



The Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery (OVPTR) was created by Mayor Ras J. Baraka in June of 2020. It is headquartered at the former 1st Precinct of the City of Newark Police Division, located in the Central Ward, and will host program services and a Museum to honor the city's long fight for racial integration and social healing

► **Mission & Vision**

The vision of the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery is a City of Newark where public safety and public health work hand-in-hand to address the underlying causes of violence. OVPTR wishes to see a city where rebuilding and healing our community shifts the culture from trauma to trust. The OVPTR's mission is multi-faceted We will provide services that will address trauma-related issues and promote prevention strategies to enhance the quality of life for all Newark residents. The Office will approach violence from a Public Health perspective, emphasizing education, advocacy, community healing, social impact, and interventions.

► **Core Values**

Empathy and integrity are key requirements of any member of OVPTR, who are duly trained on Trauma and Trust, Conflict, and Crisis Intervention to better serve communities and coordinate services with law enforcement.

We work by four main values:

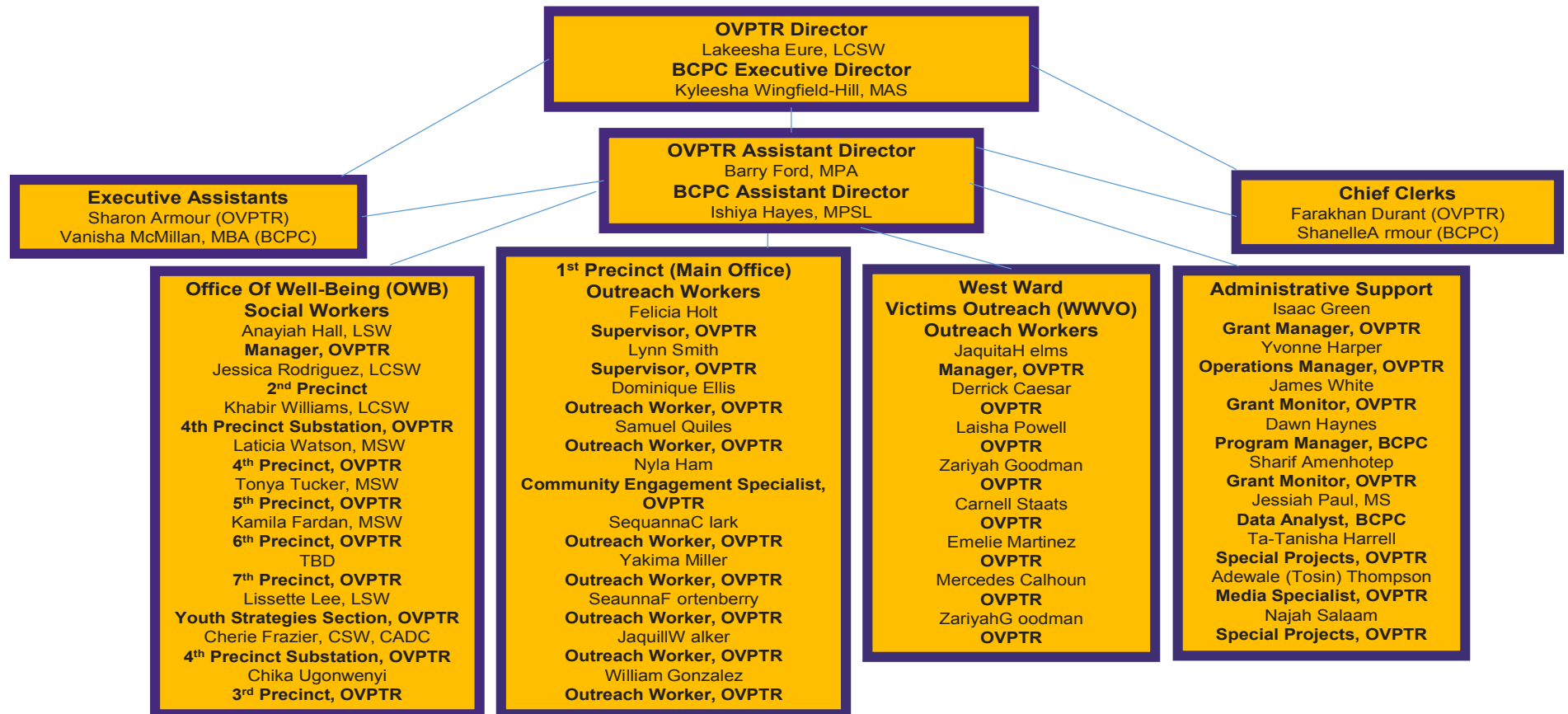
- **Compassion** – we aspire to relieve suffering through open-hearted and holistic engagements.
- **Caring** – we commit to being consistently equitable, healing safe spaces in our City through innovative and effective strategies.
- **Community** – we empower our residents to take part in restorative justice, and contributors to the wellbeing and health of the community.
- **Collaboration** – fostering synergy and collaborations with stakeholders, businesses, government, and universities to address the root of shared trauma in the City of Newark. Establishing the center as a national think tank on Violent Crime Reduction and Trauma Healing.



