



July 20, 2020

Dear Honorable Kansas City Council Members,

My name is Doctor Michael Moncure, and I'm a Trauma Surgeon at Truman Medical Center, the Vice Chair of Surgery, and a Professor of Surgery at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. I'm originally from Oakland California and received my BS in Biomedical Engineering from USC and MD from the University of Washington in Seattle. My Internship and Residency were performed at Howard University Hospital in Washington DC, and a Trauma Critical Care Fellowship at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore Maryland. After completion of training I received my first Faculty appointment at the University of Medical and Dental of New Jersey and Cooper Health Systems in Camden, NJ. I left there 22 years ago because I thought in my previous position, the problems of Camden would be largely unsolvable. It is well documented how corrupt the local government and police department were and I embraced the opportunity to come to KU in Kansas City, Kansas.

I have a long history and track record of performing research on Violence Prevention, specifically gun related incidents. When I first started, we attempted a number of tactics to end this senseless cycle, including Scared Straight Programs, Tours of the Trauma Centers with documentation of what can happen and talks by previous victims. These efforts began in Baltimore and ended in Kansas City, KS. I was very pleased to initiate and direct the University of Kansas American College of Surgeons Level One Trauma Center, but after years of frustration, could not initiate and offer an Evidence-based approach for the victims of violence. After leaving KU to come to Truman, one of the attractions was the hospital's collaboration with Aim4Peace to reduce gun violence.

My 3 years at Truman have demonstrated the great work performed by Aim4Peace (based on the Cure model decreasing recidivism by 90% in some cases, as well as retaliation). I have had numerous patient's who've narrowly escaped death, be met at the Trauma Center by Violence Interrupters, who counsel Families, stop others from retaliating and perform groundwork in the community to help the healing process. The Catchment area they cover, including Truman and now Research Medical Center, have traditionally benefited from reductions in violence related acts and recidivism. They lack the resources to cover the entire city and be staffed appropriately to create the desired effects, we all want to see in Kansas City. We are currently performing research on the positive effects of Aim4Peace and other partnerships aimed at decreasing PTSD. Shortly after crossing the state line, I witnessed TMC and Aim4Peace partner to save the life of a young 19-year-old Hispanic Male, who only lived following 4 extensive surgeries. More importantly, the young Man is being encouraged to reenter school, obtain employment and receive Behavioral Health services. This sort of thing happens every day at TMC and RMC.

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Ironically the city of Camden, NJ decreased gun related violence by instituting programs such as Aim4Peace and changes in police modeling by 60% and confrontations with police resulting in injury by 90%. We have an opportunity to invest in proven methods to curb violence, and not to continue to embrace methods that are not good or logical. It's going to take a multi-factorial approach that hits the crux of why these acts happen. Lack of job opportunities, less ability for educational attainment, adverse childhood events, poor environment, perception of an unfair judicial process, food deserts, and hopelessness are the real problems. We can be like Camden, NJ and work together to achieve a better outcome and future for all Kansas Citians.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on this very important topic. Lives are at risk, and instead of a decision that could jeopardize hundreds more, let's work together with experts to save all of our Youth and future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Moncure". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael Moncure MD, FACS
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Vice-Chair of Surgery, UMKC
Coffey Endowed Chair of Surgery, UMKC
Assistant Medical Director of Trauma, TMC ACS Level 1 Trauma Center