



DOWNTOWN COALITION INITIATIVE 2024 PROPOSAL

THE HOUSE OF MANDATE INC. • ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC

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INTRODUCTION

In response to the pressing need for collaborative action in Roanoke Rapids, a groundbreaking initiative is underway. The formation of the Downtown Coalition, spearheaded by the Roanoke Rapids Police Department (RRPD), Halifax Sheriff's Office, and key law enforcement agencies alongside The House of Mandate, Inc., marks a pivotal moment in our community's efforts to combat crime and mitigate juvenile recidivism. By uniting faith-based principles with law enforcement expertise, this coalition is committed to identifying and addressing crime hotspots while fostering opportunities for rehabilitation and empowerment among our youth. Through strategic coordination and resource-sharing, we aim to cultivate a safer, more resilient downtown area for all residents and businesses. Together, we embark on a journey towards a brighter, more secure future for Roanoke Rapids.

Critical Facts: There has not been a community legalized partnership with law enforcement and a faith-based organization ever which will make history.

Total Crime Rate in RR is 55 per 1,000 people, which is higher than the national average.

Reported by Hayley Fixer (publicist) N.C juvenile crime rate jumped 21% in the last year. Further that 44 percent of the kids that are coming into the system believe the only way that they can get what they need in life is through violence.

MISSION

The RRPD / Halifax Sheriff Office and other Lead Law Enforcement, and the House of Mandate DOWNTOWN Coalition initiative aims to facilitate the promotion of law literacy, community safety, strength, justice, and unification by facilitating local and regional partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses, and community organizations through the connections of a local faith-based organization (the House of Mandate, Inc.) and the Halifax County Reentry Council. This initiative aims to re-calibrate law enforcement, judicial, and community relations through solutions-focused, in-person, socially distanced and/or virtual activities that are organized jointly by the House of Mandate, Inc [aftercare program / summer programs].

Primary Mission (Focus): To initiate a form of social **gentrification** by restorative, transformative, and reparative justice in the downtown community of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., in phases beginning with the youth of the downtown community.

Partnerships/Stake Holders (Suggestions): Trillium / Vocational Rehab / KIPP / RRPS / HCC Public School / Operation Restart (WIOA) / Halifax County Judicial District / Turning Point (WDB) / Halifax Community College PD / J.C.P.C Board / D.A. Office of Prosecutorial District 7 / Halifax County Reentry Council / C.S.I

DOWNTOWN COALITION INITIATIVE



TOGETHER WE CAN!

OVERVIEW

"In fostering collaborative partnerships between local churches and law enforcement agencies, communities stand to gain a multifaceted approach to crime reduction and community safety. By leveraging the trust, moral guidance, and extensive networks of faith-based organizations, alongside the expertise and resources of law enforcement, these partnerships offer a comprehensive strategy to address the root causes of crime, provide support and rehabilitation for individuals at risk, and promote community resilience. Through preventive programs, crisis intervention, and community policing initiatives, the synergy between churches and law enforcement fosters stronger bonds between officers and residents, ultimately leading to safer and more resilient communities." -Dr. Orin Perry

Procedures / Rules / Other Ideas of the RRPD and House of Mandate: Coalition:

- 1.) If they come to the House of Mandate, Inc. for help they can't be arrested or charged (unless it's an infraction that warrants it).
- 2.) Provide mentorship and tutoring to the most vulnerable youth in downtown (or Roanoke Rapids) (if available).
- 3.) Build Trust between the faith-based community and law enforcement to strengthen the support of the downtown community.

OVERVIEW CONT.

What Law Enforcement Agencies Bring to the Collaboration Table

- Power and influence. Law enforcement agencies are among the most important institutions in the community because police and sheriffs help maintain social order by controlling crime and protecting the public from harm. High-ranking law enforcement officials often sit on the boards of major community organizations, which allows them to influence public policy, especially as it relates to law enforcement and crime prevention.
- Skills and tools to control crime. Law enforcement agencies have the tools and skills to identify, track and apprehend criminals without exposing the public to undue risk. Because they understand how criminals operate, police and sheriffs can advise citizens about the best ways to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from criminal activity.
- Reliable Crime Data. Law enforcement agencies have the most accurate information about crime in the community.

