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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven Mayor, Police Chief, Officials Attend Historic Project Longevity Call-In
New Haven Project Longevity Becomes the Second Group Violence Intervention Site in the Country to Host a Call-In Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Yesterday evening New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Police Chief Otoniel Reyes, members of the New Haven Police Department, Stacey Spell and Archie Generoso from Project Longevity, public safety partners, and community members held the first Project Longevity Call-in in a year.

“In New Haven, like many urban centers amid the pandemic, we have seen an increase in violent crime. It is a tragedy when we lose community members prematurely,” reminded Mayor Justin Elicker. “Our Police Department, Youth Department, and other city staff are working hard to address the violence and provide the support to those who are affiliated with violent street groups. Call-ins are only one tool we are using to engage community members who are at-risk for involvement in violence. When I spoke with the young men last night, I made clear both that the violence must stop and that our team and I will do everything in our power to support and help them choose a different path.”

The group met with Stacy Spell, New Haven Project Manager for Project Longevity, and fifteen Project Longevity members for a call-in. Call-ins are critical in Group Violence Intervention. These interventions have shown that Group Violence Intervention can reduce violent crime in a community when members are joined by law enforcement, social service providers, and other community members. This holistic approach to reducing violence focuses on an antiviolence message when communicating with street groups.

“This was an important step in our efforts to reduce gun violence. In the past week, we have seized seven guns and made significant violence-related arrests. However, the greatest impact we can have on public safety is the prevention of crime, to engage in proactive and preventative measures that will stop the next shooting or homicide. Call-ins are not a panacea—no strategy is. It is a tool designed to pinpoint those individuals that are driving the violence. We are able to deliver a clear and unified message to these

young men; we as a community will not tolerate gun violence. We assure them that we want them safe, alive, and out of jail; however, should they make a conscious choice to hurt our communities by engaging in gun violence, we will bring the full focus attention of law enforcement on the local, state, and Federal level, to hold them accountable,” added New Haven Police Chief Otoniel Reyes.

The purpose of the call-in is for law enforcement, community members, and social services providers to directly interact with violent street groups to communicate three critical messages: future violent acts will be met with clear consequences, the community will no longer tolerate violence in any form, and a genuine offer of help for those that are in need.

“Project Longevity New Haven held a historical call-in last night during a global pandemic to address the escalating gun violence in our City,” added Stacy Spell, New Haven Project Manager at Project Longevity. “We are only the second Gun Violence Intervention site in the country to host a call-in during a pandemic.”

Project Longevity social services coordinators provide ongoing support and outreach to those involved in violent street groups by working with State and local partners. The primary goal is to eradicate all forms of group involved violence. Still, Project Longevity is also tasked with finding the root cause of crime and violent crime.

For more information visit, [Project Longevity New Haven’s website](#).

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