrease to East End levels
– All neighborhoods receive equal protection and service
– Public safety investments prioritize highest-need areas
– Communities feel safe AND respected by police

Detailed Policy Proposals

1. Mini Police Substations: True Community Policing

See Glossary Terms: Mini Police Substation, Community Policing, Beat Policing, Neighborhood Policing

The Concept:

Small neighborhood police facilities (1,000-2,000 sq ft) staffed by up to 6 officers who work exclusively in that neighborhood, building relationships with residents, merchants, churches, schools, and community organizations. Officers become familiar neighborhood

presences—attending community meetings, knowing residents by name, and preventing crime through visible presence and partnership rather than aggressive enforcement.

Deployment:

- **At least one mini substation in every Louisville ZIP code** (63 in all)
- **Priority deployment:** West Louisville neighborhoods with highest crime rates
- **Timeline:** 24 substations by end of Year 2 (12 per year), additional substations based on community need and budget availability
- **Locations:** Existing Metro buildings, repurposed vacant buildings, partnerships with institutions

Staffing Model:

- **Up to 6 officers per station**, 24/7 rotating shifts (beat officers permanently assigned)
- **Community Service Officer** (unarmed, community liaison)
- **Part-time social worker** (2-3 days/week, connecting residents to services)
- **Community volunteers** (neighborhood watch, auxiliary support)

Officer Selection:

- Officers apply voluntarily (no forced assignments)
- Selection prioritizes community policing skills over aggressive enforcement
- Preference for officers living in or near assigned neighborhoods
- Diversity goals: Officer demographics reflect neighborhood demographics
- Extensive community policing training before assignment

Operations:

- **Walk/bike patrols** rather than car patrols
- **Community office hours** – Residents can walk in with concerns
- **Youth engagement** – Officers mentor kids, coach teams, attend schools
- **Business partnerships** – Know merchants, prevent theft through relationships
- **Problem-solving** – Address quality of life issues (abandoned vehicles, lighting, nuisances)
- **24/7 presence** through multiple shifts, even when facility closed

Budget:

- **$80.01 million a year at full deployment** for 63 substations, one in every ZIP code area

- **About $1.27 million per substation a year:** six officers LMPD already employs (about $1.02 million of their existing pay, at LMPD's own cost of about $170,000 an officer before overtime) plus $250,000 of rent, utilities, running costs and vehicles
- Phased: 12 substations in Year 1 ($15.24M), 24 in Year 2 ($30.48M), 36 in Year 3 ($45.72M), 63 in Year 4 ($80.01M)
- The officers' pay is money LMPD already spends: they move from patrol, so it is not new money

Evidence:

- **Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment:** about 23% less violent crime in treated hot spots than in control areas over 12 weeks (Ratcliffe et al., 2011, Criminology 49(3))
- **Community policing, research review:** improves satisfaction, perceived disorder and police legitimacy, with limited effects on crime (Gill et al., 2014, Journal of Experimental Criminology 10(4))
- **Los Angeles LAPD Community Safety Partnership:** about 221 fewer violent crimes over six years (including 7 homicides) in Jordan Downs and Nickerson Gardens than in similar areas (Leap et al., 2020, UCLA)

Accountability:

- **Community Advisory Boards** for each substation
- **Quarterly crime statistics** published by substation area
- **Community satisfaction surveys** measuring trust and service quality
- **Officer performance reviews** include community feedback
- **Transparency:** Community can observe operations, provide input on priorities

2. Community Wellness Centers: Prevention Infrastructure

See Glossary Terms: Community Wellness Center, Social Determinants of Health, Prevention, Wraparound Services

The Concept:

One-stop hubs in high-need neighborhoods providing health, mental health, substance abuse treatment, job training, food assistance, legal aid, and social services—addressing root causes of crime and violence. Co-located with or near mini police substations to coordinate safety and services.

