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## Green Bay gets analysis of gun violence

BY HEATHER GRAVES EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Green Bay City Council members got a peek at the much anticipated analysis from The National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) regarding the city's gun crime statistics for the past three years at its Tuesday, June 7, meeting.



Chris Davis

"I'll be honest, we did not expect that there would be as much information and intelligence being gathered in Green Bay (with it) being a small city with not that large of a gun violence problem," David Muhammad, the executive director of the NICJR, said. "So, we actually were impressed. That being said, there certainly can be improvements."

Work with the NICJR started after the city saw an uptick in gun violence since 2019.

See GUN VIOLENCE page 9



The fire that destroyed the Radant's Bargain Outlet 100-year-old building took two days and lots of resources to finally put out. Submitted Photo

# De Pere Fire Rescue celebrates 150 years

BY TORI WITTENBROCK INTERN

DE PERE – This year marks a significant milestone for De Pere Fire Rescue – celebrating 150 years of existence.

What started in 1872 as the De Pere Fire Co., when

it officially transitioned from a private organization to a city department, is now De Pere Fire Rescue – growing from two teams of 10 to nearly 50 full-



time and part-time employees.

The department has two fire stations, one on each side of the Fox River, protecting a population of more than 25,000 in

an area covering roughly 12 square miles (with a combined coverage area of more than 25 square miles when you add in areas of the towns of Ledgeview and Lawrence and a portion of Ashwaubenon).

See 150 YEARS page 10

## Content with being the behind-the-scenes guy

BY HEATHER GRAVES EDITOR

GREEN BAY – When most people attend a Green Bay Packers football game, their focus is likely not on which company supplied the cup their newly-purchased beer is in, or that

the tray they are eating their nachos out of barely made it in time for the game because of supply chain shortages.

Don't worry – Ed Fritsch Koehl, the commissary manager for Delaware North Sportservice, the hospitality partner of the



Though he isn't an employee of the Green Bay Packers, Ed Fritsch Koehl said working inside Lambeau Field is a pretty neat experience. Heather Graves Photo

Packers – has a handle on those.

An Appleton native, graduate of the University of Minnesota and lifelong Packers fan, Fritsch Koehl

said being able to come to Lambeau Field every day for work is definitely a career perk.

See KOEHL page 18

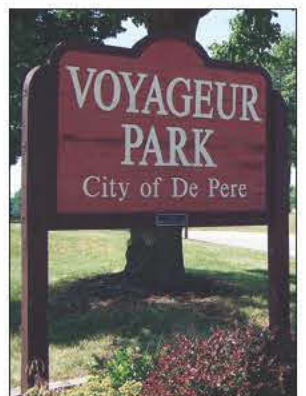
## Official newspaper of the City of De Pere

BY PRESS TIMES STAFF

DE PERE – For a second year in a row, the De Pere City Council unanimously awarded its legal notice contract to The Press Times at its Tuesday, June 7, City Council meeting, making it the official newspaper of the City of De Pere.

The legal notices that run in the back of The Press Times each week hold great importance to the municipalities and our readers, and being entrusted with them is not something we take lightly.

See OFFICIAL page 26



## Solutions discussed for Voyageur Park complaints

BY LEE REINSCH CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – Concerns at Voyageur Park – including noise from vehicles and loitering by young people – and possible solutions filled much of the Tuesday, June 7, City Council meeting – an issue that has caused headaches for area residents and city staff for the past few years.

Lawton Foundry apartment resident Brenda Busch said because of issues such as these – vehicles parking

See VOYAGEUR page 10



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**KOEHL**  
from page 1

"I mean, it's pretty easy to come to Lambeau Field every day for work, right?" he said.

However, in his role as commissary manager, the opportunity his position gives him to put math and logic together to create a plan of attack is what he likes most about his job.

"That was kind of the one thing I was always looking for, is how can we add analytics to this to make sure we're being as efficient as possible?" he said.

