

# VIOLENT CRIME ACTIVITY & STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2019



# 2019 VIOLENT CRIME UPDATE

Winston-Salem Police Department

# WHAT IS A VIOLENT CRIME?

- A **violent crime** or **crime of violence** is a **crime** in which an offender or perpetrator uses or threatens to use force upon a victim. This entails both **crimes** in which the **violent** act is the objective, such as murder or rape, as well as **crimes** in which **violence** is the means to an end.

# PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES 2018 VS. 2019

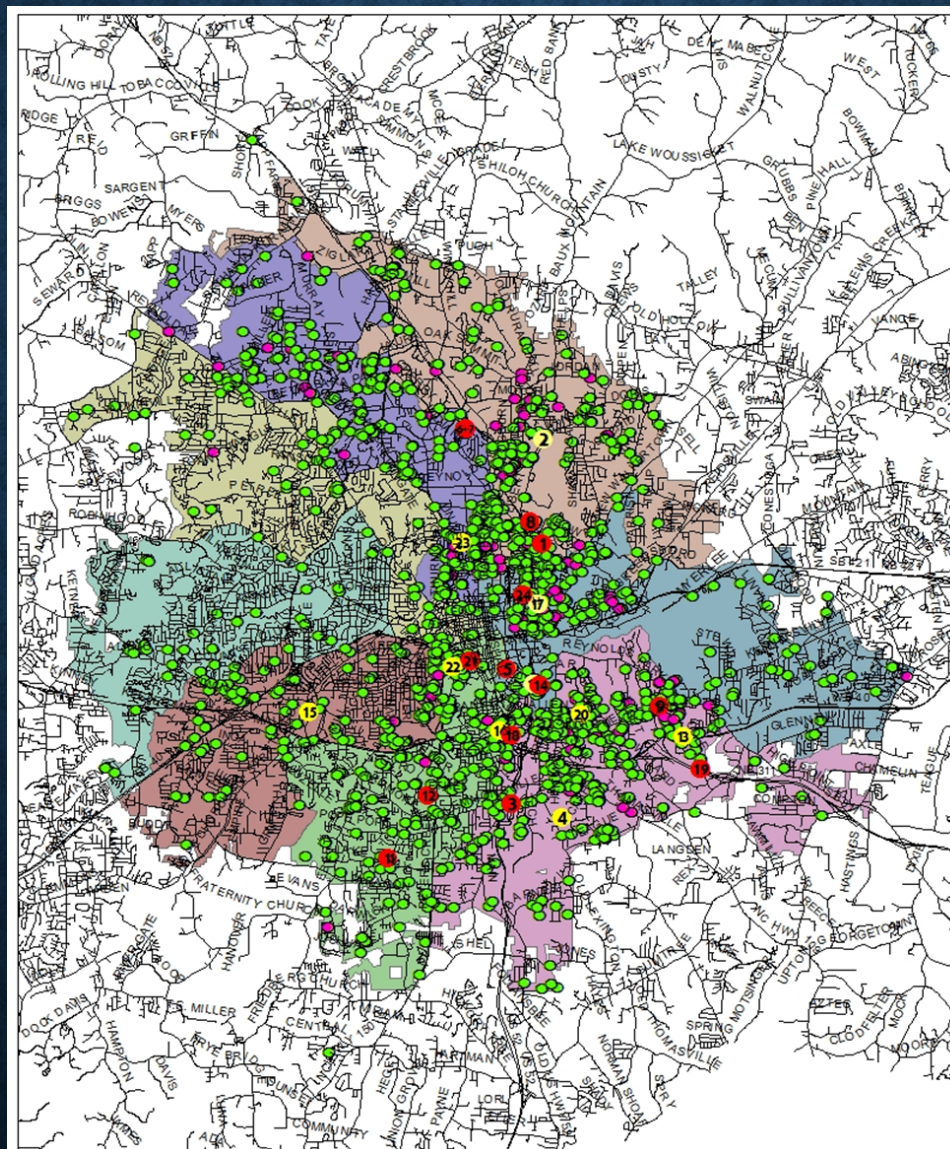
- Tonight we will focus on “Part 1” violent crimes against persons, to include Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault.

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.9</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>-15.7</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>1797</b>	<b>10.9</b>