18 Centers Across Louisville:

- **West Louisville Priority:** Russell, Parkland, Portland, Shawnee, California, Algonquin, Chickasaw, Park DuValle

- **South End:** Pleasure Ridge Park, Valley Station
- **Other Underserved:** Newburg, Buechel, Highview

Services Offered:

Health Services:
– Primary care clinic (partnership with FQHC or health system)
– Mental health counseling and crisis intervention
– Substance abuse assessment and treatment
– Dental and vision care
– Health insurance enrollment assistance
– Community Health Workers for home visits

Social Services:
– SNAP/WIC/Medicaid application assistance
– Housing assistance and eviction prevention
– Utility assistance and weatherization programs
– Legal aid clinics (eviction defense, expungement, family law)
– Domestic violence support and safety planning

Economic Opportunity:
– Job training and placement
– Adult education and GED programs
– Small business development assistance
– Financial literacy and banking access
– Expungement clinics removing employment barriers

Youth & Family:
– After-school programs and homework help
– Summer learning and recreation
– Parenting classes and family support groups
– Early childhood programs and childcare referrals
– Youth mentoring and violence prevention

Community Building:
– Meeting space for neighborhood organizations
– Community organizing support
– Participatory budgeting for neighborhood improvements
– Cultural events and celebrations
– Conflict mediation and restorative justice circles

Staffing:

- **Medical staff:** Nurse practitioners, nurses, community health workers
- **Mental health:** Licensed therapists, substance abuse counselors, peer support

specialists
- **Social workers:** Case managers connecting people to services
- **Community organizers:** Building resident leadership and power
- **Administrative:** Facility coordinators, receptionists
- **Total per center:** 15-20 staff = 270-360 jobs across 18 centers

Budget:

- **$45 million annually** for 18 centers
- **$2.5 million per center annually** (staffing, operations, partnerships)
- **Facility costs:** Utilize existing Metro buildings, repurpose vacant buildings
- **Revenue offsets:** Medicaid reimbursement for health services ($5-8M annually)
- **Net cost:** $37-40 million annually within $1.13 billion budget

Evidence:

- **Every $1 invested in community wellness centers returns $5.60**

Coordination with Public Safety:

- **Co-responder teams** based at wellness centers
- **Violence interrupters** employed by centers
- **Conflict mediation** as alternative to arrests
- **Reentry support** for people leaving incarceration
- **Information sharing** (within privacy rules) between police and services

3. Co-Responder Model: Mental Health Crisis Response

See Glossary Terms: Co-Responder Model, Crisis Intervention Team, Mental Health Crisis, Behavioral Health

The Problem:

Many police calls involve mental health or substance abuse crises. Officers aren’t mental health professionals and shouldn’t be primary responders to health crises. Current approach results in:
– Inappropriate arrests/incarceration of people experiencing mental health crises
– Escalation of situations due to officers lacking de-escalation training
– Officer-involved shootings of people in mental health crisis
– Jail becoming de facto mental health facility
– People cycling through crisis-arrest-release without treatment

My Solution:

Licensed mental health professionals paired with police officers responding to mental health calls. Mental health professional leads the interaction while officer provides safety backup.

Implementation:

Teams:
– **18 co-responder teams** (one per Community Wellness Center)
– **Each team:** Licensed clinical social worker or therapist + trained officer
– **Operating hours:** Initially 8am-midnight (peak crisis hours), expand to 24/7 based on demand
– **Mobile crisis units** can respond anywhere in Louisville

Response Protocols:
– **911 dispatch screening:** Identifies mental health/substance abuse calls
– **Co-responder team dispatched** instead of or alongside regular patrol
– **Mental health professional leads** assessment and intervention
– **Officer provides safety** but doesn't take lead unless violence occurs
– **Connect to services** rather than arrest whenever possible
– **Follow-up care** coordinated through Community Wellness Centers

Training:
– **Officers:** 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training
– **Mental health professionals:** Safety training, police procedures, cultural competence
– **Joint training:** Building team dynamics, de-escalation, crisis assessment

Budget:
– **$8 million annually** for 18 teams
– **$444,000 per team annually** (salaries for therapist + officer + vehicle + operations)
– **$2 million startup** (training, vehicles, equipment)

Expected Outcomes:
– **50% reduction** in arrests for mental health crises
– **70% reduction** in use of force during mental health calls
– **80% of people** connected to ongoing treatment
– **Zero deaths** of individuals in mental health crisis during police encounters
– **Cost savings:** $5-8 million annually from reduced incarceration and ER visits

Evidence:
– Other cities already run crisis-response programs of this kind, including Eugene, OR (CAHOOTS), Denver (STAR) and Houston (Crisis Intervention Team).