**Education, experience**

Majoring in sports management, Fritsch Koehl was able to dip his toes into the industry toward the end of his college career with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"If you go to a sporting event, everything you see on a scoreboard or hear on the PA system or see on the playing surface that isn't the actual game (I had a hand in)," he said.

After graduation, Fritsch Koehl said he found himself back in Wisconsin selling season tickets for the Milwaukee Brewers, then for the Milwaukee Mile, before getting a position with the nonprofit connected with the Badger State Games.

"I kind of jumped around, worked with the volunteer portion of the Iron Man in Madison, went back to Milwaukee and ran a restaurant, before doing some event coordination for the Potawatomi Casino," he said.

That was until he made the move to Titledown to be with his now wife Anne in 2018.

"I was dating my now wife," he said. "She was living up here, and I was in Milwaukee. And it was about three years of that. I spent about a year trying to find a job up here - something that kind of fit my background, but also something that I would want to do."

Fritsch Koehl found himself landing with Delaware North as a catering manager.

"I got the opportunity with Delaware North, have since proposed to and married my wife and have had a few different positions within the company," he said.



Ed Fritsch Koehl is the commissary manager for Delaware North, the company that operates concessions, dining and restaurants at Lambeau Field.

**The right fit**

Fritsch Koehl said he realized in college he's best at being the behind-the-scenes guy.

"You know you're doing a good job because nobody notices you," he said.

When Lambeau Field reopened following the COVID-19 shutdown, and the position of commissary manager presented itself to him, Fritsch Koehl said it seemed like a good fit.

"I saw it as an area where, using my background, I felt I could probably do our company more good for the bottom line by taking on that position," he said. "So this was different than anything I had done, but it was like parts of pieces of what I've done. It was a stadium atmosphere, revolving around sports, food and then doing some data analysis."

In his role, Fritsch Koehl is in charge of ordering and organizing all products needed to entertain fans on gamedays - from beverages and cups to ice scoopers and napkins.

"I handle ordering dry products, beverages," he said. "I oversee all aspects of our liquor warehouse. I work with our concessions manager to ensure that standards are stacked for the season and then restocked between games. I work with our local corporate procurement and other local or national distributors on procuring small wares."

Coming up on his one-year anniversary in the position, Fritsch Koehl said what he's learned during that time is that he could have never fully grasped the scope of what this operation entails until moving into this role.

"Everything takes 15 minutes longer than you think just because the stadium is massive," he said. "Basically since I've been here, if I say I'll be done at a certain time, my wife usually adds an hour. You think you're close to done and then tasks take longer than you think. And when you are finished, you're six floors up on the opposite end of the stadium and it takes 15 to 20 minutes just to get back to your computer, close that down, put everything away and then get out to your car and actually get out on the road."

One of the obstacles Fritsch Koehl said he's had to overcome as of late, and as his team begins preparing for the 2022 season, is supply chain shortages.

"As we start to ramp up for 2022 to kind of hope that it's where it needs to be and you're planning enough time in advance, just in case something takes 12-16 weeks to show up," he said. "But you never really know if that's even going to be enough time. That's probably the most stressful part, I think."

**Always working on gameday**

Though it might sound exciting to be amongst all

the hustle and bustle of gamedays, Fritsch Koehl said for him and his warehouse staff, it's all business.

"Pretty much all of us here at Delaware North work gamedays," he said. "I would be hard pressed to think of any individual person that isn't required to be here. For me, it's getting in early, probably five to six hours before the gates open. I walk the stadium, taking care of some last minute tasks and just making sure everything is ready to go."

Fritsch Koehl said the warehouse staff is pretty much constantly moving product out to concessions locations or some of the premium locations until the end of the third quarter.

"Then we shut our garage door, turn off the lights

and most of us go home," he said. "I will tend to be here probably at least an hour or two after the game ends. Just taking care of any post-game needs."

Then the following week is spent preparing for the next game - replenishing where it needs replenishing and ordering items that need ordering.