OVPTR, HEADQUARTERS



**OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TRAUMA RECOVERY (OVPTR) AND BRICK CITY PEACE COLLECTIVE (BCPC)
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**







Newark has a long history of violence prevention and intervention through its local organizations and community leaders. Acting daily on the streets and working closely with residents, these organizations have been fulfilling an important role in caring for victims and protecting communities long before our Office was conceived.

National organizations, such as **Equal Justice USA (EJUSA)**, have been paving the way to transform the justice system by promoting responses to violence that break cycles of trauma. Equal Justice USA works at the intersection of criminal justice, public health and racial justice to elevate healing over retribution, care for survivors, advance racial equity and build community safety.

In Newark, EJUSA partnered with the **Newark Anti-Violence Coalition (NAVC)**, founded in 2009 by Mayor Baraka, to develop their strategic plan. A grass-roots community organization created out of residents' outrage with young lives being interrupted because of violence, NAVC started working directly with victims and their families offering support in court, applying for family compensation, advocating for more trauma-informed education in schools, and were able to get a city-wide acknowledgment of gun violence as a public health issue.

The **Newark Community Street Team (NCST)**, founded in 2015 by Mayor Baraka and Aqeela Sherrills, also works directly with residents as a community evidence-based, trauma-informed, violence education strategy. It hires, trains and deploys community-based nontraditional outreach workers and high-risk interventionists in the South Ward and West Wards of Newark. It includes those who have been incarcerated and those who have been engaged in the drug trade, to (a) provide casework to those at greatest risk of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence; (b) engage in high-risk intervention, both mediating ongoing disputes that may result in violence and preventing retaliation; (c) offer safe passage at contracted schools; and (d) provide support to crime

survivors who are overlooked by traditional victim services agencies.

Youth has been and remains a key focus of this collaborative work. In 2016, **The Newark Opportunity Youth Network (NOYN)** began its work after nearly 10 years of work as YouthBuild Newark, an affiliate of YouthBuild USA. Founded by Robert Clark, a former YouthBuild graduate, the initiative provides young people ages 16-24 years old with an opportunity to earn a GED while gaining on-the-job training through community building projects.

YouthBuild Newark, a comprehensive youth and community development program operating for more than 30 years across the country, which addresses core issues facing low-income communities: education, housing, employment, crime prevention and leadership development;

My Brother's Keeper Newark (MBK) established in 2014 by Mayor Baraka, it is part of a national alliance to support black and Latino young men by focusing on mentoring, violence reduction and second chances, and connecting boys and men with living wage jobs.

Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative the table where impactful players in youth workforce development gather and work together to establish a clear school-to-workplace pipeline for Newark's young people.





Also created by Mayor Baraka to support youth is the **Newark Street Academy (NSA)**, a program for disengaged youth between the ages of 16-24 years who have dropped out of school. NSA offers a 20-week cohort to 75 youth a year that includes case management, job readiness, vocational training and knowledge of self curriculum.

The West Ward Victims Outreach Services (WWVOS) program provides trauma support services to young men of color ages 18-30 in Newark's West Ward who have been impacted by trauma and victimization. Support services include mental health counselling, housing assistance, social services, legal aid, crime victim compensation assistance, and job readiness training.

