



MILESTONE 6: ALL YOUTH REMAIN SAFE FROM VIOLENT CRIME

MILESTONE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisette Colón-Collins

Assistant Superintendent,
Yonkers Public Schools

Gregory Joyner

MBK Program Coordinator,
Yonkers Public Schools

Brian Schulder

Executive Director of Safety and Security,
Yonkers Public Schools

Thomas Ward

Captain Community Affairs Division,
Yonkers Police Department

Dr. Edward Beglane

Program Director, Yonkers Police Department

Alison Licht

Youth Advisor, Yonkers Police Department

Derick Adu

Medicaid Compliance Officer,
Yonkers Public Schools

Rhonda Cloud

Program Specialist Peace Program,
Yonkers Public Schools

Timeke AmenRa

Deputy Director Program Services,
Woodfield Detention

Tiffany Robertson

Principal, Woodfield Detention Center

Aliana Givhan

Education Coordinator,
Woodfield Detention Center

Jonathan Alvarez

Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder,
914UNITED Inc.

Daniel Gomez

Senior Outreach Coordinator, 914UNITED Inc.

Tajae Gaynor

Executive Director, CLUSTER Inc.



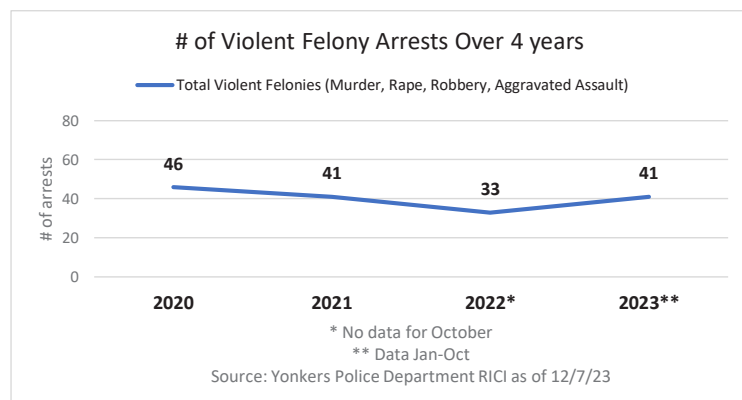
What is your 5-year goal for the selected Milestone?

Yonkers Public Schools in partnership with the City of Yonkers will continue to foster a safe and positive climate for boys and young men of color 12-17 years old by maintaining the less than 1% Homicide rate, while focusing on reducing the number of violent incidents and disruptive behavior by 20%. As evidenced by 2020-present and future Yonkers Police Department Juvenile Arrest Data Reports.

At this juncture, and subject to refinement over time, our big-picture goal is to achieve a 20% reduction in incidents of disruptive behavior by year 2027.

Context for the Work

As compared to similar urban communities, Yonkers is not experiencing an uptick in violent crime committed by their youth. However, it is nevertheless the case that Yonkers youth comprise approximately 50% of all youth currently detained in the Westchester County Secure Youth Detention Facility and they are 100% of participants in the ASAP program ("Alternatives to Suspension and Arrest Prevention"), a program designed to divert youth from formal suspensions or arrests to prevent a violent offense.



Our Current Impressions + Insights: Informing our Year 1 Strategic Activity

Concentrating our focus to reduce the number of youth who are committing violent and gang assaults, and firearm related offenses by 5% in year one. At this stage, there are some key assumptions and a generality directionality that underlies and informs our first year of strategic work:

- Work that targets violent crimes and assaultive behaviors shows promise in helping youth remain safe.
- While we have a general understanding of the patterns and trends, and population characteristics, there is a need to conduct a comprehensive data gathering and analysis effort to inform a more nuanced understanding of our youth engaged with the criminal justice system and the scope of the problem.
- We are acutely aware that preventing violent incidents and disruptive behavior demands a comprehensive, per above, and one that also includes strong systems of academic and mental health supports. Violent incidents and disruptive behavior are often linked with child and adolescent stress and mental health challenges; they may also be a manifestation of academic challenges and persistent (often unremediated) learning difficulties.

What progress do you hope to achieve by the end of year one implementation?

Our theory of action derives from a coordinated, collaborative effort—around a shared vision—among local municipal government, community organizations and stakeholders, and the school district.

Strategic Activity	
DATA GATHERING TO INFORM ACTION	<p>We have partnered with the Yonkers Policy Department Crime Statistics Unit to obtain data from 2020-22 for youth 12-17 years old:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of homicides• # of violent assaults• # of gang assaults• # of firearm-related offenses including possession of weapons and discharging a firearm <p>We will engage the Department of Social Services and local Family Court Systems</p>
COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create the Safe-Haven Safe Home referral system for young men of color that will provide services for a minimum number of 15 students annually. This will be evidenced by the collection and creation of annual data collection and progress reports from the newly established Safe Haven Sub-committee.• Offering mentorship and strengthening partnerships with community-based programs and services, e.g., Each-One Reach-One Mentorship Program, 914UNITED Inc, and Cluster Inc.• Work with the City of Yonkers employment services to ensure Yonkers youth have the opportunity to be employed• Gaining buy-in from individuals in leadership positions who are part of the Milestone 6 demographic to work with boys and young men of color and engage an asset-based lens in this work.• Increasing utilization of existing programs to maximize reach and impact.
NEW + RE-IGNITED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage a Letter of Commitment with Westchester Children’s Association nonprofit organization, and partnerships to create opportunities for services for boys and young men of color.• Create new partnerships with local community organizations with mental health providers to ensure a coordinated approach to reduce antisocial behaviors and improve prosocial skills.• Collaboration with Woodfield Detention Services to foster seamless and supportive reintegration back into the community.• Re-establishing the mentoring partnership with YPD, community and young men in existing MBK programs across the school district.
ACADEMIC + MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage youth in Mental Health Services offered by community providers during YPS Extended Learning Time Programs.• Establish a partnership with the Westchester Children’s Association to engage youth impacted by violent and assaultive behavior in Mental Health programs and services.• Yonkers Public Schools will refine and enhance the transitional process of students of color in the Extended Academic & Civic Engagement (PEACE) in order to allow them to be fully prepared and engaged in their school community.