Fritsch Koehl said while at times it can be hectic, the warehouse team learned preparation was key, which made each game less and less hectic.

"We're kind of separate from all the other gameday people, and are pretty much just waiting for the phone to ring and finding products on our shelves and taking it up to where it needs to go," he said. "However, one of the advantages of where we are is the players tunnel that Packers walk through to get from their locker room to the field is right around the corner from us. We don't interact with them, but we can very easily see them at times."

Fritsch Koehl said the team also hears the action when it comes down toward the south end zone

"You can hear the excitement and touchdowns happen," he said. "So, that's pretty cool."

**Sense of pride**

Fritsch Koehl said he doesn't think he'll ever get used to working in Lambeau Field.

"When it comes up, 'Oh, what do you do for a living?'" he said. "I'm the warehouse manager for the food and beverage compa-

ny that operates Lambeau Field - that's typically how I will describe it. I think that portion is self-explanatory enough. I think the one thing people think when you say you work at Lambeau Field, they are like 'Oh, you work for the Packers.' It's like 'Well, no. Kind of.'"

Fritsch Koehl said working in pro sport venues in Minnesota, Milwaukee and now Green Bay, there is definitely a sense of pride that goes along with it.

"I get to go to this place every day for work," he said. "And I'm definitely a Packers fan."

**Free time**

During the off-season - yes, the warehouse manager has it too - Fritsch Koehl said he and his wife enjoy visiting as many craft breweries as they can.

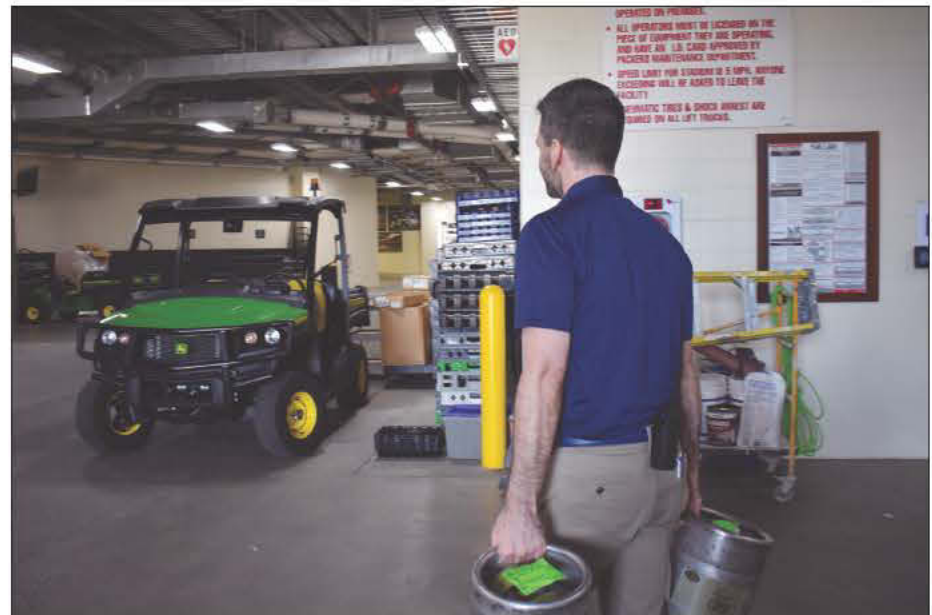
"We are at more than 150 total - nearing 100 in Wisconsin," he said. "So we're trying to figure out what kind of special one that will be number 100."

Fritsch Koehl said they also like to travel - when they can.

"Obviously with football season that limits our ability to do so for almost half the calendar year," he said. "But we try to take advantage of it when we can in the late winter, spring and early summer."

*It's often said it's the work of the people behind the scenes that make things happen.*

*The Press Times looks to highlight those very contributions in a series called Behind the Scenes.*



On gamedays, Commissary Manager Ed Fritsch Koehl said it's all-hands-on-deck when it comes to making sure everyone has everything they need to serve fans. **Heather Graves Photo**

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150 YEARS  
from page 1

**A look back**

In 1890, De Pere and West De Pere consolidated into one city and the fire departments were combined into one unified force.

