



TCC Minutes

Committee: Housing & Community Development

Date + Time: 4/9/25 4:30pm

Location: City Council Chambers

Attendees: Chair Gadus, Vice Chair Jones, Hartman, Williams, McPherson

Absentees: Melden, Driscoll

Also Present: Hobbs, Sarantou

Presenters: Jim Molnar, Roslyn Clemens, Coleena Ali, Tammy Lavalette

Malcolm Cunningham, Joshua Davies

Public Attendance: 15

Legislative Aide Facilitating: Evan Snapp

Topics...

- Lead Safe Ordinance
- Peace In Motion Plan

Discussion...

- Gadus: I call this meeting to order, today we are discussing both the Lead Safe Ordinance and the Peace In Motion Plan. Clerk, please call the roll...
- Clemens: I'm the director of the department of housing and community development. I'm here with my deputy director and...
- Clemens: We're here to explain the new ordinance, which was changed after more than a year of litigation. We'll also provide a high-level overview of the lead program, the dangers of lead in our community.
- Ali: I'm here to stand in for our lead safe coordinator, Monica Smith, but she is absent. This ordinance focuses on houses built before 1978. A majority, in fact, 85% of our homes in Toledo were built before 1980. The paint in these homes could've been made with lead, leading to the indicative chipping or peeling paint. Every neighborhood in our city are high-risk for lead.
- Ali: A quick overview of housing- we have 114,000+ homes built prior to 1978, and 52,000+ rental units built prior to 1978. In terms of lead poisoning, it affects children more than adults, and affects their development. On any given day, 3500 children in Toledo have elevated lead levels.
- Ali: We have this problem, but we have strategic priorities for addressing it. We will decrease childhood lead poisoning by increasing lead safe healthy housing. Next priority is to prevent occupant displacement and property abandonment. We recently hired a



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rental registry and lead safe coordinator. Community Engagement and Partnership Building is another important priority. We also want to increase education and training on lead safety. These trainings are offered to regular homeowners and family, and anyone we can reach.

- Lavalette: The primary change from this version of the ordinance is moving the issuance of lead safe certificates and the inspection team will be moved from the Health Department to the City of Toledo. The Housing Director will be able to have greater control over landlords and inspectors. The litigation put everything on pause, but now we have a new schedule to phase in inspections starting this June.
- Lavalette: The penalty stays the same, a misdemeanor 1000 dollar fine or 180 days in prison, for nonabatement. The phase-in of this plan will occur across the city from most-prioritized areas to the least, over the course of four years.
- Lavalette: There are some other more minor changes in the ordinance to improve clarity. Do you have any questions for me?
- Williams: I do have a couple questions- Why did we move it from the Health Department? Is it because they don't have a legal arm?
- Clemens: I think there are both legal and capacity-related changes.
- Lavalette: We were successful in the legal challenges all the way through, but through that process, the Housing Department became more interested in doing the work internally.
- Clemens: Yes, we have a couple positions that are now going to focus on this topic area, and we will continue to work with Code Compliance. Our team is being built up to enforce this well.
- Williams: Does the Health Department still have a role to play in this?
- Clemens: Yes, they have an important role to play because they do a lot of educating and they also care for those who are poisoned by lead.
- Williams: Are we concerned about federal funding for this?
- Clemens: We have received grants yet to be spent for Lead Hazard abatement, both from the state and the federal government. There is a potential threat to our funding, but we hope that it remains a priority at the federal level, and we are also very competitive when applying for these grants.
- Gadus: Will the lead safe certificate information be available on our database Tolemi?
- Clemens: Yes, it should be available now and we will be tracking them as they come in.
- Jones: Do you have any certain metrics for how much compliance you expect by a certain date or once a certain percentage of the city has been crossed off?
- Clemens: We don't have a good answer for that, but we intend on fully using our legal levers to encourage compliance. We also know that the ordinance requires a yearly report to council on our progress.
- Clemens: We will be in front of council at agenda review next week to present again, and we hope to move swiftly on passing this.