4. Violence Prevention & Intervention Programs

See Glossary Terms: Violence Prevention, Violence Interrupter, Cure Violence, Conflict Mediation, Community Safety

The Approach:

Treat violence like a disease – identify those at highest risk, interrupt transmission, change community norms. Deploy **credible messengers** (often formerly incarcerated people) who can intervene in conflicts before they escalate to violence.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention:

- **Trauma-informed care** for shooting/assault victims at University of Louisville Hospital
- **Violence intervention specialists** work with victims during recovery
- **Case management:** Jobs, housing, mental health, conflict mediation
- **Prevent retaliation** by addressing underlying conflicts
- **6-month intensive support** transitioning victims away from violence
- **Budget:** $1.5 million annually (3 specialists + case management)

Street Outreach & Conflict Mediation:

- **30 Violence Interrupters** deployed in highest-violence neighborhoods
- **Credible messengers:** People from community, often formerly incarcerated, trained in conflict mediation
- **Proactive outreach:** Build relationships with high-risk youth and young adults
- **Interrupt conflicts** before they escalate to violence
- **Provide alternatives:** Connect to jobs, education, mental health, housing
- **Community events** providing positive activities and conflict-free spaces
- **Budget:** $6 million annually (salaries, training, operations)
- **Evidence:** In four of the seven Chicago CeaseFire neighborhoods studied, the number of people shot fell 16-34% (Skogan et al., 2008, evaluation for the National Institute of Justice)

Safe Passage Programs:

- **Trained adults** monitoring routes between schools and neighborhoods
- **Prevent youth violence** during high-risk times (before/after school)
- **Mentoring relationships** with young people
- **Quick response** to emerging conflicts

- **Coordinate with schools** on student needs
- **Budget:** $1.5 million annually

Youth Development & Mentoring:

- **Expanded after-school programming** through Metro Parks and Community Wellness Centers
- **Paid summer jobs for high school students** – you get paid, you get experience, and working youth don't commit crimes
- **Mentoring programs** connecting at-risk youth with positive adult role models
- **Sports leagues and arts programs** providing structure and purpose
- **Life skills training:** Conflict resolution, emotional regulation, career planning
- **Budget:** $3 million annually (in addition to recreation budget increases)

Total Violence Prevention Budget: $12 million annually

Expected Outcomes:
– **25% reduction in shootings** in intervention areas within 2 years
– **50% reduction in retaliation violence** among program participants
– **70% of participants** connected to jobs, education, or services
– **Cost-effectiveness:** Every shooting prevented saves $500,000 in medical, criminal justice, and social costs

5. Police Accountability & Constitutional Policing

See Glossary Terms: Police Accountability, Constitutional Policing, Consent Decree, Civilian Oversight, Use of Force

The Requirement:

The U.S. Department of Justice found in March 2023 that LMPD engaged in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing (DOJ findings report, March 8, 2023). True reform requires not just compliance but **cultural transformation** from warrior mentality to guardian mentality.

Independent Oversight:

Strengthen Civilian Review Board:
– **Subpoena power** to compel testimony and evidence
– **Independent investigators** not employed by LMPD
– **Public hearings** on officer misconduct complaints
– **Discipline recommendations** that must be implemented or publicly justified if rejected
– **Budget:** $2 million annually (staff, investigators, operations)

Office of Inspector General:
– **Independent** from LMPD and Mayor's office
– **Investigates** systemic problems, not just individual complaints
– **Audit power** to review policies, training, data
– **Public reports** on LMPD performance and accountability
– **Budget:** $1.5 million annually

Use of Force Reforms:

Strict Standards:
– **De-escalation required** as first response
– **Duty to intervene** when witnessing excessive force by other officers
– **Prohibition on neck restraints** except deadly force situations
– **Shoot at vehicles banned** except imminent deadly threat
– **Warning before shooting** when feasible

Transparency:
– **Immediate public disclosure** of officer-involved shootings (within 72 hours)
– **Body camera footage released** within 30 days absent compelling reason
– **Use of force dashboard** showing trends by officer, district, demographics
– **Annual report** on all use of force incidents with analysis

Training Revolution:

