



# **Charlotte Harm Free Zone Project Report**

**SAFE Coalition NC  
July- August 2016**

SAFE Coalition NC continued its Harm Free Zone development process during the months of July and August. We moved from the listening phase of our project into the project design and community engagement phase.

## **Community Engagement**



In July, SAFE Coalition NC and The Charlotte/Mecklenburg NAACP held a month long community engagement series around police and community relations.

- July 10<sup>th</sup>. SAFE Coalition NC youth held a peaceful demonstration at Epicenter to draw attention to police accountability. We also used this as an opportunity to spotlight CMPD's response and how well the demonstrators and CMPD interacted.

<https://tinaquizon.wordpress.com/2016/07/11/justice-human-rights/>

- July 12<sup>th</sup>. We held a peaceful rally for victims of police violence in Marshal Park for our Stay Woke event.

<http://clclt.com/theclog/archives/2016/07/12/lunch-break-7-12-16-anti-police-brutality-events-continue-in-charlotte>

- July 14<sup>th</sup>. We held a community discussion in partnership with CMPD on police community relations at Little Rock AME Zion church. Over 800 people took part in the forum.

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/32441196/community-and-police-brass-meet-for-a-frank-discussion>

- July 20<sup>th</sup>. The family of LaReko Williams and SAFE Coalition NC held the 5<sup>th</sup> annual remembrance of the death Lareko Williams who was killed by CMPD.

<http://www.twcnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2016/07/20/family-marks-5-year-anniversary-of-man-killed-by-cmpd-officer-.html>

## **Harm Free Zone Design Team Meetings.**



SAFE Coalition NC design team held three meetings for the Charlotte Harm Free Zone project.

Our first meeting introduced the Harm Free Zone Concept to the design team. We informed the team of how they were going to serve as a focus group for the design phase of the project and what would be expected of them.

Harm Free Zone Design Team Meeting #1

<https://youtu.be/OHElrwFef8k>

The second design team meeting was held on August 11<sup>th</sup> and introduced the focus group to audience polling, solicited ideas from the group around potential HFZ programming and community engagement strategies as well as a comprehensive review of the neighborhood surveys collected by our canvassers.

Harm Free Zone Design Team Meeting #2

<https://youtu.be/JcxTPdhzrcQ>

## **Media Outreach/ Social media.**

- SAFE Coalition NC published the first in a 6 part blog series about the Harm Free Zone project. The blog series is being written by journalist Kendrea Mekkah and chronicles the rationale behind the Harm Free Zone project and the projects development. Kendrea will also be working to get our blogs national exposure with online newspapers like the Daily Kos, The Guardian and the Huffington Post. The first blog can be read here:

<http://www.ncsafecoalition.org/2016/08/06/going-beyond-policing-to-create-safe-communities-in-charlotte-nc/>

- SAFE Coalition NC has produced 2 radio shows on the development of the Harm Free Zone. We will be producing a total of 6 radio shows to give the community a look inside the process of building the Charlotte Harm Free Zone. The radio shows can be heard on Agitator Radio which is hosted by SAFE Coalition's State Director. Robert Dawkins. Agitator Radio has a weekly national listenership of over 75,000 people and can be heard live on People Demanding Action Radio every Tuesday morning at 10am or on podcast a

**Interview with Dr. David Campt**

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/pdan/2016/07/26/agitator-radio>

**Interview with Minister Corine Mack**

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/pdan/2016/08/23/agitator-radio>

**Conflict Resolution & Mediation**

SAFE Coalition NC held its first meeting with Willie Ratchford and members of the Charlotte Community Relations Committee to discuss our concept around the development of a new conflict resolution curriculum for non-profit organizations, advocacy organizations and churches working in the African American Community. We reached the following agreements:

1. CRC has developed an extensive curriculum that they use to train peer mediators and to train trainers. However, the curriculum has not been written to apply to the general population of a church, school, or other group.
2. CRC trainers use a number of updated interactive methods during training experiences so that participants can bring to bear their specific experiences - which may be related to their culture or collective experience - and examine how conflict resolution methods might apply to them. At this point, the curriculum has not been reexamined in light of the degree to which the underlying concepts connect to cutting edge concepts related to race, racism, and cultural competence.
3. One emergent goal of the Harm Free Zone is to develop, promote, and disseminate a curriculum about conflict (prevention, resolution, and transformation) that could be adapted to general black audiences of a variety of ages.
4. We discussed the possibility of SAFE Coalition NC looking collaboratively at CRC's materials, and potentially working together to adapt the content and create a general audience curriculum that is intentionally designed to resonate with black audiences in disinvested communities.
5. To further explore this possibility, over the next few weeks, some members of the CRC team will review CRC's current peer mediator curriculum and do a preliminary examination of which elements might be most suitable for adaption for general audiences.
6. Depending on CRC's progress on that task, SAFE Coalition NC will have a follow up meeting to revisit next steps on a potential collaboration.

## **Survey Collection**



SAFE Coalition NC canvassers spent Saturday afternoons during the month of July canvassing the neighborhoods of Grier Heights, Hidden Valley and the Freedom Drive area. We had conversations with neighbors about the social harms that affect them individually and as a community. SAFE Coalition NC will be using the results of the survey to prioritize the areas of harm that we will focus on during the Harm free Zone project. SAFE Coalition NC will be introducing an electronic survey during the month of September to gather more community input.

## **Voter Registration**

SAFE Coalition NC members have been working in partnership with Action NC to conduct nonpartisan voter registration in Charlotte/ Mecklenburg. Since June, our effort has registered 6,000 voters. It is our hope that these voters will become active in the political discourse around the social harms affecting the lives of the African American community and hold politicians accountable.



## Harm Free Zone Health and Social Health Initiatives



- Developed a customized exercise and nutrition curriculum for children ages 6 to 12 and their parents to compliment the utilization of previously existing educational tools to further deliver urban nutritional guidance
- Invested Tuesday and Thursday of every week developing relationships with the stakeholders within the Grier Heights Community
- Attended community functions offering exercise and nutritional support while also building relationships with the adolescents within the community and other mentors
- Created a unique program called **Mothers Mentoring Mothers** to utilize experienced mothers to offer a new perspective of parenting and positive role modeling for the mothers within the community in relating to child rearing and “Affirmation Parenting”
- Gained the attention of the mothers within the community to take greater interest in their health and the health of their children

- Developed literary framework to offer insight to the male youth within the community ages 13- 17 years of age, based on self love, loving your brothers as yourself, conflict resolution, stress management and respecting authority
- Partnered with other mentoring groups within the community and surrounding areas to further reach the youth of the Grier Heights community and beyond on a continuous basis to reduce the excessive violence within the community