OVERVIEW CONT.

What Faith-Based Organizations Bring to the Collaboration Table

- **Dominant community force.** In many troubled urban communities, faith-based organizations function as the anchoring force. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other spiritual centers remain — and frequently become even more important in the lives of people — long after major businesses, service organizations and residents have fled. FBOs are frequently a focal point of activity, providing a range of spiritual, social and support services to residents. Similarly, in small communities outside of urban areas, the spiritual centers and places of worship also tend to play a significant role in the lives of people.
- **Extensive understanding of social issues that underlie crime.** Clergy leaders are trained to deal with the special needs of disadvantaged populations. They often lend a level of compassion and understanding that traditional social service agencies do not. That's why members of FBOs from disadvantaged communities may find it easier to share their struggles and concerns with their spiritual leader or counselor.
- **Established infrastructure for addressing human needs.**
- **Voice of Moral and Secular Authority.** In many troubled communities, the clergy is often viewed as the leader and voice of moral and secular authority. (Residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods are often poorly represented in city councils and other policy-making bodies.)

PHASE 1 OF D.C.

PHASE 1

—PHASE 1 OF D.C (DOWNTOWN COALITION)—

Plan/Strategy/Objective: Partnership(s) with the RRPD and HOM via a RRPD Law Enforcement Officer to provide security for House of Mandate, Inc. and act as a liaison for intake processing and collaboration with juveniles and recidivists (i.e. downtown Roanoke Rapids) that the RRPD, Halifax County Sheriff Office, and H.C.C P.D encounter and interact with that can be sent to the House of Mandate, Inc. and the Halifax County Reentry Council for restorative, reparative, and transformative justice.

- Intake Processing (for those who arrest are not warranted) (mainly juveniles) – Partnership with Judicial System in getting dockets if needed.
- Set up for Downtown Coalition during hours that specify and give guidelines to support the cause and mission of the Downtown Coalition. Create Intake Process and Collaboration with intrinsic and extrinsic resources via partnerships.
- Do Press Release — RRSPIN / Daily Herald / WRAL / Foxy 104.3 / etc. etc.
- Launch Downtown Initiative
- Do Community Event(s) – foster an annual one per year if not more.

FUNDING: GRANT'S THROUGH THE NON-PROFIT VENTURING, SPONSORSHIPS, AND OTHER MEANS

PHASE 1

THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROGRAM

Pivotal Choices is a psycho-social YLC programming element that operates for the Health & Wellness Community Service Committee:

Component 1: provides information about the most repeated offenses in the judicial system. Participants will receive information from a retired police officer's perspective. This professional knowledge is based on years of experience in law enforcement. Viewers will receive the meaning of each offense and its consequences for the judicial system. **Please note that this information does not represent legal advice or counsel.**

This information does not substitute any form of legal representation.

Component 2: of Pivotal Choices is the Mental Health component. Participants will receive information from the perspective of a Mental Health professional. This speaker's knowledge is based on years of, but not limited to, experience providing mental health services to individuals who were adjudicated to receive mental health treatment.

Pivotal Choices can serve as a diversion to incarceration by utilization as an intervention. Pivotal Choices can also be utilized as a tool for prevention. This program

THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROGRAM CONT.

is structured to educate and assist with restructuring the thought process of everyone receiving this service.

All potential candidates will be subjected to an Intake/Assessment process to determine eligibility for participation. Upon completion of Intake/Assessment, the components that will be appropriate for each participant will be determined. Each participant will be held to the standard of *Components 1 and 2*.

Component 3: Participants will receive one-on-one sessions, family sessions, peer support services, and school sessions (for minors only).

