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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### Press Release

## Randolph's Safe Summer was No Accident - \$100,000 grant

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Randolph police and civic leaders saw conflicts in town percolating last spring and wanted to prevent the kind of upswing in violent incidents that Boston and many larger communities have experienced during previous summers.

"We helped Randolph Police put together a thoughtful, persuasive application for grant funds to increase their community presence and the ability of officers in the field to connect people struggling with services and support," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said.

"To the credit of the Baker administration, the Edward J. Byrne 'District Attorney's Safer Communities Initiative,' grant, was funded for just shy of \$100,000," District Attorney Morrissey said. "To the even greater credit of the Randolph Police, it was implemented so well that instead of seeing an increase in firearm and other violence during the heat of the summer, we saw those incidents almost disappear."

There was one firearm homicide in Randolph, on July 4, 2022, District Attorney Morrissey said. But investigators believe it involved parties from the Worcester area with no connection to the town or the social club where it occurred.

"Randolph police and Chief Anthony Marag were very diligent in their preparations, looking at the CDC's protective factors and risk factors for community violence – then crafting ways that their department could boost the positive and minimize the risk," District Attorney Morrissey said.

The community policing strategies that implemented with support of this grant included increased juvenile outreach – utilizing the resource officers assigned during the school year and others – to learn about conflicts and possible feuds before they boiled over. Police also built on the Handle With Care program, begun during the school year, in which police utilize the regional Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) to alert the schools and other adults when a Randolph minor has experienced a traumatic event – such as being present in a car crash, the death, overdose, or arrest of a family member or friend, or other adverse childhood experience.

The grant also funded multiple Community Enhancement Partnerships, designed to help neighbors get to know one another and build bonds – including the Night Out Against Violence, a community movie night, and three events set for October, according to Chief Marag.

"The Randolph Police Department is positioned to partner with the community to solve a wide variety of community problems including violent crime reduction. The focus of the Community Enhancement Partnerships (CEP's) is to build community trust and address community needs," Chief Marag said.

"The CEP's are divided into the 5 districts of the town. A lieutenant heads each CEP, followed by a sergeant, a detective, and patrol officers. They work closely with the district councilors accepting problems, formulating a plan for a solution, implementing the plan, and following up with all stakeholders to assess the outcome of the approach," Chief Marag said. "The CEP is one example of the department's focus on policing as a unified approach to solving problems and building relationships."

Roughly half of the grant funds were used to by 20 durable Dell Latitude computer tablets and protective cases or officers to take into the field. "This allows officers standing in the home where a tragedy or conflict has occurred to begin connecting young people with support services even before they have cleared the scene," District Attorney Morrissey said. "In other instances, it allows officers to monitor on-line chatter about conflicts that are brewing and intervene before talking becomes acting."

District Attorney Morrissey said it is often difficult to measure how effective prevention and education work is in stemming dangerous behaviors and crime. "It is often an inexact science," DA Morrissey said. "In this instance, Randolph Police saw the telltale indications of problems arriving for the summer, took research-based steps to prevent that, and saw the incidence of conflict go down instead of up. They deserve great credit for that."



*District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey, left, and Randolph Chief Anthony Marag, center, combined to bring a grant of almost \$100,000 to Randolph last spring, which the men credit with contributing to the town's largely peaceful summer. (Morrissey and Marag are shown in March 2022 photo with RPD Commander Robert Emerson and Harper, the Community Support Dog that District Attorney Morrissey purchased for Randolph.)*