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- Gadus: Seeing no more questions and no public commenters, we will move on to the Peace In Motion Plan presented by MONSE.
- Cunningham: We're having some electronic issues, sorry. Does everyone have it on their screens? Thank you all for having us. We're excited to present the plan- though we hoped to have a shorter version for you. The final version is 75+ pages. The work of addressing community violence doesn't stop, it is *in motion*, and includes many actors and stakeholders. We will have a moment a silence.
- Cunningham: So, Peace in Motion, there are a number of acknowledgements for people that were critical to pulling this work together. Many different working groups approaching these issues from their own angles. We will have quarterly updates on this going forward. We have other announcements that will be housed on our website, in the Quick Start guide.
- Cunningham: Our goals are to address the root causes of violence through a variety of community-based measures. We're talking about humans, a network of people, so our progress never feels like enough, but we are making legitimate progress in curbing violence since the pandemic spike in violence. Year over year, we are moving in the right direction.
- Cunningham: We have a number key recommendations- and since this was first released in August, but I will give some of the updates: The Healing and Compassion Fund is now live, with 7 donations in the first 24 hours. This fund provides for the basic needs of people who have lost someone to gun violence. We have already had some applicants too. With Save our Community, we've started doing a biweekly meeting of first responders/ rapid responders to gun violence and community organizations in this field. We are also doing reviews of everyone on our caseload- about 65 contacts a day, and 100 overall. Our case conferences include the working group checking in. We have been staffing at memorials and funerals. We've established a referral pathway with the Juvenile Justice Center. We've convened a Violence Reduction Council, a cross-sector working group for these issues (police, mental health, youth services, etc.)
- Cunningham: We've also brought in about 3 million in grants, though we expect that federal grants are going to be a little shaky and less reliable. We have been able to support local grassroots organizations through our own 10,000 dollar grants. We have procured some funding for youth work stipends. We also piloted a project with four young people last summer, to give them work cutting grass in their neighborhoods. This summer we will employ 20 teens in a greater variety of services. Rewire CBT Therapy has been another important programming tool we are making use of for people closest to the violence.
- Cunningham: We also have a number of staff that have been trained in the NOVA mental health model. It is used for disasters, casualty events, and is used for traumatic incidents like responses to gun violence. It is part of our ongoing effort to give people the tools to work through difficult situations and provide safety to themselves or others.



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- Cunningham: We work with Safe Passages to School, where staff just walk with students to school and help to prevent incidents and improve school attendance. These are some of our key updates, and we will take questions, but we also wanted to provide the allies in the audience a chance to speak as well.
- Cunningham: We have provided you today letters of support from Toledo Public Schools and the Homelessness Board.
- Davies: This isn't a plan for MONSE, or SOC, or the City of Toledo, but for the entire community. This type of planning involves everyone. A group of students at Rogers High School have taken up this plan as their own project, they work with student leaders, staff, and have started a podcast. They've done that on their own. They are moving the plan forward outside of an official capacity. It is an amazing example of the impact this plan could have, and the efforts to curb gun violence.
- Gadus: I believe our youth are ready to be empowered, they just need someone to give them that our energy.
- Williams: I absolutely love the mowing program, will it be the same gentlemen running it?
- Cunningham: He is able to bid for this position. It is still out to bid.
- Williams: I appreciated his work last year, and I think we need some more programs like that. I saw in your plan the preschool pipeline- the start of issues that can lead to learning deficits and eventually behavior problems and violence. Could you expand on that?
- Cunningham: We have been educating our staff to work on early intervention, and the critical stages of life where you can make the most direct impact. We try to make appropriate referrals for kids and teens.
- Davies: Cradle of Care is the notification network around a child when they experience an adverse or potentially traumatizing event. School staff and other adults in their life will handle them with care without the clear knowledge of events. It's really trauma-informed sensitivity to a child, which works at all age levels. We want to pilot it in elementary schools.
- Williams: We have lots of kids in our community that are impacted by violence, so I'm glad to hear about this methodology and the plan overall. It's taken long enough and I know there were difficulties along the way. Thank you so much. I also want to recognize you for the work you did in the wake of Keimani Latigue's death. It's hard work. It took time to make this plan comprehensive, I appreciate it.
- McPherson: Thank you for the report. I've seen the healing and compassion fund set up. Do you have the 9 person committee set up yet?
- Cunningham: We have 3 more people to add to the committee, but it is forthcoming.
- McPherson: I want to really thank you, and all the people involved who do the footwork in this program.



