GVI Fact Sheet

* BUILD has been calling for action to stop the violence since 2014. Since that year, we have set new records for homicides every year except two.
* Group Violence Intervention (GVI) as implemented with the help of the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) is an evidence-based, proven solution. It has been studied and it works. When our city has said GVI doesn’t work, they haven’t provided any data to back up that claim. There is a lot of data, however, that GVI when implemented by the NNSC significantly reduces violence.
  + If GVI isn’t working in a city, maybe they are trying to do GVI without the help of the experts, the NNSC.
* BUILD has been getting the runaround from city leaders every year that we have been pushing for this proven, evidence-based strategy.
* One year at our Nehemiah Action, Police Chief Barnard committed to reaching out to the National Network for Safe Communities. He did not follow through.
* Another year at our Nehemiah Action, Police Chief Barnard said he was going to do “My Brother’s Keeper” as a violence reduction strategy instead of GVI. First, “My Brother’s Keeper” is not a proven violence reduction strategy. Secondly, the police did not even follow through on that.
* At our Nehemiah Action in 2018, Mayor Gray agreed to contract with the National Network for Safe Communities to do a detailed problem analysis. The NNSC came to Lexington in 2019 after Mayor Gorton had taken office. They spent days going through years of violent crime data with police and city leaders. As a result of that study, they made six recommendations. Five of those recommendations were about the data the city collected and used. The sixth was the recommendation to implement the Group Violence Intervention strategy. The city took the recommendations about data collection, but refused the recommendation to implement the actual violence reduction strategy.
* Mayor Gorton said that GVI targets the black community. But there is no data anywhere to support this claim. Where did she get this? There would be data to support this claim if it were true. In fact, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee is spearheading a campaign to implement GVI in their area. They would not be spearheading a GVI campaign if it targeted the black community.
* Our city has said GVI doesn’t work. But again, there is no data to support this claim. All the data shows that GVI, when implemented with the NNSC, does work.
* The city has given us the runaround in numerous ways, all while the violence continues to rise.
* New Haven, CT and Miami-Dade, FL both shared how GVI transformed their city and police department. They reminded us that a central component is police legitimacy. Our city has voiced concerned over the relationship between the community and the police. GVI builds those relationships. Yet, instead of implementing a strategy to improve these relationships, our city wants to spend money on the surveillance of its citizens.
* Since our police chief has refused the simple request of visiting New Haven, CT and Miami-Dade, FL police departments to hear how they are significantly reducing violence in their cities, we encourage the press to reach out.
  + New Haven Police Chief Karl Jacobson: [KJacobson@newhavenct.gov](mailto:KJacobson@newhavenct.gov)
  + Miami-Dade GVI Project Manager, Wayne Rawlins: [wayne@waynerawlins.com](mailto:wayne@waynerawlins.com)
* For more information on NNSC’s GVI: https://nnscommunities.org/strategies/group-violence-intervention/