De-Escalation First:
– **40 hours annually** on de-escalation, crisis intervention, implicit bias
– **Scenario-based training** emphasizing communication over force
– **Mental health awareness** recognizing and responding to mental health crises
– **Trauma-informed policing** understanding how trauma affects behavior

Community Policing Training:
– **Community engagement skills** as core competency
– **Cultural competence** training on communities served
– **Problem-solving** rather than arrest-focused approaches
– **Procedural justice** – how police interact affects community trust

Recruitment & Retention:

Diversity Goals:
– **Officer demographics reflect city demographics** within 5 years
– **Targeted recruitment** in underserved neighborhoods
– **Hiring incentives** for officers living in Louisville ($5,000 bonus)
– **Mentoring** for women officers and officers recruited from underserved neighborhoods

Retention:

– **Competitive salaries** retaining quality officers
– **Career development** paths beyond patrol
– **Wellness programs** addressing officer stress and trauma
– **Positive performance incentives** rewarding community policing success

Early Intervention:
– **Data systems** tracking officer performance (use of force, complaints, sick days)
– **Red flags trigger intervention** before problems escalate
– **Coaching and support** rather than punishment for early-stage issues
– **Remove problem officers** who don't improve

Budget for Accountability & Reform: $8 million annually

This $8 million sits with the independent Office of Inspector General, not inside LMPD, so oversight is independent of the department it oversees. Police stay flat; it is not a police cut.

Federal law enforcement: LMPD follows one rule for every federal agency, set out in *Police Accountability & Constitutional Policing*.

Budget Summary: Public Safety Investments

Total Annual New/Enhanced Public Safety Investment: $153.01 Million (Year 4, full build)

Initiative	Annual Cost	4-Year Total	Jobs Created
Mini Police Substations	Phased: $15.24M (Yr 1) → $80.01M (Yr 4, full build)	$171.45M	378 officers, reassigned from patrol (not new hires)
Community Wellness Centers	$45M	$180M	270-360 staff
Co-Responder Teams	$8M	$32M	36 professionals
Violence Prevention	$12M	$48M	45+ interrupters/specialists
Police Accountability	$8M	$32M	25 oversight staff
TOTAL	**$88.24M (Yr 1) → $153.01M (Yr 4)**	**$463.45M over 4 years**	**376–466 new positions**

Funding Sources (Budget-Neutral within $1.13B):

How the reallocation ledger pays for it ($153.01M a year at full build):
– **Re-pointed inside LMPD:** $88.01M (378 officers move from patrol to substations, carrying $64.26M of their existing pay; half of unscheduled overtime; and patrol posts left unfilled as

officers leave) — substations ($80.01M) and co-responders ($8M)
– **Folded in from Public Health's own General Fund:** $16.49M — wellness centres
– **From the smaller jail (bail reform, diversion):** $20.51M — wellness centres
– **Re-pointed inside the Office of Violence Prevention** (contracts with poor results): $2M — violence prevention
– **LMPD's own savings, moved to the independent Office of Inspector General:** $8M — police accountability and oversight
– **Federal grants:** $10M — violence prevention
– **Medicaid reimbursement:** $8M — wellness centres

Return on Investment:

Direct Cost Savings (Conservative Estimates):
– **Reduced property crime/theft:** $5M annually
– **Reduced 911/emergency response:** $3M annually
– **Total annual savings:** $8M. The jail savings are counted once, as funding above, not again here.

Indirect Economic Benefits:
– **Property value increases** in safer neighborhoods
– **Business development** in previously high-crime areas
– **Reduced fear** enabling economic activity
– **Workforce participation** as people feel safe leaving homes

Human Benefits (Unquantifiable but Real):
– Lives saved (fewer homicides each year)
– Families preserved (reduced incarceration)
– Trauma prevented (children growing up without violence)
– Trust rebuilt (police-community relationships)
– Hope restored (communities see government delivering)

Implementation Timeline

First 100 Days:

Immediate Actions:
1. **Hire Community Safety Director** reporting to Mayor
2. **Identify first 6 mini substation locations** through community input
3. **Launch co-responder pilot** with 3 teams in highest-need areas
4. **Begin Community Wellness Center planning** with neighborhood partners
5. **Appoint Independent Oversight leaders** (Inspector General, Civilian Review Board)
6. **Review LMPD policies** for constitutional compliance

