



The Weed & Seed Steering Committee:

1. **Believes that violence is preventable.** Violence is a learned behavior that can be unlearned or not learned in the first place. Manchester can be a safer place.
2. **Acknowledges the underlying contributing factors of violence.** We understand that risk factors – such as poverty, school failure, mental illness, substance abuse, victimization history, etc. – are treatable and must be addressed in order to begin the violence prevention process. Protective factors, including economic stability, school and community connectedness, and social capital, etc. can assist in preventing violence on individual, family, school, and community levels.
3. **Recognizes violence prevention and neighborhood restoration as the responsibility of all community members.** We all have a stake in ending violence and revitalizing Manchester's neighborhoods. There is a role that each of us can play; we are all stakeholders
4. **Places the highest value on resident involvement.** We will ensure an equitable voice for all in both the discussion and the decision-making process surrounding violence prevention in Manchester. Mutual trust, respect, equity, and empowerment are the core tenets of the Strategy.
5. **Acknowledges that violence prevention is a long-term effort.** The factors that contribute to violence did not develop in a short period of time, and they will not disappear immediately. We agree to not lose focus or determination in this challenging, but imperative, endeavor.
6. **Embraces multiculturalism.** The diversity in the city is a great strength and it must be respected. Cultural values, beliefs, and traditions should be integral to the development of policies, programs, and information.
7. **Honors what works within the community and values local assets.** We pledge to look first to the neighborhood for solutions, and to focus on measuring the community impact and outcomes resulting from policies and programs.
8. **Employs a transparent process based on consensus.** We will implement the mission by being inclusive and representative of the community we serve, maintain an open process based on consensus, and promote community ownership of the Strategy's activities.
9. **Emphasizes that violence prevention is not the same as containment and suppression.** Prevention is a vital part of public safety, and is based on the community's ability to foster violence prevention skills, nurture safe neighborhoods, and shift norms about acceptable behavior before the outset of violence and the need for intervention.
10. **Commits to being positive, proactive and data driven.** We pledge to define priorities based on community strengths and opportunities for improvement, employ evidence-based practices, and align organizational and community resources to maximize efforts and promote partnerships.

*Adapted from the original W&S Guiding Principles and the Alameda County Blueprint for Violence Prevention