

# Safe Wake

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October 14, 2024



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# Context and background

- **The work around violence prevention efforts began in 2022 with a request from Commissioner Calabria for additional staff resources to pursue this initiative**
- **Over the past two years, staff has conducted research on programs in other communities, conducted environmental scans, and held meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders including the WCSO, US DOJ, US Attorney, and District Attorney**

# Context and background

- **March 13, 2023, Work Session – Commissioners expressed interest in the program addressing all forms of violence**
- **Discussions considered a law enforcement approach and a public health approach, and evolved to a public health approach**
- **Charlotte Mecklenburg and Guilford County programs also use a public health approach**

# Safe Wake Charter

- **The Charter is the document before the board today and the result of discussions with community stakeholders from across the county**
- **Created with input from all partners**
- **Establishes dedicated staff, an Advisory Board, roles and responsibilities**

# Purpose and Vision

**Purpose: reduce violence in Wake County through the development and implementation of forward-thinking strategies, practices, policies, and initiatives.**

**Vision: Safe Wake is Wake County's coordinated strategy for reducing violence through prevention, intervention and community engagement. Relying on a public health approach, Safe Wake will supplement existing law enforcement efforts to promote public safety.**

# Public Health Approach to Violence

- Is a scientific, data-driven framework
- Aims to prevent violence before it starts by understanding root causes
- Implements evidence-based strategies for long-term community wellness
- Combines data, research, community input, and cross-sector collaborations
- Addresses systemic social, economic, and health determinants that drive violence

# Steps of a Public Health Approach

1. Define the problem
2. Identify risk factors and protective factors
3. Develop, evaluate, and refine prevention and intervention strategies
4. Ensure widespread adoption.

# Three Levels of Prevention

Primary level of prevention involves approaches that take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization.

Secondary level involves immediate responses after violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences of violence, including retaliation.

Tertiary level concerns long-term responses after violence has occurred to address the long-term consequences of violence.



# Safe Wake Plan

Safe Wake will:

- **Work with community leaders and stakeholders to prioritize the forms of violence to be addressed**
- **Establish a local office of violence prevention**
- **Develop a multi-faceted plan for addressing violence in Wake County and provide infrastructure for effective implementation of that plan.**

**Safe Wake is designed to complement, and not replace, ongoing efforts by law enforcement to address violence.**

# Governance

- **Safe Wake will have one or more dedicated staff located in the County Manager's Office reporting directly to the County Manager or his/her designee**
- **Direct oversight of the Safe Wake program will be provided by the County Manager's Office**
- **Efforts will be coordinated with the Safe Wake Advisory Board**

# Advisory Board

US Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina or his/her designee

Wake County District Attorney or his/her designee

Wake County Health & Human Services Department representative

Wake County Sheriff or his/her designee

Wake County Commissioner appointed by the Wake County Board of Commissioners

City Manager for the City of Raleigh or his/her designee

Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System or his/her designee

Chief Resident District Court Judge or his/her designee

One faith community leader appointed by the County Manager

Hospital Systems representative appointed by the County Manager

Law Enforcement Agency representative appointed by the County Manager

Wake County Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion representative appointed by the County Manager

Wake County Manager or his/her designee

# County Manager Responsibilities

- Hire and supervise the Safe Wake Director
- Consult with the Advisory Board and/or its constituent members regarding expectations and priorities for the Safe Wake Director
- Provide and monitor the accountabilities and performance standards
- Conduct an annual evaluation of Safe Wake's performance
- Review and recommend potential changes to the Charter as needed.
- Oversee the final work product presented to Board of Commissioners

# Chair Roles/Responsibilities

- Co-develop meeting scope and agenda with the Safe Wake Director.
- Oversee the committee member selection process.
- Review work products of the committee.
- Steer the activities of the committee and monitors progress of its work plan.
- Establish specific processes for the committee to seek and receive direction and guidance

# Advisory Board Responsibilities

- **Contribute to the development and implementation of a strategic plan**
- **Establish mechanisms for gathering feedback from the community**
- **Organize events to promote Safe Wake and awareness**
- **Develop performance measures and KPIs**
- **Prepare an annual report on progress**
- **Maintain a committee dedicated to data collection and analysis.**
- **Will not direct how law enforcement operates or engages with the community but may seek collaborations or partnerships**

# Data Collection and Analysis

- The Advisory Board will maintain a Data Collection and Analysis Committee
- WCSO and municipal police departments will be asked to submit violent crime data on an agreed upon schedule
- Wake County data team will assist with compiling and analyzing data

# Next Steps

- **Direction from the Board**





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