Because evidence-based and data driven decisions are at the heart of Newark's approach to reduce violent crime and enhance public safety, **the Newark Public Safety Collaborative (NPSC)**, formed in 2018 as part of the Rutgers-Newark School of Criminal Justice Anchor Initiative, working in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, community grass-roots organizations and large corporations, provides key support by making data analytics and research evidence accessible to its members, local community groups and change agents.

Community collaboration also finds a strong supporter in **The HUBB Arts & Trauma Center**, one of the Mayor's "Center for Hope" The HUBB has become a beacon, offering beneficial activities and opportunities to youth residents of a subsidized housing complex, in an ongoing attempt to build equity. This has included job fairs, health screenings, and discussions on mental wellness, violence, abuse, arts and trauma recovery. Finally, Newark Community Solutions (NCS) does a transformational work in criminal justice by offering

transformational work in criminal justice by offering judges with increased sentencing options for non-violent offenses such as drug possession, prostitution, and shoplifting. By expanding the use of community service and social service mandates, NCS reduces the court's reliance on ineffective fines and expensive short-term jail sentences, enhances procedural justice, and builds public confidence in justice.

To be successful, violence prevention programs require the commitment and participation of a range of community stakeholders starting with the residents of the City of Newark and extending to "every institutional stakeholder, including universities, small businesses, public schools, corporations, nonprofits, and philanthropic organizations."³ The Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery will be charged with this responsibility.

Through the **Brick City Peace Collective (BCPC)**, **OVPTR** aims at strengthening collaboration of existing organizations while simultaneously linking residents to supportive services and needed resources. Sixteen organizations have already joined forces at BCPC: Newark Board of Education, Newark Public Safety Office, Brick Education, NSA, Rutgers, WJBH, MBK, the HUBB, EJUSA, WWVOS, NAVC, New Black Panther Party, NPSC, NCST, My Sister's Keeper, West-Ward Victims Outreach, NOYN, and NCS.

This unprecedented collaboration between City and community-based organizations will generate a strategic systemic change on how we address violence prevention and trauma recovery. Together, CPC members will meet periodically to rethink and redesign city-wide strategies that leverage all existing resources and gathered knowledge. BCPC members, together with the OVPTA Advisory Group, will work hand in hand with our Office to implement the strategies set in this Strategic Plan.



OV PTR | AFFILIATES & PARTNERSHIPS

All Stars Project

One Gateway Center, Suite 740
11-43 Raymond Plaza West
Newark, NJ 07102

Be The Changemakers

751 Palisades Ave
Suite 202
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Butterfly Dreamz, Inc.

4215 W 25th Ave
Gary, IN 46404

Circle of Life Treatment Center

55 Tillinghast St
Newark, NJ 07108

Complex Vision

316 Meeker Avenue
Newark, NJ 07112

Gateway U

35 Treat Place
Newark, NJ 07106

Goode Education Group

26 Park Street
Suite 2210
Montclair, NJ 07042

Hear My Cries

728 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ 07108

Bessie Green Community Inc. High School

Academic Program
510 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

HigherSelf (Legal Name: Higher Lifestyle Corporation)

7 Warren Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Hope Love Kindness LLC

654 Lincoln Ave
Newark, NJ 07050

Inspired By U LLC

191 Central Ave
Suite 228
Newark, NJ 07103

Joi's Angels

114 So. Arlington St
East Orange, NJ 07018

Literally No Days Off, LLC

355 South 6th Street
Newark, NJ 07103

Newark Community Street Team

915 S 16th St
Newark, NJ 07108

Newark Community Street Team Trauma Recovery Center

915 S 16th St
Newark, NJ 07018

Newark Community Street Team Field Operations (Safe Passage)

915 S 16th St
Newark, NJ 07018

Newark Community Street Team Victim Services

915 S 16th St
Newark, NJ 07018

Newark Community Street Team High Risk Intervention

915 S 16th St
Newark, NJ 07108

Newark Opportunity Youth Network

60 Park Place, 14th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

New Direction

135 Prince Street
Newark, NJ 07103

Next Generation Project

60 Park Pl Suite 308
Newark, NJ 07102

North Jersey AIDS Alliance, Inc. dba North Jersey Community Research Initiative

393 Central Ave.
Newark, NJ 07103

REFAL Inc. (REFAL Healing Academy)

500 Springfield Ave
Newark, NJ 07103

RZTHEFLAGS

68-70 Clinton Ave
Newark, NJ 07114

Striving Together Equals Progress, Inc. STEP

PO Box 207181
Newark, NJ 07102

Team Resurrection Inc.

