

To: Masters of Public Administration Program

From: Jasmin DeArmond

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Re: Public Policy Memo

A significant public problem is the growing number of homicides in my hometown Tacoma Washington. High homicide rates cause the community to have an unhealthy level of fear and stress which can contribute to health issues. Reported in local papers violence is particularly bad in Tacoma which saw 45 killings in 2022 (Talbot). Due to these homicides, the Tacoma Police Department has initiated Tacoma Police's Violence Crime Reduction Plan. At the moment the plan is in phase two which involves blight abatement and disrupting crime networks (Crime). In addition, Tacoma community members have responded with several calls to actions, marches, meetings and groups organizing which have brought folks together to build strategies.

Tacoma News Tribune reports that "Crime stats for Tacoma 2022 was the deadliest year on record" (Talbot). Tacoma's homicide rate is reaching numbers not seen since the 1990's when crime, homicide and violence were high. Teens raised in high levels of violence, fights, shootings and school lockdowns weaken their mental health and increase their death body count. Our community needs to be strong and help each other through these hard times by standing together.

During Mayor Woodards State of the City speech she addresses the "deeply distressing uptick in violence" as she begs for the community members to not give up

on Tacoma (YouTube). Unfortunately no one is safe from homicide, “violent death reached the oldest and youngest people and the motivations of their killers ranged from petty disputes to a decade old grudge, drug and gang related killings, domestic violence, road rage, robbery and self defense” (Talbot). Tacoma is resilient and with the help and support of the community, the leaders and police we hope to build a brighter future.

Citations:

Crime reduction plan. Home - City of Tacoma. (2022, July 12).

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/police/crime_reduction_plan

Talbot, P. (2023, January 17). Bucking national trend, Tacoma recorded its highest tally of homicides on record in 2022 . *The News Tribune* . Retrieved June 1, 2023, from <https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article270902872.html>.

YouTube. (2022). *Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards delivers the State of the City address*. *King 5 News*. Retrieved June 10, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiXVI4AisM>.