
Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention



**Council update
November 10, 2025**

**Presented by
Myesha Watkins,
Administrator**

Our beginning

Building a safer, stronger Cuyahoga County— together

Office established: May 2025

Leadership appointed: August 2025

Purpose: Coordinate a countywide, data driven approach to reduce violence

Vision: A safe and healthy Cuyahoga County



Our mission

Advancing Countywide coordination for health and safety.

The Office of Violence Prevention will take a **public health approach** to violence, **addressing the root causes** such as poverty, trauma, and lack of opportunity while also **investing in community-based solutions** that interrupt cycles of violence. The office will bring together municipal leaders, community partners, public health experts, youth advocates, and law enforcement **with one purpose: to stop violence before it starts.**

Support from Public Safety & Justice Services

I recognize that I did not come in with an established budget and understand the financial challenges we're facing. I want to thank **Director Brandy Carney and the Department of Public Safety & Justice Services** for supporting the Office of Violence Prevention where possible, including **helping me submit our first BJA grant.**

Under my leadership at Cleveland Peacemakers, we were previously awarded a \$2 million CVIPI grant that was later terminated. Those funds are now being **reissued exclusively for government applicants.** I'm confident our recent application strongly centers community safety and health across Cuyahoga County.

Prevention & community engagement

100+

gun locks & 40 safe storage boxes

Empowering communities to prevent violence

STOP THE VIOLENCE PLEDGE

Countywide commitment

GUN SAFETY STARTS HERE

100 + gun locks and 40 safe storage boxes

TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

offering violence prevention trainings hosted at MetroHealth Institute of H.O.P.E locations.

OVP in action

partnering for healing and remembrance

Our Milestones

August 2025

National Day of Remembrance
for Murder Victims:
New Era Cleveland
Countywide moment of
silence at 1:28PM

September 2025

Suicide Awareness Month
Breathe Through It:
Legacies Empowered

October 2025

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
County Councilwoman Conwell &
Women's Health Commission

November 2025

Countywide Violence
Prevention Listening Tour
Survivor-led Outreach Team
Gun Safety Starts Here:
Cuyahoga County Department
of Health

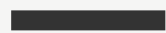
December 2025

Cleveland Cavaliers & NBA
Social Justice Coalition

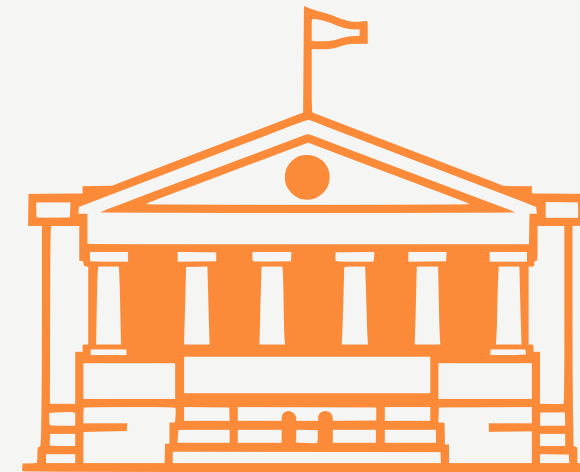
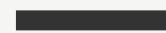
Next steps: strengthening impact & collaboration



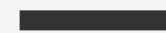
**Grant
opportunties**



**Engage foundation
and corporate
partners**



**Work closely with
mayors and mangers**



**Integrate community
insights from violence
prevention listening tour
into 2026**



Closing & call to action

Together for a safer Cuyahoga County

- A countywide effort to engage residents across all 11 Cuyahoga County districts.

- Opportunity to hear directly from residents about:

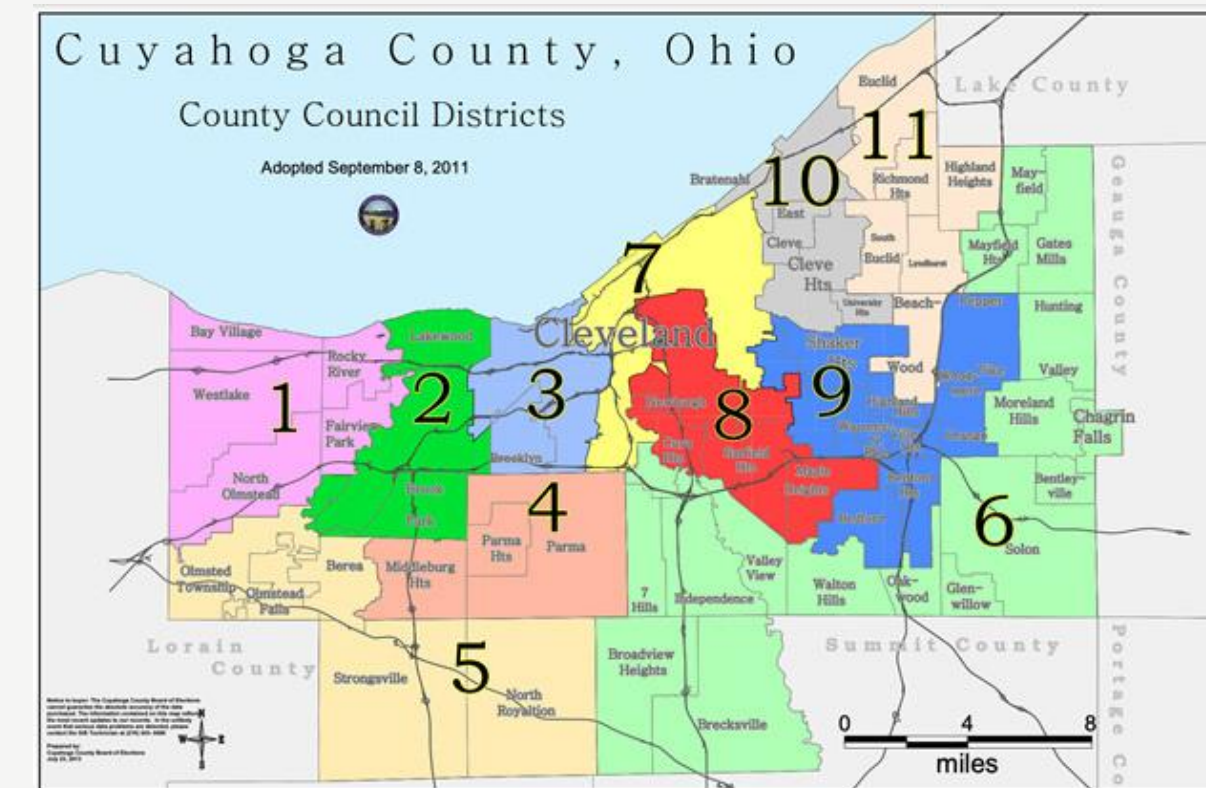
What violence looks like in their communities.

What strategies and supports are already working.

What resources and approaches are still needed.

How the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) can best support local efforts.

- Strengthens partnerships between OVP, County Councilmembers, community leaders, and residents.
- Feedback from the tour will help shape 2026 partnerships, collaborations, events, and trainings.



Thank you

Myesha Watkins, Administrator

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