The area and the department continued to grow – installing new fire hydrants, rebuilding old firefighting equipment and ordering more hoses to serve its residents.

The department increased in size again in 1957, when the number of firefighters expanded to 22, as recommended by the State Fire Rating Bureau.

Prior to this, the department was organized into two companies, each consisting of five men, as well as a fire chief and a designated truck driver.

This expansion caused a temporary relocation of the fire department to the municipal city garage until a permanent location could be established.

In October 1959, the fire



De Pere firefighters responding to a house fire in the 1940s. Submitted Photo

board requested the construction of a new station with a proposed \$32,585

budget. The new station was built on the corner of

Broadway and Lewis, and still stands today.

More big changes came to the department in 1974, when the department began an ambulance service, something the city had contracted with private emergency services until then.

Two years later, the Fort Howard Paper Foundation presented the fire department with a new emergency rescue vehicle.

The city's first paramedics completed training and became state licensed in 1978.

In the same year, the 911 emergency line was instituted in the area.

Fire Chief Alan Matzke said over the years, the department's paramedic work has increased significantly.

"The fire service has changed dramatically in recent years," Matzke said. "About 85% of what we do now is medical work. We had to change and adapt to the needs of the community."

**Hurdles**

Matzke said the department has had its struggles over the last century-and-a-half, which has included some devastating fires.

He said one of the most devastating fires in De Pere's history occurred on June 4, 1964, destroying the Jacobs Supermarket building.

He said the Radant's Bargain Outlet building fire in 1990 took two full days to douse the flames.

Matzke said despite the unfortunate loss of some of De Pere's historic buildings, no firefighters were harmed.

Most recently, a downtown restaurant fire in 2019 took a tremendous effort to quell the disaster. It took De Pere Fire Rescue the efforts of 80 firefighters to finally put the fire out.

"I was there that day," he said, noting the 1990 fire occurred the year he started his career with the department. "Our resources were stretched to the limits."

**Changes over the years**

In the beginning, Matzke said the fire department's focus was simply on training to extinguish fires and other hazards.

However, over the years, he said the department has evolved to include medical services and increase its contribution to the safety of the community in as many ways as possible.

Despite the changes, Matzke said the department's dedication to maintaining the safety of the people of the community has remained constant.

Each year, De Pere Fire Rescue responds to more than 3,000 calls for service – quadrupling the 700 calls from 1982 when the city began charging residents for rescue calls.

The department responds to these calls with a team of 29 full-time members and 20 part-time employees.

See 150 YEARS page 20

**VOYAGEUR**  
from page 1

her guests in, catcalls and a general sense of intimidation – she isn't comfortable going outside in the early evening.

Park user and Alderperson Amy Chandik Kundinger said she too has experienced similar issues – having to walk out of her way to get to her vehicle and feeling uneasy in the park in the evenings.

City Administrator Larry Delo said though he understands the concerns, drawing a blanket ban on loiterers requires a delicate balance, as some people, such as those having lunch in their cars or pausing to look at the river, could be considered to be "loitering" even if they aren't causing the problems that are making residents miserable.

"Obviously, we don't want to get rid of those people," Delo said.

Mayor James Boyd said he is frustrated by the problem.

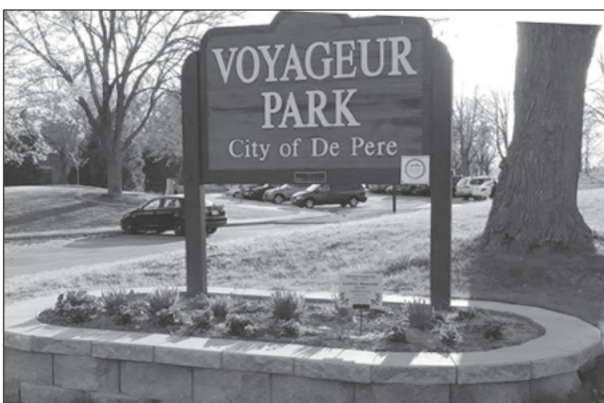
"We genuinely feel for residents and those who live nearby who are experiencing this," Boyd said. "We feel your pain."