# HOMICIDES 2015 THRU 2019

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
17	24	26	26	24

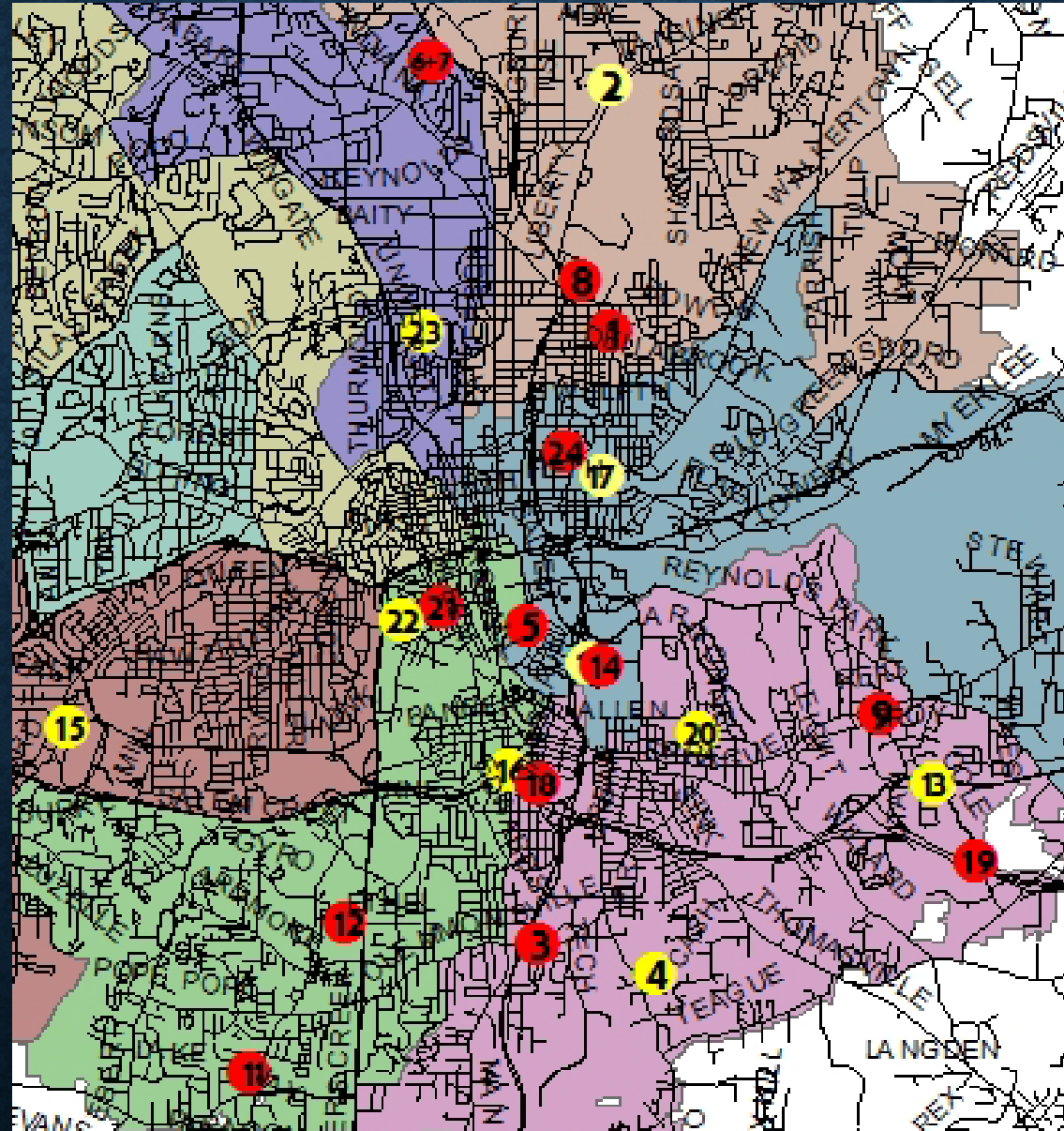
# 2019 Homicides w/ Discharging Firearms



