



# Breaking The Cycle of Gun Violence Through Community Intervention: How to Define, Fund, Measure, and Sustain Community Violence Interventions

Webinar Co-Sponsored by the Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group, the DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network, and Tifereth Israel Congregation (D.C.)

June 16, 2022, 7:00-9:00 PM via Zoom

[Register](#)

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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| 1. Welcome, Thanks and Introduction- Steve Klitzman, Chair, Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group, Co-Founder & Organizer, DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network | 4. Commentator Comments/Questions      |
| 2. Opening Prayer – Rabbi Hannah Goldstein, Temple Sinai                                                                                                                           | 5. Audience Q&A                        |
| 3. Panel Discussion                                                                                                                                                                | 6. Conclusion: What You Can Do to Help |

## SPEAKERS (Bios are located on reverse side)

### MODERATOR

Mr. Greg Jackson: Executive Director, Community Justice Action Fund

### COMMENTATOR

Ms. Lashonia Thompson-El: Executive Director, Peace for D.C; Former Co-Chief, Violence Reduction Unit, "Cure the Streets " program, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

### PANELISTS

**Street Violence Intervention:** Mr. Dante Johnson, Manager, Community Violence Intervention Program Operations, Baltimore Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and Former Site Director, Safe Streets- Baltimore

**Hospital - Based Violence Intervention:** Dr. Erin Hall: Critical Care Emergency Trauma Physician, MedStar Washington Hospital Center; and Manager, Hospital-Based Violence Intervention for D.C.

**Mentorship Programs for Those Most at Risk:** Mr. James Timpson, Director for Community Partnerships & Safety, ROCA Maryland, and the ROCA Impact Institute.

**Victim Services or Healing Programs:** Ms. Veronica Land-Davis: Executive Director, Roberta's House, a "Family Grief Support Center," Baltimore, MD.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ❖ The Temple Sinai GVP Group is presenting its second Zoom Webinar of 2022 on "community violence intervention" (CVI) programs. These are community-based, public health oriented, data-driven strategies which already have documented reduced gun violence in some U.S. communities, e.g., in Oakland, CA, Detroit, MI, St. Louis, MO, Boston, MA, and New York City, less so yet in D.C., Baltimore, and Pittsburgh, etc. President Biden's original "Build Back Better" budget plan would have authorized \$5 billion over 8 years for these CVI programs across the country. GVP activists are now supporting a separate CVI authorization and appropriation of \$750 million for Fiscal year 2023.
- ❖ The purpose of the Webinar is to raise public awareness of the need for, and potential effectiveness, of CVI programs to reduce gun violence in America.
- ❖ The four panelists noted above will represent different evidence-based models being used across the country to intervene vs gun violence. They'll discuss what their programs do, how their approaches differ, how they measure their effectiveness, and what resources they need to sustain their important work.
- ❖ Contact: Steve Klitzman at [steve.klitzman@gmail.com](mailto:steve.klitzman@gmail.com).

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Gregory Jackson, Jr.** is the Executive Director of the Community Justice Fund, a leading advocate for federal funding of community violence intervention programs. He has led Community Engagement and Communications for the D.C. Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (ONSE) and oversaw violence reducing programs and direct engagement of residents most at risk of gun violence in D.C. Mr. Jackson was a gun violence survivor in 2013. Upon recovery, he became an avid mentor to local at-risk youth. He has also built multiple youth engagement movements like #WeReadDC that has empowered hundreds of volunteers to help youth improve academically through monthly reading events and activities in 26 cities.



**Lashonia Thompson-El** is the Executive Director of Peace for D.C, a new GVP organization "dedicated to finding evidence-based strategies that can stop murders before they happen" and "managing philanthropy to make coordinated investments in violence intervention." She has worked in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where she served as Co-Chief of the Violence Reduction Unit. She helped oversee the "Cure the Streets" program at the OAG where she worked closely with the District's "violence interrupters" and outreach workers to support them in their mission of preventing gun violence in targeted neighborhoods in DC. She used a data-driven process to reduce gun violence and operate in discrete high violence neighborhoods based on a public health approach that confronts gun violence as a disease that can be interrupted, treated, and stopped from spreading. She was incarcerated for nearly 19 years but was paroled in 2011 and steadily rose to high level government positions. Ms. Thompson-El is also the author of *Through the WIRE: My Search for Redemption*; a story about trauma, youth violence, and incarceration.



**Donte Johnson** is a former Site Director for Safe Streets in Baltimore, MD. He currently is the Manager, Community Violence Intervention Program Operations, in the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.



**Dr. Erin Hall** is the Medical Director of the MedStar Washington Hospital Center-Community Violence Intervention program. Currently studying the efficacy of hospital-based violence intervention programs, as well as the civil legal needs of survivors of violent injury, and the effects of policing in hospitals. Double-boarded in general surgery and surgical critical care. Also an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine and has clinical appointments in the Department of Surgery and the Department of Critical Care Medicine at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.



**James A. Timpson ("JT")** is the Director of Community Partnerships and Safety for Roca Maryland and a Senior Advisor to the Roca Impact Institute. Previously, he was the Director of Youth Work and Crisis Intervention for Roca Baltimore and a Liaison Officer for Safe Streets Baltimore. While working at Safe Streets Baltimore, Mr. Timpson, provided oversight and technical assistance to the directors of five community Safe Streets sites. He was also the former Site Director for Safe Streets Park Heights in Baltimore where he led a staff of six Outreach Workers/Violence Interrupters to prevent and reduce homicides in Baltimore's Northwest District.



**Veronica Land-Davis** is the Executive Director of Roberta's House, a "family grief support center" in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, Maryland. She is a licensed certified social worker with over 30 years of clinical experience working with children, adults and families in many settings such as residential treatment centers, child prevention agencies, treatment foster care, Head Start, grief support centers and home health care. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology/Social Work from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work. Ms. Davis received in 2018 a leadership award from the Roper Victim Assistance Academy and in 2021 a John Hopkins SOURCE community service award.