**Police calls**

Police Chief Jeremy Muraski presented a rundown of the number and types of calls his department receives in regards to the area.

Since January, Muraski said it has received 75 calls regarding issues in or around Voyageur Park.

However, only 12 of those calls resulted in police reports, including three citations for disorderly conduct, four citations for disorderly conduct with



Police Chief Jeremy Muraski encourages residents to call as soon as they see something of concern happening in Voyageur Park. Press Times File Photo

a motor vehicle, two incidences of property damage (a boardwalk light and bathroom towel dispenser with no suspects), one general disturbance, one citation for drug paraphernalia and one report of a no-contact order being breached.

Some of the disturbances Muraski listed include: blocking traffic in the lot, loitering, playing loud music from vehicles, tire squealing, reckless driving and harassing female trail users.

He said some of the behavior spills out onto nearby streets – William, Cass and Broadway – affecting traffic going to and from the park.

Muraski said the typi-

cal crowd member tends to range in age from about 16-23, and from all over: Luxembourg, Casco, New Franken, Howard, Pulaski and elsewhere.

"We see De Pere kids we know from being in the schools," he said. "De Pere kids are mostly well-behaved."

To combat the issue, Muraski said his department has tried a number of things, such as park evictions, zero tolerance and citations, and stepping up its bicycle patrol, a measure he feels is effective without being heavy-handed.

He said the "flamingo," a trailer with five surveillance cameras in the center of the park, has a viewing

range of much of Voyageur.

Alderperson Dean Raasch said he's not sure if it's serving its purpose, noting he sometimes visits the area after meetings and sees young people sitting on the flamingo with drink cups.

"There really is no respect for what we're doing down there," he said. "It's like a cat and mouse game."

Raasch said the kids move from vehicle to vehicle, and if he were a person wanting to walk on the trail, he would not feel comfortable.

"It's a little intimidating," he said.

Alderperson Pamela Gantz said she too feels intimidated, and if she feels that way, others are likely to as well.

"My concern is this is our big park, and we want people to be able to come and enjoy themselves," she said. "We don't want them to be intimidated or afraid and to go somewhere else."

**Multifaceted solution**

Muraski said no one solution could fix the problem.

"There's going to be a variety of things in our tool kit," he said.

Ring Doorbell cameras, revised ordinances, re-

stricted parking, park eviction and citations are a few ideas he said are on the table.

Delo suggested what he described as "aggressive observation" – letting the crowds know you see them.

"Park right next to them," he said.

Delo said education and talking to residents hasn't been the answer.

Muraski said with school now out, the department will establish that tone of aggressive observation early on.

Gantz said she believes the city needs to do something now, because summer means more kids will be out.

"We don't want people to feel like they have to hide in their businesses or apartments," she said.

Muraski said the number of phone calls about Voyageur is fairly low.

He encouraged people to call as soon as they see something, and to not wait.

"Call, call, call," he said.

No action was taken Tuesday, but Boyd said city staff would discuss solutions, such as tightening ordinances and restricting parking, along with other ideas, and bring them to a future meeting.