Pivotal Choices is a 16-week, 3-times per-week contact program. Pivotal Choices aims to be an intensive treatment process to ensure each participant's success. The multiple demission approach seeks to evaluate and improve support in each life domain.

This approach also ensures participants can implement the new information and coping skills acquired during treatment.

Pivotal Choices utilizes the evidence-based model of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). According to a peer-reviewed article in Psychology Today (2023), <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/cognitive-behavioral-therapy>, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is a form of [psychotherapy](#) that focuses on modifying dysfunctional emotions, behaviors, and thoughts by interrogating and uprooting negative

THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROGRAM CONT.

or irrational beliefs. Considered a "solutions-oriented" form of talk therapy, CBT rests on the idea that thoughts and perceptions influence behavior.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy programs tend to be structured and systematic, which makes it more likely that a person gets an adequate "dose" of healthy thinking and behaviors. In therapy, patients will learn to identify and challenge harmful thoughts and replace them with a more realistic, healthy perspective. Patients may receive assignments between sessions, such as exercises to observe and recognize their thought patterns and apply the skills they learn to real-life situations.

A typical course of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program is around 5 to 20 weekly sessions of about 45 minutes each. Treatment may continue for additional sessions spaced further apart while the person keeps practicing skills independently. The entire course of therapy may last from 3 to 6 months, and longer in some cases if needed. Upon completion, each participant will obtain:

1. **A Law-Literacy Certificate of Achievement**
2. **A comprehensive discharge summary**

DETAILED PROPOSAL

Overview and Processes of the Downtown Coalition Aftercare Program (Law and Literacy):

The Downtown Coalition Proposal introduces an innovative and collaborative model to support one of the *Downtown Coalition's* (D.C) goals, which includes an immediate alternative to detention. The proposed target referral populations by D.C Members are teens between ages 12 – 17 along *with* their parents, grandparents, foster parents, and guardians who commit to participating and remaining active members in good standing with this project entitled “*The House of Mandate (HOM) Youth Leadership Chapter Model™*” (YLC).

The primary role and responsibility of the D.C,-- i.e., Law Enforcement (Roanoke Rapids Police Department / Halifax County Sheriff Office / Halifax Community College Police Department / Gaston Police Department and others) are awarding scholarship opportunities to teens and adults in their households to receive second chance opportunities to learn laws online and apply them as members of the HOM Youth Leadership Chapter (YLC). The teen scholarship recipient must acknowledge their understanding of the scholarship opportunity by requesting a Law-Literacy Scholarship, which includes membership into the H.O.M Young Leader's Chapter. The scholarship recipient's signature on the application attests to the teen's request for the

Downtown Coalition to award a Law-Literacy Scholarship and membership into the H.O.M Young Leader's Chapter.

The Referral Partner's role includes describing the criminal charges and this opportunity for eligible teens to avoid slipping into our nation's prison pipeline. Teens may choose to deny the scholarship award or, once engaged, request to terminate their H.O.M Young Leader's Chapter Membership if they decide not to conform to public safety and health behaviors that align with Title IX.

In termination cases, the teen will be requested to self-terminate and notify their Referral Partner and household members within one hour. The H.O.M Young Leader's Chapter Project Coordinator will notify the Referral Partner within the hour so they may manage the teen's next steps and refer their next teen. Within 48 hours, the H.O.M Young Leader's Chapter Project Coordinator completes the replacement process with the incoming teen. This process models a job opportunity interview and a positive onboarding experience.

The branding of the scholarship award credits law enforcement officials with the reputation of providing a scholarship award to eligible teens instead of detention, expulsion, etc. This evidence-based model helps rebuild trust between law enforcement and marginalized communities.

The psycho-social dynamics with immature teens include critical thinking with Downtown Coalition who listen and encourage the eligible teens to say, *"Thank you for this scholarship*

opportunity to stay at home with the freedom to stop and make better decisions than yesterday.”