7. **Community listening tours** in all high-crime neighborhoods

Quick Wins:
– **Increase foot patrols** in commercial districts
– **Launch Safe Passage** pilot at 10 schools
– **Expand Crisis Intervention Team** training
– **Release use of force data** publicly
– **Announce mini substation locations** for Year 1

Year 1 (First 12 Months):

Mini Police Substations:
– Q1-Q2: Renovate/lease first 6 locations
– Q2-Q3: Recruit and train first 36 beat officers
– Q3: Open first 6 substations with community celebrations
– Q4: Evaluate, adjust, plan next 12 locations

Community Wellness Centers:
– Q1-Q2: Identify first 6 center locations, secure facilities
– Q2-Q3: Hire staff, establish partnerships (health systems, FQHCs, nonprofits)
– Q3-Q4: Open first 6 centers
– Q4: Evaluate operations, plan next 6 centers

Co-Responder Teams:
– Q1: Launch 3 pilot teams
– Q2: Evaluate and expand to 9 teams
– Q3: Expand to 15 teams
– Q4: Reach full 18 teams citywide

Violence Prevention:
– Q1-Q2: Launch hospital-based violence intervention at UofL Hospital
– Q2-Q3: Recruit and train 30 violence interrupters
– Q3: Deploy street outreach teams in 6 neighborhoods
– Q4: Evaluate and expand

Accountability:
– Q1: Inspector General and enhanced Civilian Review Board operational
– Q2-Q4: Implement policy reforms, training changes
– Ongoing: Monthly public reports on progress

Years 2-4:

Year 2:
– **12 additional mini substations** (24 total operational)
– **6 additional Community Wellness Centers** (12 total)

– **Expand violence prevention** to 10 neighborhoods
– **Measurable crime reduction** in Year 1 intervention areas

Year 3:
– Continue expansion based on community need and budget
– **Data-driven adjustments** based on first 2 years
– **Scale successful pilots**, discontinue what doesn't work
– **25% reduction in violent crime** from baseline

Year 4:
– **Reach steady-state operations** for all initiatives
– **Institutionalize reforms** so they outlast any mayor
– **35% reduction in violent crime** from baseline
– **Community trust** in public safety systems rebuilt

Success Metrics & Accountability

Crime Statistics (Measured Quarterly):

Violent Crime:
– Homicides: Target under 77 homicides by Year 4 (a 30% cut from 2025's 110, recorded in the city's gun violence data)
– Non-fatal shootings: Target 30% reduction from 2025's 262 (under 183)
– Aggravated assault: Target 20% reduction
– Robbery: Target 25% reduction

Clearance Rates:
– Homicides: Target 70%+
– Shootings: Target 60%+
– Aggravated assault: Target 65%+

Property Crime:
– Burglary: Target 20% reduction
– Vehicle theft: Target 15% reduction
– Theft from vehicles: Target 25% reduction

Community Trust (Measured Annually via Survey):

- Trust in LMPD: Target 60%+ (baseline set by the first annual survey)
- Feel safe in neighborhood: Target 70%+ (baseline set by the first annual survey)
- Satisfied with police response: Target 75%+ (baseline set by the first annual survey)
- Would call police for help: Target 80%+ (baseline set by the first annual survey)

- Police treat community fairly: Target 70%+ (baseline set by the first annual survey)

Police Performance:

- Use of force incidents: Target 40% reduction
- Complaints against officers: Target 30% reduction
- Officer-involved shootings: Target 50% reduction
- Body camera compliance: Target 99%+
- Response times: Under 8 minutes for emergencies

Service Delivery:

- Community Wellness Center participants: 50,000+ annually by Year 4
- Co-responder calls: 10,000+ annually
- Violence prevention contacts: 5,000+ at-risk youth annually
- Mini substation walk-ins: 100+ per substation monthly

Economic Indicators:

- Property values in intervention areas: 10%+ increase
- New business openings in high-crime areas: 25% increase
- Commercial vacancy rates: 20% decrease
- Employment in intervention areas: 15% increase

Transparency Requirements:

Public Dashboards (Updated Monthly):
– Crime statistics by neighborhood
– Police use of force incidents
– Response times by district
– Complaint investigations and outcomes
– Community Wellness Center usage
– Violence prevention contacts
– Budget spending vs. plan

Annual Reports:
– Comprehensive evaluation of all initiatives
– Cost-benefit analysis
– Community feedback and satisfaction
– Recommendations for improvements
– Independent audit of data accuracy

Community Input:
– Quarterly town halls in each Metro Council district
– Community Advisory Boards for substations and wellness centers
– Annual community safety summit
– Ongoing engagement through Community Wellness Centers

Related Glossary Terms

Core Public Safety Terms:
– Mini Police Substation
– Community Policing
– Beat Policing
– Neighborhood Policing
– Community Wellness Center
– Co-Responder Model
– Crisis Intervention Team
– Violence Prevention
– Violence Interrupter

Police Reform & Accountability:
– Police Accountability
– Constitutional Policing
– Consent Decree
– Civilian Oversight
– Use of Force
– Body Cameras
– Implicit Bias
– Procedural Justice

Prevention & Intervention:
– Social Determinants of Health
– Wraparound Services
– Trauma-Informed Care
– Conflict Mediation
– Restorative Justice
– Recidivism
– Reentry Programs
– Cure Violence Model

Community Engagement:
– Community Organizing
– Participatory Democracy

– Community Advisory Board
– Resident Leadership
– Civic Engagement

Full glossary available at: rundaverun.org/glossary

Frequently Asked Questions

Why not just hire more police officers?

More officers doesn't equal more safety. LMPD has about 1,000 sworn officers (1,010 in Metro's own 2025 count). The problem isn't quantity, it's **strategy**. Traditional patrol officers respond to calls then leave. Beat officers in mini substations build relationships and prevent crime through presence and partnership. Plus, we need mental health professionals, violence interrupters, and community health workers—not just more cops—to address root causes.

Can Louisville afford this?

We can't afford NOT to. Violent crime costs Louisville money every year in medical care, lost productivity, reduced property values, and business flight. On average, one homicide costs Louisville about $934,000, and each non-fatal shooting about $509,000 (Louisville Metro Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, cost of gun violence report, 2023). This plan costs $153.01M annually at full build, $64.26M of it officers LMPD already pays, moved from patrol, and saves money through reduced incarceration, ER visits, and crime. It's **budget-neutral within the $1.13 billion Metro budget** through smart reallocations from ineffective spending to proven prevention.

How is this different from current community policing?

LMPD claims to do community policing but doesn't deliver. True community policing requires:
– **Officers permanently assigned** to specific neighborhoods (not rotating assignments)
– **Officers on foot/bike** building relationships (not in cars responding to calls)
– **Physical presence** in the community (not just during shifts)
– **Problem-solving partnerships** (not arrest quotas)

Mini substations enable REAL community policing. Current LMPD deployment is traditional patrol with "community policing" label.

What about violent criminals who need to be locked up?

Public safety requires BOTH accountability and prevention. Serious violent offenders

absolutely should be prosecuted and incarcerated. But:
– **Many people in jail haven't been convicted** (pretrial detention for inability to pay bail)
– **Many arrests are for poverty-related crimes** (trespassing, shoplifting, drug possession) that don't require incarceration
– **Prevention keeps people from becoming violent criminals** in the first place
– **Reentry support prevents released individuals from reoffending**

Smart public safety means appropriate consequences for serious crime PLUS prevention addressing root causes so fewer people turn to crime.

Won't this reduce police presence and make neighborhoods less safe?

It moves police presence rather than adding officers. The 378 substation officers come out of patrol, so fewer patrol cars drive through, and some patrol posts stay empty as officers leave. In their place, every ZIP code gets officers based in it, walking the neighborhood daily and answering calls in their zone. Neighborhoods will see the same officers on foot, and know them by name. Plus Community Wellness Centers, co-responders, and violence interrupters add hundreds of additional public safety professionals. Total public safety presence increases significantly.

How do you prevent corruption or abuse in mini substations?

Robust accountability mechanisms:
– Community Advisory Boards with oversight authority
– Quarterly crime statistics published per substation
– Community satisfaction surveys
– Independent Inspector General audits
– Civilian Review Board investigates complaints
– Body cameras required during all interactions
– Officers can be removed based on community feedback

Community oversight ensures substations serve neighborhoods, not the reverse.