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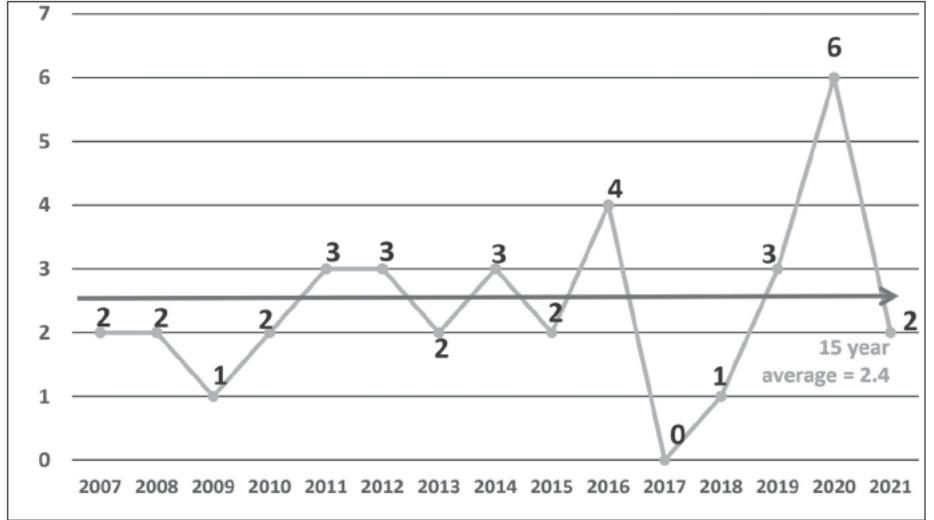
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	HOMICIDES & SHOOTINGS (N=31)			GREEN BAY POPULATION
	Victims (n=37)	Suspects (n=43)	Victims & Suspects (n=80)	
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	83.3%	95.4%	89.9%	49.6%
Female	16.7%	4.7%	10.1%	50.4%
<b>Race</b>				
Black	57.6%	52.4%	54.7%	4.2%
White	15.2%	14.3%	18.7%	68.7%
Hispanic	21.2%	16.7%	18.7%	15.8%
Asian	6.1%	2.4%	4.0%	4.2%
Other	0.0%	14.3%	8.0%	

This table displays the homicide and non-fatal shooting victim's and suspect's percentages by race and gender. Submitted Graphs



This graph shows the Green Bay homicide count from 2007-21.

**GUN VIOLENCE**  
from page 1

The study looked at Green Bay's eight homicides, 23 non-fatal injury shootings and 129 other shots fired incidents from 2019-21.



David Muhammad

The deep dive analysis took into account a variety of factors to generate data points aimed at helping solve and/or address the root cause of the issue.

The report shows a high percentage of those involved in gun violence in Green Bay are men, black and familiar with the crimi-

nal justice system, meaning they've been arrested before.

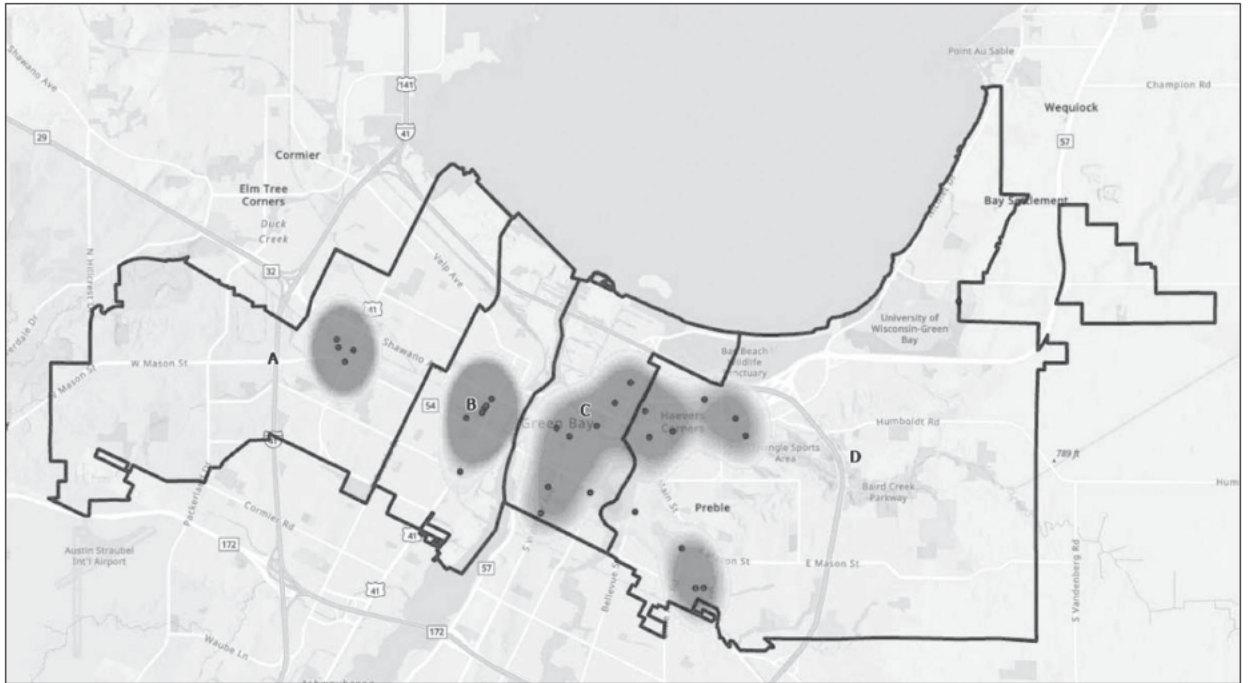
Muhammad said in Green Bay, most gun violence is tightly concentrated on a small number of very high risk young Black male adults (ages 18 to 34) that share a common set of risk factors.