172 16th Ave
Newark, NJ 07103

The Baddie University

456 Leslie Street 2L
Newark, NJ 07112

The HUBB Arts & Trauma Center

135 Prince Street
Lower Level
Newark, NJ 07103

Until Freedom (The Penny Foundation)

United Community Corporation

332 S. 8th Street
Newark, NJ 07103

University Hospital Community Population Health Services

150 Bergen
Newark, NJ 07101

URBAN CARE LLC

495 Washington St, ste 202
Newark, NJ 07102

Voices International Publications

219-40 112th Ave
Queens Village, NY 11429

Weequahic Park Association

92 Thomas Carmichael Dr.
Newark, NJ 07114

Street to Street sub Squash the Beef - WAVI

972 Broad St
Newark, NJ 07102

KPI Reporting Period – 10/8 - 10/21/23

Category	Central Ward Current 1 Period	East Ward Current 1 Period	North Ward Current 1 Period	South Ward Current 1 Period	West Ward Current 1 Period	No Newark Address + Current Resided	Total Current 1 Period	Total Previous Period	% Increase / Decrease	Year To-Date	Year Goal	Year Goal To-Date	Notes
New Clients	16	4	22	41	50	14	147	157	-6%	3520	5000	70%	
Existing Clients	12	3	19	37	42	7	120	140	-14%				
New & Existing Clients	28	7	41	78	92	21	267	297	-10%				
Direct Resources Provision (Education Assistance, Employment Assistance, Meal Provision, Essential Documents Support, Clothing Provision, Social Services Application Support)	21	4	33	49	61	15	183	180	2%	3896	2500	156%	
Informational Services (Information about the criminal justice process, victim rights, Referral to other victim service program and other supports including legal, medical, faith-based organizations, and address confidentiality programs, etc.)	9	2	11	37	52	7	118	139	-15%	1780	1500	119%	
Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment Services (Accompaniment to emergency medical care, forensic exams, law enforcement interviews, assistance in applying for public benefits,	3	0	2	12	15	0	32	31	3%	1286	2000	64%	
return of personal property or effects immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief), Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution, child or dependent care assistance, transportation assistance)													
Emotional & Safety Counseling Services Crisis intervention, Hotline/crisis line counseling, Individual counseling, support groups, other therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.), emergency financial assistance)	5	2	12	10	67	2	98	93	5%	2151	2000	108%	
Emergency Shelter/Housing Services (Emergency shelter or safe house, transitional housing, and relocation assistance)	0	0	0	3	1	5	9	28	-68%	512	500	102%	
Criminal/Civil Justice Assistance Services (Notification of criminal justice events, Victim impact statement assistance, assistance with restitution, civil legal assistance in obtaining protection, restraining order or family law issues, other emergency justice-related assistance, prosecution or law enforcement interview, or other legal advice and/or counsel)	3	0	4	3	5	0	15	12	25%	352	1000	35%	
Community/School Events Facilitated/Supported	2	0	3	0	0	0	5	2	150%	128	100	128%	
Individuals Engaged Through Community Events	0	1	145	2	308	0	456	445	2%	8735	5000	175%	
On-Scene Crisis Responses	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0%	63	100	63%	
Safe Surrenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	3	100	3%	A new strategy for Safe Surrender promotion needs to be established.
Victims of Crime Compensation Office Applications (VCCO)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0%	134	200	67%	
OPRA Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	N/A	N/A	

Other Optional Notes:

- One Hood
- RFP Update
- Mayor's Leadership Academy



INSIDER NJ

MAYOR BARAKA TO UNVEIL OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TRAUMA RECOVERY STRATEGIC PLAN

April 24, 2023, 11:20 pm | In



MAYOR BARAKA TO UNVEIL OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TRAUMA RECOVERY STRATEGIC PLAN

AS PART OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, AT 11 A.M. IN CITY HALL PRESS ROOM

OVPTR works to break generational cycles that leads to violence and trauma; groundbreaking plan has four goals

Newark, NJ –April 24, 2023 – Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery Lakeisha Dure, and Assemblywoman Shanique Speight will hold a press conference on **Wednesday, April 26, at 11 a.m.**, to launch the City of Newark's Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery's (OVPTR) Strategic Plan, in the **City Hall Press Room**. City Hall is located at 920 Broad Street.