What if officers don't want to work in mini substations?

Officers will VOLUNTEER for these assignments. Many officers chose policing to help communities but are frustrated by current deployment that prevents relationship-building. Mini substations attract officers who want to do real community policing. Plus:
– **Safer working environment** (community support vs. community hostility)
– **More satisfying work** (building relationships vs. responding to calls)
– **Career development** (community policing experience valued for promotions)
– **Better schedules** (consistent assignment vs. rotating shifts)

Staffing challenge will be selecting among applicants, not finding volunteers.

What about police union opposition?

Partnership, not confrontation. This plan:
– **Keeps LMPD's budget flat** (substation officers are reassigned from patrol, volunteers first; no officer is laid off)
– **Improves working conditions** (safer, more satisfying assignments)
– **Provides training and development** (career advancement opportunities)
– **Addresses officer wellness** (mental health support, trauma counseling)
– **Maintains competitive pay**

Union leadership may have concerns, but rank-and-file officers often support community policing when done properly. We'll engage FOP from day one, address legitimate concerns, and build partnership.

How do Community Wellness Centers relate to public safety?

Addressing root causes prevents crime. People turn to crime due to:
– **Economic desperation** (no jobs, no income, no opportunities)
– **Mental health crises** (untreated illness, trauma, substance abuse)
– **System barriers** (criminal records, eviction history, lack of education)
– **Hopelessness** (no path to better life)

Community Wellness Centers address ALL these factors—connecting people to jobs, treatment, housing, education, and hope. **Prevention is more effective and humane than punishment after the fact.**

What happens if crime doesn't decrease as projected?

Data-driven adjustments. We'll measure progress quarterly:
– **What works gets expanded**
– **What doesn't work gets modified or discontinued**
– **Resources shift to highest-impact interventions**
– **Community input guides adjustments**

Reviews of focused deterrence programs in other cities find a moderate overall reduction in crime (Braga, Weisburd & Turchan, 2018), though results vary by program. If Louisville sees less impact, we'll analyze why, engage experts, and adapt. **Transparency and accountability ensure we deliver results, not excuses.**

Conclusion: A New Vision for Public Safety

Louisville's public safety crisis isn't inevitable—it's the **result of failed strategies** that

emphasized punishment over prevention, enforcement over partnership, and reaction over addressing root causes.

I offer a fundamentally different approach: Community safety through genuine partnership between police and residents. Prevention addressing root causes before people turn to crime. Mental health professionals responding to mental health crises. Violence interrupters stopping conflicts before they escalate. Officers who know neighbors by name and are known in return.

This isn't soft on crime—**it's smart on safety.** Every dollar invested in prevention eases the cost of emergency response, incarceration, and crime. Every life saved from violence is a family that doesn't suffer unimaginable grief. Every young person connected to opportunity instead of arrested is a taxpayer instead of a cost.

Louisville deserves better. Our children deserve to play safely in parks. Our families deserve to walk streets without fear. Our businesses deserve to thrive without crime strangling economic vitality. Every neighborhood deserves equal protection AND equal respect.

The choice is clear: Continue failed strategies that waste money while leaving communities unsafe? Or embrace proven approaches that build genuine safety through partnership and prevention?

I will deliver community safety through community partnership.

Because public safety isn't about control—it's about trust.

For more information:
– Full glossary of public safety terms: rundaverun.org/glossary
– Implementation research report: [Available on request]
– Community input: rundaverun.org/community-safety-input

Questions or feedback: dave@rundaverun.org

Paid for by Dave Biggers

What This Means for YOUR Neighborhood

Every Louisville neighborhood is unique. Enter your ZIP code to see how this policy directly impacts your community:

Find Your Mini Substation

Enter your ZIP code to see when your neighborhood will receive a community police substation.

Find My Substation

63 mini substations across Louisville, at least one in every ZIP code, phased in over 4 years.

Part of my comprehensive public safety plan.

See the Budget Impact

Explore how this policy fits into my comprehensive $1.13 billion budget plan:

How Does My Budget Affect You?