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- Bryson: I work as violence interruptor in a high school. When people ask me about my job, they just ask if it works? And yes, we work to equip young people with the skills to make better choices, to make each relapse a teaching moment that is less severe each time. We provide a safe space and a place of healing for young people.
- McPherson: It's gotta be difficult- the anger, the hurt is such a distraction and danger for some kids. It takes a toll.
- Bryson: The kids I've met are still trying to give back to the community, they just need understanding and patience.
- McPherson: I thank you for what you do, and I also want to advocate for you the violence interrupters to seek help for yourselves and keep yourself strong.
- Cunningham: I'm not sure we've figured out the right formula for our team, but we hold debriefs and do everything we can to support our team. They understate what they do. We want to have strong and direct responses and help people holistically. Our team is so valuable.
- McPherson: How is the faith-based community involved in this? Are they on call? I think it's important our pastors can be there to support and give guidance.
- Cunningham: Yeah, they are involved. We want to get more faith based leaders on board and help to provide mediations.
- McPherson: Have you been in contact with groups like your own from other cities like Cleveland or Detroit?
- Cunningham: Yes, through conferences and other events, contacts, we have good ties to other groups. In fact, Cities United is doing a tour to visit sites where this work is happening and are coming to Toledo to amplify the work we're doing.
- Sarantou: First of all, I want to thank you and your staff. We are making progress, though slow, it's positive. Can you give us a little more detail on the grass cutting program?
- Cunningham: It's out to bid, the partner will provide job management services, coaching, and training. It's 20 youth, 20 dollars an hour, 24 hours a week. It's a great opportunity for the youth, the mentors and the people receiving the services. The equipment comes from the providers within the field.
- Sarantou: This is a great document you've given us. I have another question- have you been communicating with the judiciary and youth legal services.
- Cunningham: Yes, I recall our last conversation. We have been able to set up support groups in the JDC, and the representatives are coming to our quarterly meetings. There is a generally improving relationship with the legal system for our work. As well, Chief Troendle of TPD is a good partner for us. As well as Deputy Mayor Kral.
- President Hartman: Thank you. I imagine most days are very filled with difficulties, so I'm impressed at the strength of this plan. We see you and your team, and appreciate your work. We are making a positive difference together.



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- Williams: This is for the violence interrupters. Though I'm very happy generally, I had to learn to be happy through the pain. I relived some of my own trauma as the principal of a dropout recovery school. I fully support your efforts and I need you take care of you. Take advantage of counselling services. Get therapy. It is a hard task to work in this space. Make sure you can keep doing this work.
- Gadus: We can take some public comments now.
- ***: I appreciate this team, and when I came to Toledo with nothing, and now I have something and I have support.
- Megan Dougherty: Thank you council. I'm a member of the Community Action Table and a Toledo resident, and a professor of psychology at BGSU. This plan is comprehensive in every sense, getting to the root causes of gun violence. Scientifically, this is an impressive and comprehensive plan. I think the work of MONSE and SOC is part of seeing the reduction in gun violence the last couple years. We should absolutely pass this.
- Kae James: I'm a master's level social worker in MONSE and Human Relations Council. It has been my honor to be part of the development of Peace in Motion. In my time here, I have seen the strong principles and commitment by this team. I hope to see this plan passed and the support for a sincere and bolstered community.
- Garnier Johnson: I'm the mother of a son who was killed by gun violence. They helped to write his obituary. I forgot to eat, but they were there for me. This support helped me.
- Gadus: Are there any other comments before we close the meeting? Well, from my heart, I am very grateful for you all. This meeting is adjourned.