Patch

Here's How Newark Plans To Fight Crime This Summer (VIDEO)

Newark police are launching a 'summer crime reduction initiative' in 2023. Here's what that means for public safety in the city.

Erin Kikter Fox for Patch

Posted Thu, May 25, 2023, 4:45:45 pm ET

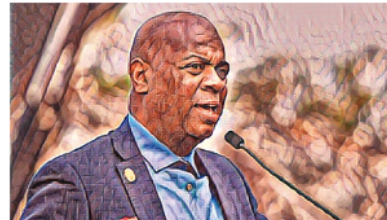
Reply (1)



nj.com True Jersey.

Newark's mayor: Non-law enforcement people helped us reduce crime | Opinion

Published: Apr. 24, 2023, 11:19 a.m.



Mayor Ras Baraka says the key to reducing crime is creating "trustable messengers" – soldiers who are not star or pale activists, including social workers, clergy, the formerly incarcerated, or anyone else with deep connections in neighborhoods.

137 shares



29+ Coolest Gifts Nobody Would Think Of

GROUND

Home For You Local Blindspot | Israel-Palestinian Co... US Economy

Is crime a public health issue? Newark is now treating it as one

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka used National Crime Victims' Rights Week to unveil a new strategic plan for the city's Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery — a new initiative dedicated to confronting and removing barriers to justice for crime victims. Baraka said the OVPTR will use a holistic and comprehensive approach to crime and [...]

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HO-NJ
 Is crime a public health issue? Newark is now treating it as one
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NJ URBAN NEWS

A Voice for the Voiceless

Newark rallies against violence

By NJ Urban News | 4/24/2023

On Thursday, Aug. 28, the Newark City Peace Collective (NCPC) and the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery (OVPTR) continued its campaign to rally and unite the city against the recent spike of violence.

The action took place on Chadwick Avenue and West Barton Street. The march and rally will be the last of the Summer leading up to a CityWide Action this Saturday, Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. Called a State Of Emergency Call To Action A Citywide Community Walk Against Violence will spotlight participants marching from each of Newark's five wards converging at West Side High School for a special event.

Launched early in July, these rallying efforts are reminiscent of the historic efforts of the Newark AntiViolence Coalition's epic 155 week protest against violence that began back in 2009.



TAP into Newark

Your Neighborhood News Online

Events Arts & Entertainment

Newark's Annual Latin Festival 2023

Add to Calendar

Sun, August 20

12:00 PM — 10:00 PM

Bloomfield Avenue
 Bloomfield Avenue (Lake St. to Clifton Ave)
 Newark, NJ 07102



Photo Credit: Tylor Brown/TAP into Newark

Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Deputy Mayor for Community Engagement Jacqueline Quiles, and the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery (OVPTR) will host the Annual Latin Festival on Sunday, Aug. 20, from noon to 10 p.m., on Bloomfield Avenue between Lake Street and Clifton Avenue, in Newark's North Ward.

A key aspect of OVPTR is getting the community involved to help shape and implement our programs and priorities. Our Director as well as our Advisory Group and all staff members from OVPTR and partner programs have years of experience working directly with communities, being residents at high-risk communities and working daily with victims and perpetrators to interrupt the cycle of violence in Newark. Preventing violence is not only what they do, but also their mission in life.

Despite the in-person meeting restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to hold productive meeting sessions through the Newark People's Assemblies. During April and May of 2021, we held five different virtual meetings with residents of all of the five wards to present our key goals for OVPTR and listen to their suggestions and concerns. We were joined by key members of the Public Health and Public Safety departments who listed and answered to questions from residents.

Sessions were held in English, as well as in Spanish and Portuguese, when applicable, and participants could join by Zoom and Facebook. Residents shared their personal stories and key issues of their communities and offered recommendations on how to prioritize allocation of OVPTR resources.



OVPTR EVENTS