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared
- DFA
- ADW

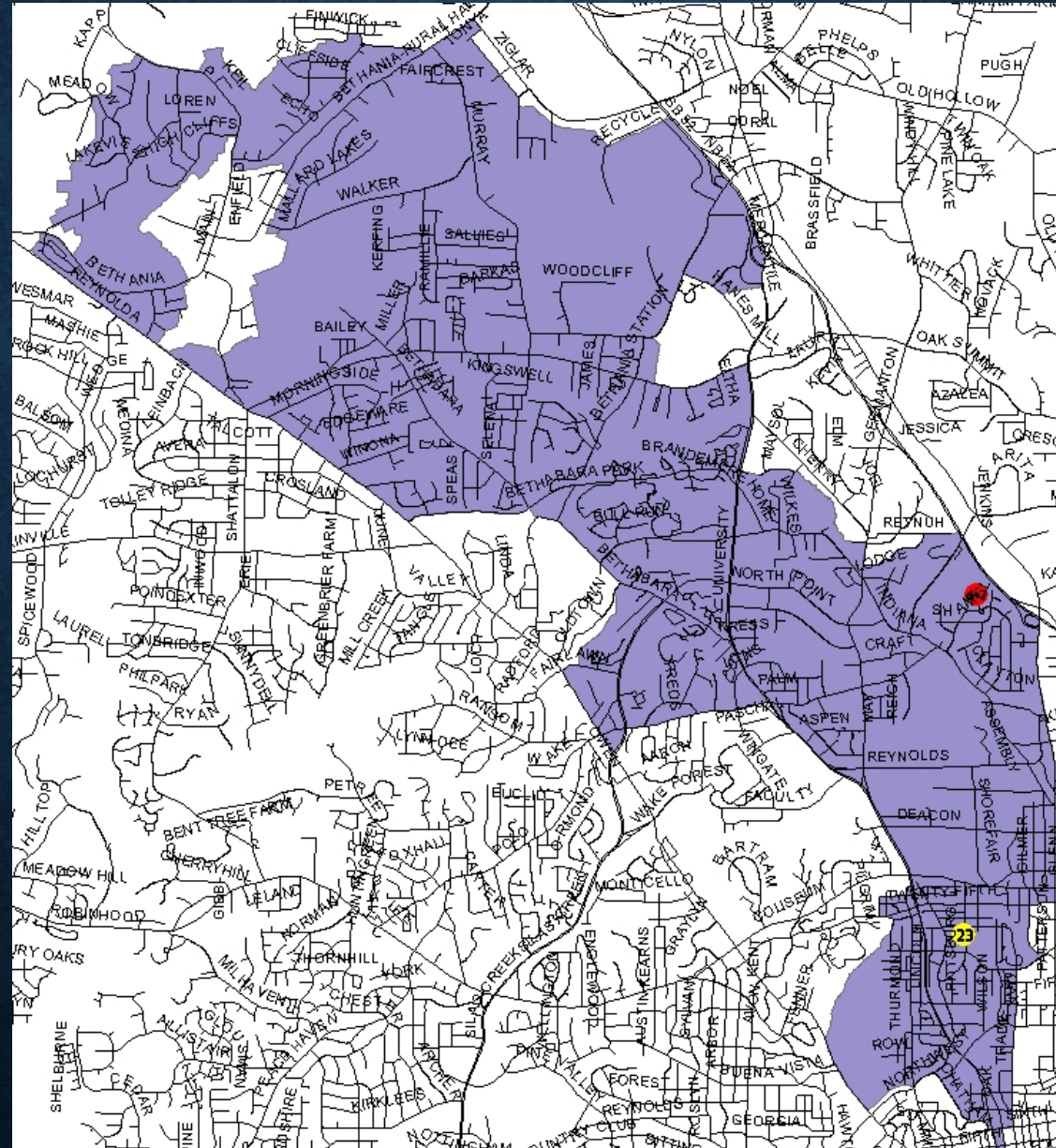
# 2019 Homicides Citywide Map (Zoomed)



