

WLOU/WLUE

Programs and Issues

2nd Quarter 2023

VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY – Two mass shootings in our community within the same week caused fear, emotion, and national attention on Louisville Kentucky. On the morning of April 10th, a mass shooting occurred at the Old National Bank killing five people, and injuring eight others, including two responding police officers. The shooter, 25-year-old former employee Connor James Sturgeon, was fatally shot. For five hours we ran continual updates as information became available on the incident, the victims and the closing of businesses and streets in the downtown Louisville area.

We continued to bring monthly updates on the condition of the one police officer who remains in rehab and has undergone numerous surgeries and setbacks.

A second major shooting took place in a local park while hundreds of people attended a basketball game. On April 16th, a shooting took the lives of two persons ages 17 and 28 and left at least four others hospitalized. While there is still no motive, there are community cries for gun control, and the need for people to provide tips to the LMPD to help stop the violence. We ran information on four different community meetings held to address these concerns.

LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF SEARCH. Mayor Greenberg discussed the special committee formed to interview the 19 candidates for chief of the LMPD. While an outside Agency has been used to find suitable candidates, this local Committee will interview the candidates. A survey was sent asking the community what qualities, values and priorities people wanted to see in a new chief and some 1200 responses were received. While some community organizations have requested an open forum to be held for community members to ask questions of potential candidates, Mayor Greenberg has said that will not happen. The mayor plans to make the selection sometime this summer.

KENTUCKY DERBY –Because this was the first time since the Covid Pandemic that full Derby events were scheduled and held, we interviewed the Mayor and Kentucky Derby officials and Louisville Police regarding security and safety procedures visitors to our city could expect, including Police presence, street closures of the Thunder Over Louisville Fireworks and Kentucky Oaks and Derby at Churchill Downs.

HEALTH – Mental Health Awareness Month and Men’s Health Awareness Month both occurred during this Quarter, and we had persons on to discuss some concerns and prevention methods for both including a remote activity with prostate cancer screening for men in June. We are especially concerned about mental health and signs of dementia and other mental health concerns as well as some new resources available for reporting and getting answers for family members.