

2018-2019 Roadmap

Academy City Highlight

Kankakee, IL

Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong

KANKAKEE UNITED



Be the *Key* to a *Safer* City

cities
united



THE ROAD TO 2025

OVERVIEW OF PLAN



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Kankakee United is to reduce gun violence involving African-American boys and men under 25 years of age in Kankakee by uniting community resources to increase neighborhood engagement, address trauma related concerns, and remove employment barriers.

VISION STATEMENT

The City of Kankakee is an engaged community with abundant opportunities for residents to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives.

HISTORY/GENESIS

Becoming mayor in my hometown was not only exciting but I knew would be filled with many challenges. Over many years, I have witnessed the decline of neighborhoods in the City and the disproportionate economic impact on African-Americans as related to poverty, crime, trauma and the negative outcomes associated with such factors.

While attending a National League of Cities conference during March 2018, I was contacted by the Interim Police Chief and advised there had been a double homicide in the City; two victims of gun violence. Needless to say, I was upset; concerned for the community and the impacted families. Public safety is one of my most important responsibilities and I had to figure out a way to improve safety in our city. During a session the next day, when I shared with my fellow mayors what had happened, our instructor informed me about the national Cities United initiative and assured me of resources to help address the issue of gun violence.

I contacted Cities United, which was formed during 2011 by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. Cities United has become a coalition of nearly 100 mayors from across the country working to reduce gun violence among African American males ages 16-24 years by 50% by year 2025. I advocated for the City of Kankakee to be accepted into a Roadmap Academy offered by Cities United and out of the week-long training they provided, Kankakee United was formed to address gun violence in the City of Kankakee and implement a citywide public safety plan. This plan reflects our initial efforts to move forward to reduce gun violence in the City of Kankakee. I hope you will read it and choose to become involved in the action plans.


Mayor Chasty Wells-Armstrong

City of Kankakee joining Cities United

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Listening sessions

Approximately three dozen neighborhood listening sessions and meetings with community leaders were held involving over 250 youths and adults. One of the most critical themes was that city residents were not aware of the many educational and employment opportunities available.

We Are Who We Have Been Waiting For

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THE ROAD TO 2025

STRATEGY

GOAL: To increase public safety for all City of Kankakee residents.

OBJECTIVE: To improve outcomes for young African-American men and boys in Kankakee through neighborhood engagement.

ACTIONS:

1) Provide Kankakee residents with suggestions for organizing block parties, youth activities, and other social events to get to know their neighbors.

2) Encourage neighborhood groups to identify what they love about where they live and to create ways to express their neighborhood pride.

3) Encourage adult residents to volunteer to serve as mentors and assist with youth programs.

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COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
KANKAKEE YMCA
PARKING LOT
1075 KENNEDY DRIVE

Check-in starts at 8:30 AM
 Ride starts promptly at 9:00 AM

Enjoy Kankakee on two wheels! Join the Kankakee Police Department and Kankakee United for a leisurely 5 mile bike ride through the City of Kankakee.

Join us for light refreshments, a bike GIVEAWAY, and more after the ride!

ALL ages welcome!

For more information contact
 Miya Graham
KankakeeUnited@citykankakee-il.gov

DON'T HAVE A BIKE?
 Limited amount of Zagster Bike 609 bikes are available for use.
<http://bike.zagster.com/bike609>



KANKAKEE UNITED PRESENTS

SAFE SUMMER LAUNCH

FREE EVENT
 MUSIC, FOOD,
 SHOWCASE OF
 SUMMER ACTIVITIES
 & PROGRAMS FOR
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 RESIDENTS, TEENS
 AND YOUNG ADULTS

TUES, APRIL 9, 2019
 6:00 - 7:30 PM



KVPD REC CENTER - CHARLTON ROOM
 150 N INDIANA AVE. KANKAKEE, IL 60901



STRATEGY

GOAL: To decrease the number of African-American boys and men under 25 years of age in custody and re-offending

OBJECTIVE: To prevent and address childhood trauma related to violence through healthy relationships and behavioral development.

ACTIONS:

1) Initiate a “Forgiveness” campaign in partnership with area faith communities and youth service providers to lead youth through a process to forgive someone in their lives who is at the root of their anger.

2) Partner with Project SUN to strengthen and unify efforts to help children, adolescents, and their families access mental health services.



FORGIVE



TURN FIGHTING TO UNITING

KANKAKEE UNITED



Be the *Key* to a *Strong* City



CITY OF
KANKAKEE
EST. 1853



What Does Forgiveness Affect?

- Psychological
- Social
- Economical
- Educational
- Physiological

What Are the Benefits of Forgiving Someone?

Letting go of grudges and bitterness can make way for improved health and peace of mind.

Forgiveness can lead to:

- Healthier relationships
- Improved mental health
- Less anxiety, stress and hostility
- Lower blood pressure
- Fewer symptoms of depression
- A stronger immune system
- Improved heart health
- Improved self-esteem
- Increased attendance
- Significant progress
- Decreased incidents
- Improved morale
- Higher retention rate
- Increased parent relations
- Reduced stress for the team



STRATEGY

GOAL: To foster greater school success and expanded employment opportunities for young African-American men and boys in Kankakee.

OBJECTIVE: To make clear pathways to equitable educational outcomes and sustainable employment more accessible.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Continue to provide African American Civic Leaders Scholarships to youth.



(2-6 on next slide)

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2) Promote Kankakee School District's programs and recognize student accomplishments via the City's communication outlets.

3) Partner with workforce development organizations, such as Kankakee Workforce Services and Samaschool, to provide training and opportunities for young adults to engage in the "Gig Economy."

4) Encourage area employers to provide internships and afterschool/seasonal employment to city high school students.

5) Promote teen and adult participation in JUMP, the Juvenile Mentoring Program for Kankakee County youth formed in partnership by Kankakee Area YMCA, Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce, and the Kankakee County State's Attorney's Office.

6) Partner with the Kankakee County State's Attorney to offer expungement opportunities for young adults.

State's Attorney Jim Rowe & The Kankakee Area YMCA invite you to participate as a mentor for a court-involved youth in

the J.U.M.P.
JUVENILE MENTORING PROGRAM
FOR KANKAKEE COUNTY'S KIDS



Time Commitment?
At least 4 hours per month

Training?
Provided Free Of Charge

Who Will I Mentor?
We will match you with a court-involved youth with similar interests to your own

WILL YOU BE A MENTOR?

SIGN UP!

Contact Jim @
(815) 936-5825
JRowe@K3County.net

Contact Penny @
(815) 933-1741 x.212
PGreenlee@k3ymca.org

**CHANGE THE ODDS
MENTOR A CHILD**

Young Adults Who Were At-Risk
But Had a Mentor In Their Life Are:

- 55% more likely to enroll in college
- 78% more likely to volunteer regularly
- 90% later interested in becoming a mentor
- 130% more likely to hold leadership positions.

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EARLY SIGNS OF SUCCESS

Strong convening power among key stakeholders and within community.

May 2019, Frank Kosman was hired on as Kankakee Police Chief.

City partnered with Kankakee School District #111 to secure a \$500K Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant.

Kankakee United partnered with Reverend Aaron Clark to launch Forgiveness Campaign.

Success directly related to gun violence – KPD still receives “shots fired” calls, however as of August 13, 2019 there has been ONE death that resulted from gun violence this year in our city and three homicides total.

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the journey *continues*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor

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Meet Us at the Sankofa Marketplace to Learn More

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