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared

# 2019 Homicides North Ward Map

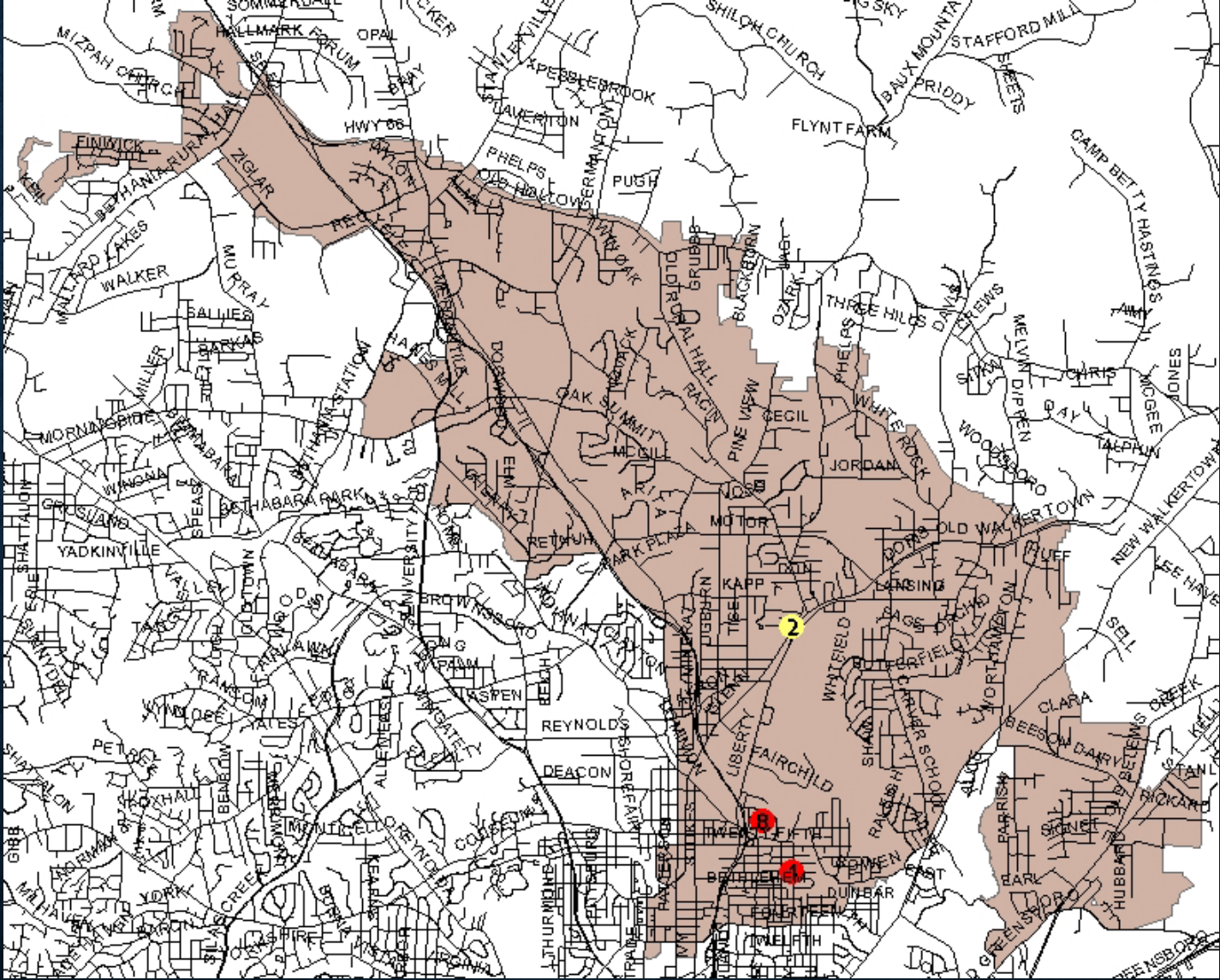


**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared



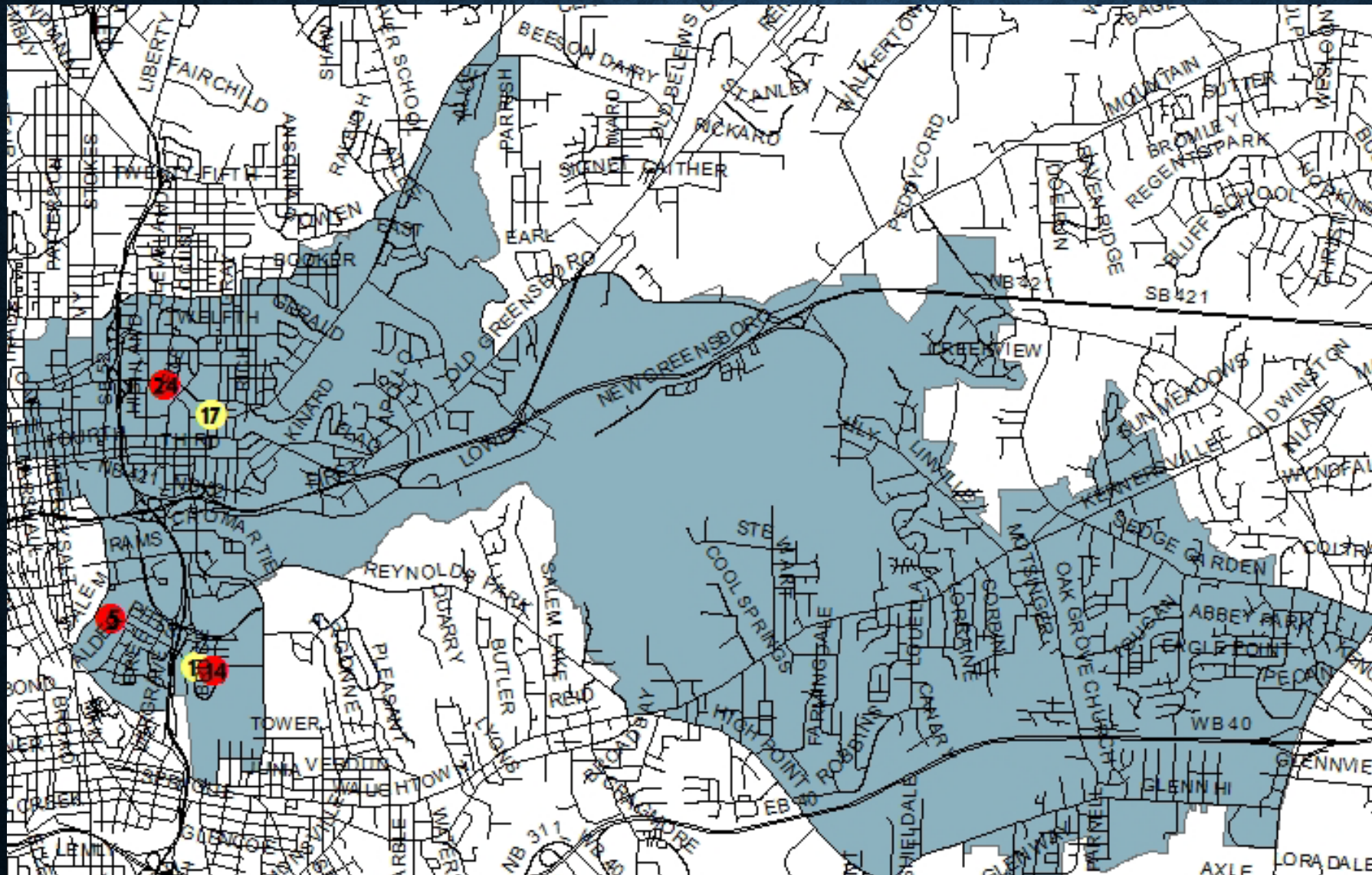
# 2019 Homicides Northeast Ward Map



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared

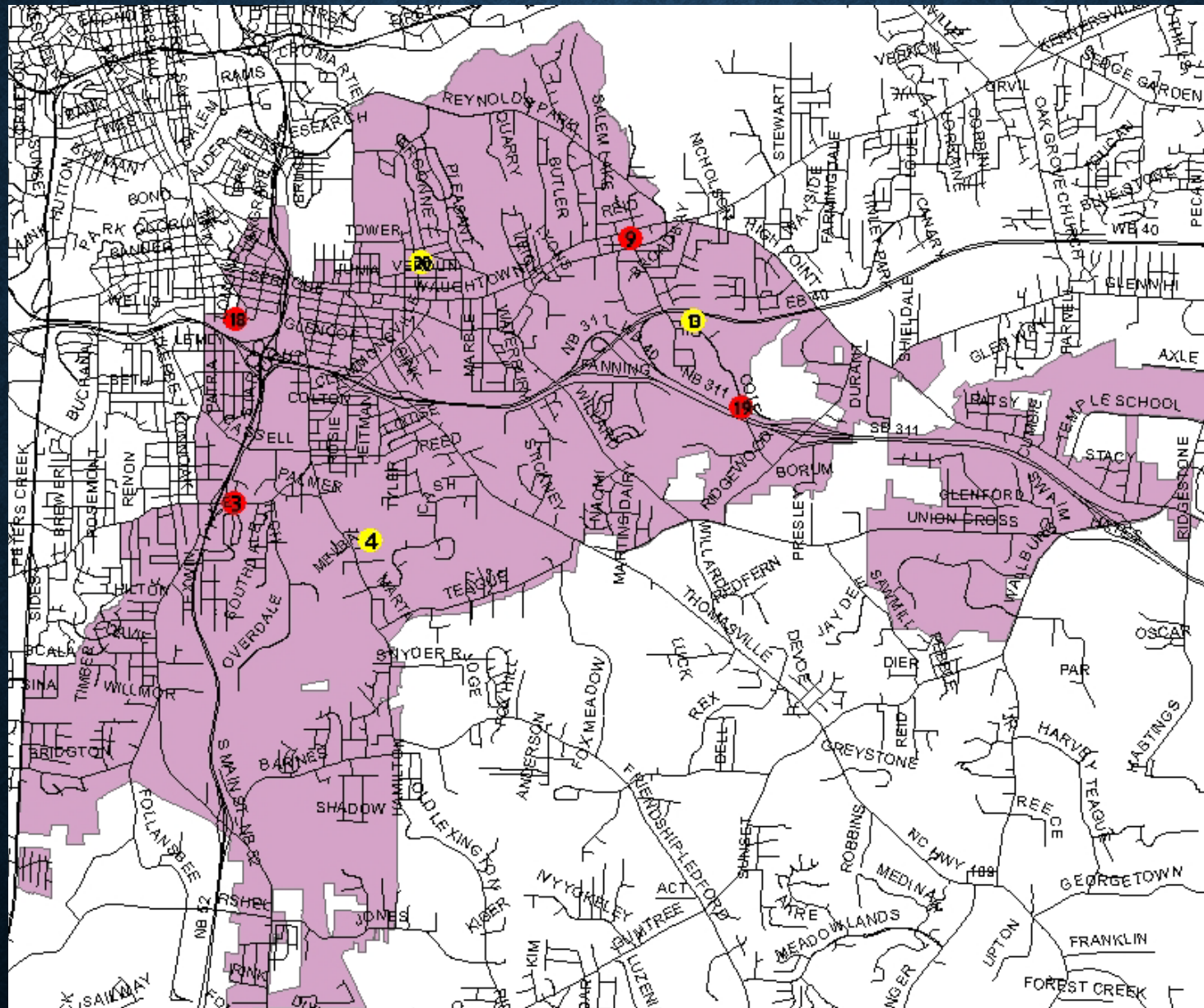
# 2019 Homicides East Ward Map



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared

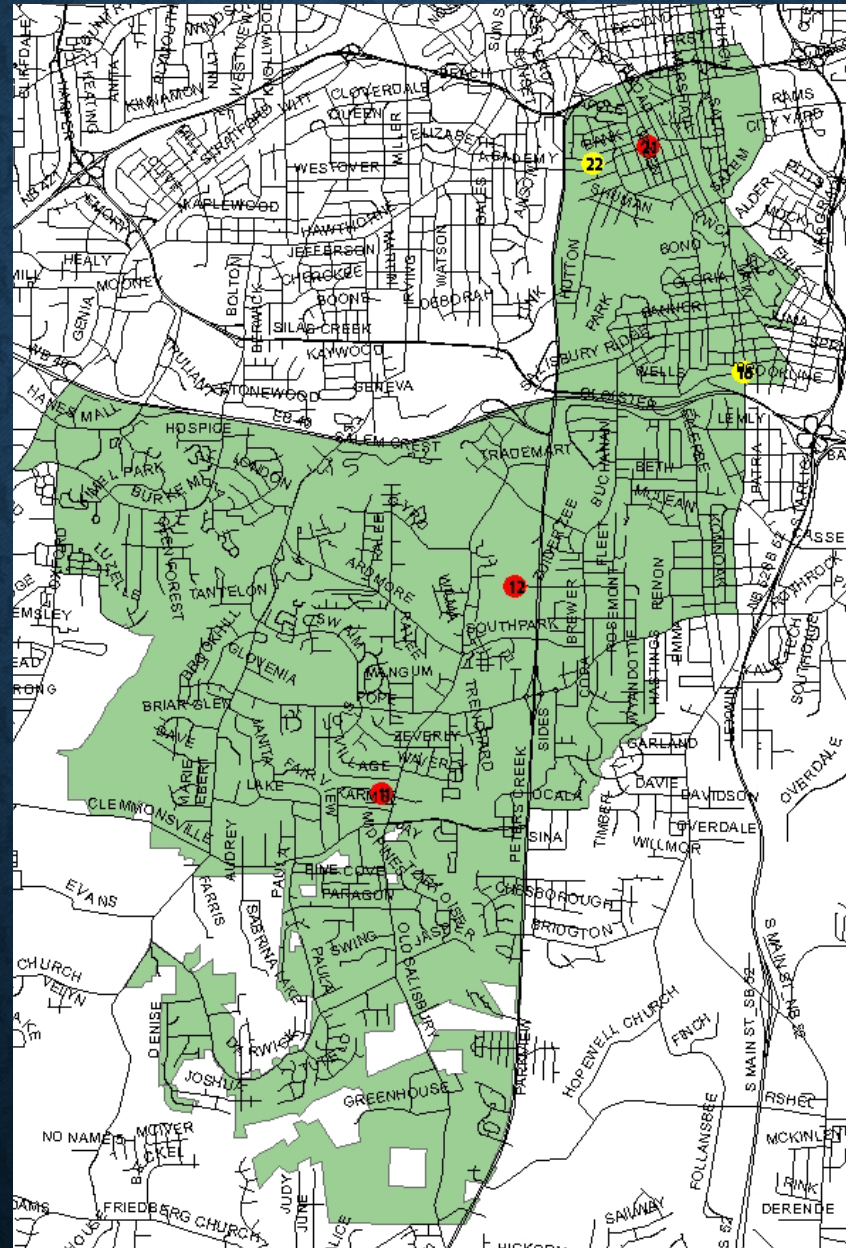
# 2019 Homicides Southeast Ward Map



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared

# 2019 Homicides South Ward Map



**Case Status**

- Open-Active
- Cleared



# EFFORTS TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME

# VIOLENT FIREARM INVESTIGATIONS TEAM (VFIT)



Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS)

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)