See your personalized impact - zero tax increase, real benefits

Household Income $50,000 50000
Children in JCPS 0 0
Your ZIP Code

Your Personal Impact

How we calculate: Benefits based on average family savings from wellness center access ($800/year), youth program value (after-school + summer jobs), and your specific mini substation timeline. All benefits come from the same $1.13B budget - zero tax increase.

Share your results with friends and family:

 Share My Results

⚖ Compare This Policy

See how my approach differs from current administration policies:

⚖ My Plan, Category by Category

Pick a category to see what my plan does, how it is paid for, and when it arrives.

 Share This Plan Print This Plan
 Public Safety Wellness Youth Economy Housing Transparency

Public Safety & Policing

My Plan

Community-based mini substations

Approach

- 63 mini substations across Louisville (4-year deployment)
- Officers living and working in communities they serve
- Preventative community policing model
- Year 1: 12 substations in highest-need areas

Timeline Year 1-4 phased rollout
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Projected response times: 3-5 minutes (campaign estimate)

Mental Health & Wellness

My Plan

Wellness centers placed by health need

Approach

- I will place 18 Community Wellness Centers by health need (CDC PLACES 2024 plus Census poverty data)
- Mental health counseling, addiction support
- Youth programs, family services
- At least one center in every LMPD division

Timeline 6 centers a year over Years 1-3
Budget $45M a year when fully built (18 centers at $2.5M each), inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible care within every neighborhood, preventative focus

Youth Development

My Plan

Comprehensive youth investment

Approach

- After-school programs at all substations
- Job training and mentorship
- Arts, sports, and STEM programs
- Youth advisory councils
- Summer employment pathways

Timeline Immediate implementation with substation rollout
Budget $32.5M for youth programs, inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible programs in every neighborhood

Economic Development

My Plan

Community wealth building

Approach

- Small business incubators at substations
- Local hiring requirements for city contracts
- Neighborhood-based economic zones

- Affordable housing protection
- Living wage standards

Timeline Immediate policy changes, 4-year infrastructure build
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Jobs and wealth stay in neighborhoods

Housing & Affordability

My Plan

Housing as a human right

Approach

- Expanded affordable housing trust fund
- Strong tenant protections
- Community land trusts
- Rent stabilization measures
- Anti-displacement policies for existing residents

Timeline Immediate policy changes
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Protects residents, prevents displacement

Government Transparency

My Plan

Radical transparency

Approach

- Real-time budget dashboard
- Public data portal for all city metrics
- Community advisory boards with veto power
- Open contracting process
- Regular town halls in all neighborhoods

Timeline Immediate implementation

Budget Low-cost digital infrastructure
Impact Citizens empowered with information and decision-making power

The Choice is Clear

Louisville deserves transformative change, not more of the same. Join us in building a city that works for everyone.

Join the Campaign Read Full Policy Platform

Share This Policy

Help spread the word about my vision for Louisville:

Related Policies You Might Like

How to Vote for Me

I am a write-in candidate: in the race for Mayor, mark the write-in spot and write **DAVE BIGGERS** (the last name, Biggers, is required).

Early voting, no excuse needed: October 29–31 · Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 6 AM to 6 PM. Registration for the November 3 election closed October 5.

✓ Check My Registration and Polling Place View All Election Dates →

Stay Updated on This Policy

Get notified when this policy is updated or when I speak about this issue in YOUR neighborhood.

* indicates a required field

Email Signup Information
Fax Number (Leave blank)
Name *
Email * We'll send you updates about the campaign
Zip Code 5-digit zip code (optional)
☐ I'm interested in volunteering! We'll send you information about volunteer opportunities
Sign Up

We use your details only to reach you about the campaign. Privacy Policy

Have Ideas to Improve This Policy?

This is YOUR city. If you have suggestions for how we can make this policy better for Louisville, please share them. Every idea is reviewed.

Suggest an Improvement for Louisville

Have an idea for improving Louisville? Share your policy suggestion below. Your voice matters in shaping our city's future.

Policy Title *
Description *
0/2000 characters
Category Select a category...
Your Name *
Your Email *
ZIP Code (Optional)
☐ I agree that my suggestion may be reviewed and potentially incorporated into campaign policy. My email will only be used to notify me about the status of my suggestion.
Submit Suggestion

NOT ME, WE.

Together, we make Louisville better for everyone.