

### **Necessary Actions for Ottawa to Reduce Violent Crime by 50% by 2030**

I am Irvin Waller, Emeritus Professor of Criminology, University of Ottawa and author of *Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime* ([www.irvinwaller.org](http://www.irvinwaller.org)). I have received international recognition for advising cities and governments on effective, cost-effective and evidence based ways to reduce violent crime. My most recent advice focuses on shifting the culture of decision making to emphasise prevention and aspire to policies that are feasible but as good as the best.

The recent shootings and deaths of four Ottawa citizens has made some, including Chief Sloly, answer the question as to whether we can do better in Ottawa in the affirmative. Yes the violence in our city is not inevitable, but preventable. But It will require us to do some things differently, if we genuinely want different and sustained results by spending tax payer dollars better.

#### **Tackling Root Causes**

Chief Sloly called for a comprehensive approach mobilizing sectors well positioned to tackle root causes of violence, such as poverty. It is possible that the community safety and well-being plan demanded by Ontario by the end of July could influence policies on poverty, housing, education, mental health etc., as he mentioned. These policies are important, but expensive and long term.

#### **Tackling Risk Factors**

I want the city to get to know the evidence on what has reduced violence within 3 years by tackling risk factors as well as the essentials for the city to implement these proven solutions. These programs have been proven in Canada and abroad to change the behavior of the small group of individuals and families involved in violence. It is these actions that have reduced violence by more than 50%. They are the most efficient and cost effective and yield results quickly. Tailoring these programs to Ottawa will give us a sustainable reduction of 50% in this type of violence before 2025. Overtime, they will reduce demand for expensive police response, cut the burden on the courts and reduce overpopulation of the OCDC.

I would be happy to share a safety monitor tool that provides a check list for decision makers. The top of my list are street workers who out reach to the young men in the community and also in hospital emergency rooms when they are victims of violence. They include SNAP and curricula in schools to reduce toxic attitudes and so on..

#### **Implementation Essentials for City to Succeed**

The essentials are the reason for the success of Glasgow in Scotland. The Glasgow, public health model, has, recently been adopted by London and more than 18 other areas of England and Wales. These cities have homicide rates lower or in a similar range to Ottawa. They are very different than US cities, all of whom have much higher homicide rates than Ottawa. Unfortunately US cities have seen their gun violence homicide rates spike in 2020 with current trends looking worse.

I have also developed a safety monitor tool for decision makers of these essentials based on resolutions adopted by Canada at inter-governmental meetinss. The top of my list includes a diagnosis and action by sectors capable of tackling both (i) the causes and (ii) especially to succeed in the short term with the

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risk factors. It must set objectives and performance indicators. They include adequate and sustained funding, which I argue is the equivalent of ten per cent on what is being spent on policing.