# VIOLENT FIREARM INVESTIGATIONS TEAM (VFIT)

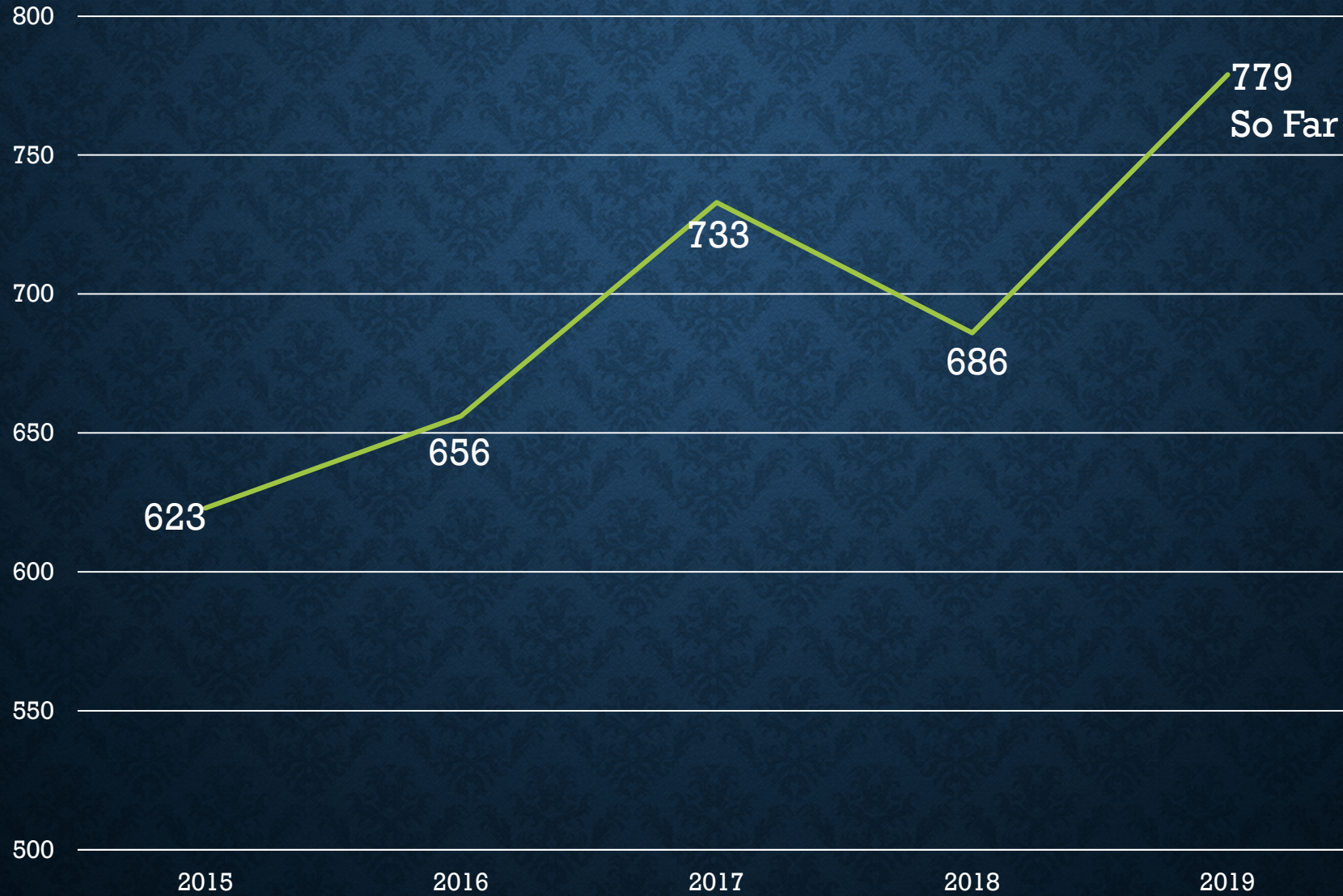
- VFIT is comprised of detectives who are specially trained in the area of ballistic evidence examination submission. Those detectives focus investigative efforts exclusively on offenders who utilize firearms in the commission of crimes. VFIT went fully operational in June of 2019.
- WSPD was granted access to the NIBIN Correlation Center in Huntsville, AL on May 15, 2019. This allows expedited expert examination of ballistic evidence gathered at crime scenes in Winston-Salem.
- Prior to the implementation of VFIT and the granting of access to the NIBIN Correlation Center, the results of ballistic evidence examination often required weeks or months to obtain. Those results are now obtained within hours.



# VIOLENT FIREARM INVESTIGATIONS TEAM (VFIT)

- As of October 25, 2019, the Winston-Salem Police Department has investigated more than 1,700 incidents in which a firearm was unlawfully discharged.
- Based on current data, the Winston-Salem Police Department will seize more than 1,000 firearms by the end of the year.
- VFIT has identified ballistic evidence in almost every homicide committed with the use of a firearm that has occurred since June of 2019.
- VFIT Detectives have arrested 25 offenders and charged them with 45 Felonies and 14 misdemeanors.

# SEIZED FIREARMS 2015-2019



# DOES WINSTON-SALEM HAVE GANGS

## **ABSOLUTELY!**

As a result of violent crime committed by gang members in Winston-Salem, the WSPD formed its Gang Unit in 2006. The WSPD Gang Unit have been responsible for numerous arrests as well as educating the community on Gang Prevention Initiatives.

# WINSTON-SALEM / FORSYTH COUNTY GANG REDUCTION STEERING COMMITTEE

- **Committee Focus:**
  - Targeted Suppression
  - Direct Intervention
  - Prevention Programs and Activities
- Committee members identify and implement strategic methods, resources, and programs geared toward preventing youth and individuals from becoming gang involved.
- Law enforcement members provide gang awareness training to members of the public in order to educate individuals about gangs.
- Clergy members provide services to address the mental and emotional needs of at risk and/or gang involved youth individuals and their families.

# WINSTON-SALEM / FORSYTH COUNTY GANG REDUCTION STEERING COMMITTEE

- WXII News Story:

<https://www.wxii12.com/article/local-leaders-winston-salem-police-teaming-up-to-prevent-gang-violence-one-family-at-a-time/29658401>

# WINSTON-SALEM / FORSYTH COUNTY GANG REDUCTION STEERING COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs
- City of W-S Community Development / Neighborhood Services
- NCDPS Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
- WS/FCS Parent / Family Engagement Program
- Love Church
- Hispanic League
- Winston-Salem City Spirits
- City of W-S Recreation and Parks
- Guiding Institute for Developmental Education
- Southside Rides
- St. Peters World Outreach Center
- My Brother's Second Chance
- WSPD Community Relations Specialist
- WSPD Gang Unit

# CHRONIC VIOLENT OFFENDER (CVO)

- A local strategy designed by the Forsyth County District Attorney's Office to provide a comprehensive review for all Chronic Violent Offenders in Forsyth County.
- Includes partners from federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies with jurisdiction within Forsyth County.
- Meets monthly to review all CVO cases involving Chronic Repeat Offenders, including cases involving firearms.
- Determines the best venue for prosecution (state or federal) and if any follow-up is required by local law enforcement agencies to assist prosecution.

# VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE (VCTF) NOTIFICATIONS

- An opportunity for the offenders to hear messages from law enforcement, prosecutors, and community partners.
- Local offenders are screened against established criteria to determine if they qualify to attend.
- Sessions include an opening, a meeting with Law Enforcement and a wrap up.
- Notification sessions are utilized by several cities throughout the Middle District of North Carolina and are fairly consistent in their content.
- The Winston-Salem Police Department conducts Notifications three times a year.



# VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE (VCTF) NOTIFICATIONS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Project Re-Entry
- Boys 2 Men
- Southside Rides
- Moms Demand Action
- Hope Counseling
- Eliza's Helping Hands
- Winston-Salem City Spirits
- Forsyth Futures
- Goodwill Industries
- My Brother's Second Chance
- Eureka House
- NCWorks Career Centers
- YWCA Hawley House
- Dream Team
- Hoops 4 LYFE
- Local Clergy

# VIOLENT CRIME ACTIVITY & STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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# Forsyth County Driver's License Restoration Effort

- Initiative Began in October 2015 by District Attorney Jim O'Neill
- To date approximately 2000 people have received assistance
- Designed for minor traffic matters (non violent; no pending felonies)
- Need for assistance remains in Forsyth County
  
- Council Member James Taylor charged staff to explore ways to remove barriers to expand the program
- Clerk of Court Renita Linville supportive of the program expansion

## **Program Objectives**

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**Allow individuals to restore driving privileges and improve their ability to earn a living and contribute to the economy.**

**Protect Forsyth County by increasing the number of lawfully licensed drivers with insurance**

**Provide additional resources to focus on violent crime**

# Program Research

- License restoration is connected to increased employment opportunities
- A 2018 study found that “clean slate clinic participants experience significant increase in average employment rates and average real earnings”
- Nearly 1,900 job categories require a driver’s license;
- While “not all jobs require a driver’s license, having one is a very common requirement for the sorts of job that can actually lift people out of poverty,” including construction, manufacturing, security, and utilities.
- 45% of people with driver’s license suspensions, in one study in New Jersey, reported losing their job and not being able to find a new one. For individuals who did find work, 88% reported decreases in income.



# Program Framework

Forsyth County Program Framework:

- Program addresses only Forsyth County tickets;
- Participants only participate in this program one time;
- Addresses tickets that are 7 years old or older; is within the DA's discretion;
- Would not address past charges that involved:
  - Violence,
  - DWI,
  - School bus traffic violations,
  - Hit and run violations,
  - Sex offenders and/or persons currently imprisoned.

**Primary Challenge – Lack of staffing and financial resources to operate the program on an ongoing, consistent basis**



# City Partnership for Program Expansion

Support four application cycles with permanent staff as follows:

## Staff Expenses

Clerk of Court - Admin	\$47,300.00
District Atty - ADA	\$62,200.00
District Atty - Legal Asst.	<u>\$49,500.00</u>
	\$159,000.00

Website Development / Marketing - Cost TBD



Due to the need for staff to access proprietary information, positions would be housed and report directly to the District Attorney and the Clerk of Court.



## YouthBuild Program

- Began in 2012 after the City received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor
- The program targets at-risk youth ages 18-24 that meet certain program criteria
- The program is six months in length and provides participants with education, job training and leadership development opportunities
- Program participants are paid a living wage while they receive job skills training and earn their GED.

**Primary objective** – Empower high school dropouts and other local at-risk youth the opportunity to reclaim their lives and develop personal and professional skills that will enable them to be contributing members of the community



## Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR) Program

- Was created in 2015 in response to the Mayor and City Council's desire to help reduce recidivism and provide former offenders an opportunity to re-enter the workforce
- The program targets formerly incarcerated individuals of all ages that have made demonstrated efforts to change the courses of their lives
- The program provides a six-month term of temporary employment in a City department and life skills education via lectures and group discussions.

**Primary objective** – To provide gainful employment opportunities to former offenders while supplementing the city's existing workforce in areas of need.



## **SOAR Program – Recent Enhancements**

- Implemented a coaching program pairing each SOAR participant with a City employee mentor
- Instituted new supervisory training for site supervisors of SOAR program participants
- Enhanced the SOAR Program's website and created new marketing materials available in both English and Spanish
- Established partnerships with new City departments to serve as hosts for SOAR program participants
- Increased the wage rate for all SOAR participants to the City's new minimum wage



## SOAR Program Outcomes

- Since the program's inception, the City has hired 55 former offenders under the SOAR initiative
- 44 of the participants have successfully completed the program
- To date, 40 graduates of the program have either secured employment or pursued post-secondary education



## SOAR Program Tentative Recruitment Timeline

- Application Posted –
  - Opens: 2/24/20
  - Closes: 3/13/20
- Interviews – 3/23/20 to 3/27/20
- Selection and Onboarding – 3/30/20 to 4/2/20
- Program – 4/6/20 to 10/9/20
- Graduation – 10/9/20

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