



**Statement of Paul DePonte
Executive Director
Regarding President Biden's Violent Crime Reduction Plan
June 23, 2021**

Preventing crime is the first place to start in reducing crime. President Biden has kicked off a much-needed conversation about what must be done to keep our communities safe.

Greater investment in community interventions and engagement with law enforcement is one of the best ways to reduce violent crime--by preventing it before it occurs.

In many ways, President Biden is calling the nation to get back to basics in crime prevention. In the decades since 9-11, too much has been asked of local police departments. What has been lost is a clear emphasis on community. Returning to a greater focus on community policing and other prevention programs will take a bite out of crime, again.

No community wants to live in fear of violent crime. The latest opinion research demonstrates that the public is the key to public safety. Police need to work with communities--and communities need to work with the police.

Training and certifying police in crime prevention needs to be a vital part of the equation. The National Crime Prevention Council is committed to working with the federal government and state and local law enforcement to make sure this happens.

Violent crime cannot be solved by law enforcement alone. Connecting crime prevention professionals and communities is an essential part of crime prevention infrastructure. NCPC is committed to continue building its nationwide network to build bridges of mutual support between law enforcement and community groups. America can prevent crime, neighborhood by neighborhood, and make communities safer.