Of those involved in homicides and shootings (suspects and victims), 89.9% were male and 54.7% were Black.

Suspects and victims of shots fired events were also primarily male (66.4%) and Black (61.5%).

The data shows that though Black residents make up only 4% of the overall population in the City of Green Bay, approximately 55% of victims and suspects in homicides/shootings and 62% of victims and suspects in shots fired incidents were Black.

"The vast majority of Black men in Green Bay are not involved in gun violence," Muhammad said. "It's a small, small popula-



This illustration shows where homicides and shootings took place from January 2019 to December 2021.

tion, and a good number of these incidents could be identified ahead of time. The violence is somewhat predictable and are therefore preventable."

Muhammad said though some associate gun violence to street groups or

gangs, shootings are often precipitated by a trivial conflict, like a simple argument or a feud on social media.

"We get into some sort of conflict sometimes that plays out on social media, and that escalates to a shooting and the circumstance was around a personal dispute, but both were also members of local neighborhood cliques," he said. "And though as we'll see a large percentage of the individuals involved in shootings are members of local cliques or groups, that doesn't mean that's the reason for the shooting."

The study shows the City of Green Bay's homicide rate is consistently lower than the U.S. average.

It's a good place to be, District 9 Alderperson Brian Johnson said, but he also stressed the importance of not becoming complacent.

"Green Bay is still a very safe community, and we are below the national average on some of this stuff," he said. "But one of the things that I don't ever want our community to do is become desensitized to growth in crime that we don't want in our community. And I think that there are ways for us to be proactive about addressing that. I think, having (the NICJR) here today, talking about this is one of those very first steps."

As for what's next, one of NICJR's recommendations includes the creation of a gun violence reduction unit - which the city has already implemented with its Neighborhood Response Team.

Police Chief Chris Davis said the department hopes to add the two-officer team soon.

"As staffing levels improve, we hope to increase that from two officers to four," he said.

Recommendations also include implementing a reduction strategy and increasing investment in community resources, both of which Davis said he is in support of.

"I agree with all the recommendations because I think they are things that have shown to work in other places," he said. "Giving people who are at risk of getting into this situation, either as a perpetrator or as a victim- and sometimes those two roles become interchangeable over time- support that's tailored to them, that also is combined with accountability. And we do need to send that message to folks that, if despite all our best efforts at trying to help you do something better with your life, you still insist on picking up a gun and going out and threatening people's safety. There is accountability for that. That approach really, really works."



The NICJR study looked at Green Bay's eight homicides, 23 non-fatal injury shootings and 129 other shots fired incidents that occurred between 2019-21. Press Times File Photo

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