



TOWN OF JONESBORO

Dr. James "Spike" Harris, Mayor
Telephone: 318-259-2385
Fax: 318-259-4177

October 18, 2023

P. O. Box 610
128 Allen Avenue
Jonesboro, Louisiana 71251

Subject: Collaborative Strategy to Eradicate Drugs and Violence in our Town

Dear: _____,

In light of the recent tragic incidents that have occurred in our town, I believe it is imperative that we come together as a community to address the pressing issues of drugs and violence. By uniting law enforcement, citizens, community leaders, church leaders, judges, and district attorney, we can develop a comprehensive plan to tackle these challenges head-on. I have scheduled a meeting at the Charles H. Garrett Community Center located at: 160 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, LA 71251 at 5pm on November 2, 2023.

I would like to propose the following collaborative strategy to eradicate drugs and violence in our town:

1. Community Awareness and Education:

- Organize town hall meetings and community forums to educate residents about the dangers of drugs and violence.
- Develop informative campaigns, workshops, and presentations in schools, community centers, and places of worship to raise awareness and promote prevention.
- Collaborate with local media outlets to disseminate information about available resources, support networks, and reporting mechanisms.

2. Strengthening Law Enforcement Efforts:

- Allocate additional resources to law enforcement agencies to enhance patrols, investigations, and intelligence gathering related to drug and violence-related activities.
- Establish specialized units to focus on tackling drug trafficking and violent crime, ensuring their coordination with other departments and agencies.
- Encourage community policing initiatives to foster positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the community they serve.

3. Engaging Citizens and Community Leaders:

- Establish neighborhood watch programs and encourage citizens to report any suspicious activities promptly.
- Foster community engagement by organizing events that promote unity, trust, and collaboration among residents.

- Create volunteer opportunities for citizens to actively participate in initiatives aimed at reducing drugs and violence, such as mentoring programs or community outreach projects.
- Business owners should be required to have working security cameras with a 360 degree view to assist law enforcement in performance of their duties.

4. Collaboration with Church Leaders and Faith-Based Organizations:

- Engage with local church leaders and faith-based organizations to support and provide guidance to individuals or families affected by drugs and violence.
- Encourage churches to offer counseling services, addiction recovery programs, and support groups.
- Foster partnerships between faith-based organizations and local law enforcement agencies to promote community safety and well-being.

5. Enhanced Judicial and Legal Measures:

- Collaborate with judges and district attorneys to ensure that individuals involved in drug-related crimes or acts of violence face appropriate consequences.
- Advocate for stricter penalties for drug offenses to deter drug dealers and traffickers.
- Develop alternative sentencing programs that emphasize rehabilitation and address the root causes of drug addiction and violence.

6. Mental Health Initiatives:

- Collaborate with local hospital and medical facilities in the parish to open mental health facilities.
- Engage more with local mental health organizations to assist law enforcement in the performance of their duties.

I believe that by working together and implementing this comprehensive strategy, we can make a significant impact on reducing drugs and violence in our town. I kindly request your support in rallying the necessary stakeholders and allocating resources to bring this plan into action.

I am committed to doing my part and am willing to volunteer, collaborate, or support any initiatives that help create a safer and more prosperous community for all residents.

Thank you for your dedication to our town's well-being. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Spike Harris
Mayor