H.O.M Young Leader’s Chapter uses Title IX guidelines to ensure that our learning environment is safe and healthy for learning. Therefore, the Executive Director and Project Coordinator oversee the Y.L.C’s (Young Leader’s Chapter) Bylaws, Codes of Conduct, and Community Service Committee activities with policies, procedures, and empirical data reports to funders, the Downtown Coalition, and the insurer.

Unbeknownst to many citizens, our jurisdiction is impacted by the N.C Health and Human Services definition of social determinants of health, including mental health services. As the Y.L.C’s Health & Wellness Community Service Committee brings awareness to emerging teen leaders, the H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ integrates mental health professionals. This youth leadership platform opens dialogues with teens, including dispelling mental health myths and educational opportunities to reveal more truthful and helpful work in communities, i.e., pathways for Veteran Heroes returning home.

Teens Committee Chairs learn how to request professionals to schedule engagements with their members to inform teens through workshops and meetings. H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ members listen, record minutes, discuss, and investigate career opportunities. The design and procedures for the Health & Wellness Committee involve the Executive Director and Project Coordinator. They permit one-on-one conversations that may lead to HIPPA-regulated sessions authorized by parents and guardians.

The number of H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ Community Service Committees expands according to the membership size, various teen interests and topics, ongoing research, data collection, and reporting. Teen Committee Chairs listen attentively and document their general perspectives on the short and long-term benefits of their committee work findings. Active H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ in good standing contribute to the reporting process of the H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ Executive Committee, where additional thinking, support, and promotions are decided upon to benefit others in the community.

H.O.M Youth Leadership Chapter Model™ Community Service Committees benefit the community and extend appreciation to law enforcement officials for including a percentage of members who request second-chance opportunities. The Public Safety Committee Coordinator supports youth-led committees that include, but are not limited to:

A. Executive Committee – Committee Members are nominated into officer positions that will enable peer-led Community Service Committees to conduct operations in collaboration with the Downtown Coalition.

B. Public Safety Committee –Committee members receive Law-Literacy Scholarships from DC Members to earn a Law-Literacy Certificate of Achievement within 90 days or more. The curriculum teaches the “Top 100 Most Repeatedly Broken Laws in America.”

C. Membership – Committee members qualify like-minded teens to benefit from their public safety and health mission. Members should strive to remain in good behavioral and academic standing, be able to work independently as well as with a team, and progressively help others. Potential members should be enrolled in school or follow the Project Coordinator's alternative steps. These members will be responsible for reporting committee data to the Executive Committee, making recommendations, and reporting benefits and costs.

D. Supply Chain Management – Committee members will learn Workforce Development strategies from entrepreneurship workshops and training that result in hands-on work in “business departments,” i.e., business and finance, communications and marketing, human resources, and contract administration. These members will be responsible for reporting findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations, and associated benefits and costs.

E. Health, Wellness, and Sports Leadership – Committee members promote nutrition, mental health, sportsmanship and discipline, and fair play while encouraging preteens to respect their health and healthy living. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

F. Community Service Monitoring – Committee members collect empirical data from YLC members that benefit local communities and organizations' public safety and health. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

G. Marketing, Communications, and Technology – Committee members will develop and implement positive “Community Messaging” for the City of Roanoke Rapids to recruit businesses. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

H. Business Internships – Committee members will be responsible for documenting the goals of YLC Members and post-secondary goals involving workforce development and education. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

I. Referral-Partner Appreciation – Committee members will meet with Referral-Partners to develop progressive pathways to increase the overall number of Referral Partners in the DC, i.e., juvenile court counselors, first responders, School Resource Officers, and school principals. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

J. Food Desert Remediation – Committee members will research the “hungry” counties and areas considered Food Deserts and participate in solutions. Committee members engage in promotional activities to encourage fresh markets and better access to fresh produce and healthy food. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.

K. Teen Speakers Bureau - Committee members will plan and develop public speaking activities. These members will report findings to the Executive Committee, making recommendations and associated benefits and costs.



**DOWNTOWN
COALITION INITIATIVE**