

Violence Reduction 1A & 1B AB/MEH 10/20/21 (WedPM & ThursAM)

Little Rock leaders are taking steps to try and reduce violent crime. At a news conference today (Wed), Mayor Frank Scott Jr. expressed anger and sadness about a rise of shootings and crime. He introduced a new approach designed to address the problem. Scott said the Little Rock Board of Directors has approved using \$1-point-5 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan, with part of that going to the city's police department.

News11

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“...per recruit.”

The department has been struggling with a high number of officer vacancies. Police Chief Keith Humphrey says the strategy aims to build trust in the community while targeting criminals.

News12

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“...to crime.”

The funds will also be used for officer training and a new neighborhood safety office. The program also offers resources like youth employment and re-entry services for people getting out of prison. Scott is hopeful the city will be awarded grants from the U.S. Department of Justice to help fund additional programs.