us bank

Learn more

ADVERTISEMENT

THERE'S A NEW JOB BOARD

IN TOWN THAT MAKES

HIRING EASIER THAN EVER

ADVERTISEMENT

EDNESDAY, MARCH 15

6:30-9 P.M.

ADVERTISEMENT

felonious

obnetwork

LEARN MORE

Chicago Tribune

33rd War

Rossana

declares

Teny Gross and Selwyn Rogers: Chicago's community intervention

COMMENTARY

Which Chicago mayoral

votes in your ward?

groups offer hope for reducing gun violence By Teny Gross and Selwyn Rogers Chicago Tribune • Mar 01, 2023 at 2:11 pm

Expand

CHICAGO POLICE Violence interrupters, background, stand next to Chicago police officers as police block traffic while large groups of teenagers move around downtown Chicago on May 8, 2021. (Chris Sweda / Chicago Tribune)

Listen to this article

that has resulted from our nation's failure to reduce gun violence. We have witnessed overwhelming despair, suffering and death. We see the hopelessness and frustration

that seems to be tightening its grip on our city, scaring away individuals and businesses.

Top Stories

14th Ward race: Seat held by Ald. Ed Burke since 1969 won by Jeylu Gutierrez

We firmly believe Chicago is better positioned today to address gun violence than it has been historically. Why? Because a large number of courageous people from across Chicago have been building a civilian architecture — a deep network of community violence intervention organizations, or CVIs, and social service providers that complements law enforcement by introducing a humanist framework to public

CVIs have been critical to reducing violence in other cities. What many Chicagoans do not know is that in

the early 1990s, Los Angeles and New York City had homicide rates similar to Chicago's. Yet, over the past

30 years, both cities reduced their homicide rates by around 70%. Chicago now has a homicide rate almost

How to effectively address Chicago's violence problem emerged as the deciding issue in Tuesday's mayoral

election. It behooves runoff candidates Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas to pay special attention to

[Matt Paprocki: Crime in Chicago hurts small businesses. And closures, in turn, hurt Chicago.]

organizations already at work in our communities.

safety.

six times that of New York City and 10 times that of Los Angeles. The number of our police officers per capita is greater than both cities, so more policing will not fix Chicago's problem. [Arne Duncan: Can Chicago see fewer than 400 homicides? Here are 4 things the next mayor must make happen.] So how did New York and Los Angeles do it? Research points to a number of important factors, including

strong leadership from the mayor's office and reforms within the police department. (Both cities were

under consent decrees like Chicago is now, which require changes to ensure policing is conducted in a

What makes CVIs different from other community-based organizations is their relentless, hyperlocalized

focus on connecting with the small network of people — often less than 1% of the city's population — who

constitutional manner.) Equally important was the nurturing and scaling of CVIs.

account for the majority of violence and are typically concentrated on specific blocks. Unlike programs in the 1980s and '90s strictly centered on violence interruption, CVIs not only work to mediate, deescalate and prevent violence, but they also offer pathways to peace for this 1%, including trauma-informed care, educational opportunities and job training. Since 2016, due to the foresight of many local foundations, Chicago has been carefully investing in a network of CVIs working with government, the police and academic institutions to seed our civilian

architecture. This civilian architecture, which started in 15 of the most violent neighborhoods, now covers

27 neighborhoods that account for 80% of the city's homicides. In addition, our civilian architecture has

been professionalizing the field of outreach and victim services by offering training programs and

competitive compensation and benefits.

Best Kia Deals | Search Ads | Sponsored

Spotted!

Roundhouse Provisions | Sponsored

Never Feed Your Dog

DogFoodDiscovery.com | Sponsored

Moreover, this network includes robust partnerships with leading academics at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago who evaluate the work and provide valuable insight into what is working and what is not. Just as we demand that the Chicago Police Department improve its performance, including complying with the consent decree more expeditiously and improving homicide clearance and felony case initiation rates, CVIs must continually learn and adapt to increase their impact. We have witnessed too many senseless killings, but the work of our city's civilian architecture fuels and

garment of destiny." Now, we as a city must ensure our elected officials increase our investments in CVIs to strengthen this garment, rather than letting fear continue to tear it apart. Teny Gross is founder and executive director of the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago. Dr. Selwyn Rogers

Submit a letter, of no more than 400 words, to the editor here or email letters@chicagotribune.com.

Jr. is the section chief of trauma and acute care surgery at University of Chicago Medicine.

accompany those who are born into violence and demonstrate the courage to choose pathways to peace.

It is a wonderful manifestation of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words of all of us being tied in "a single

sustains us. It reminds us daily of the beauty and transformational power that emerges when we

Tab la Feed

This Year's Kia Lineup Is Turning Heads -- And Finally On Sale!

Lost and Found: The Most Hilarious Signs People Have

Morning Time Feeds | Sponsored

3 Toxic Foods for Dogs: the One Meat You Should

Chuck Norris In His 80s Says Try This Once A Day For More Energy

The New Volvo Recharge Is A Jaw Dropper

2023 New Volvos | Sponsored

The Incredible New BMW Lineup Has Arrived

Luxury SUV Savings | Search Ads | Sponsored

LISTEN FOR FREE For more than 30 years, each of us has worked on the front lines of gun violence. One works in the streets mediating conflicts and comforting victims. The other works in hospitals dealing with the human carnage

> DAILY SOUTHTOWN Southland crime: Tinley Park man arrested in Mokena after crashing into undercover cop car, and more 18m

> Editorial: Is the Chicago Teachers

Union the new machine?

NFLPA releases 1st-ever report

card: See where all the 32 teams

LATEST

ranked

EDITORIALS

34m

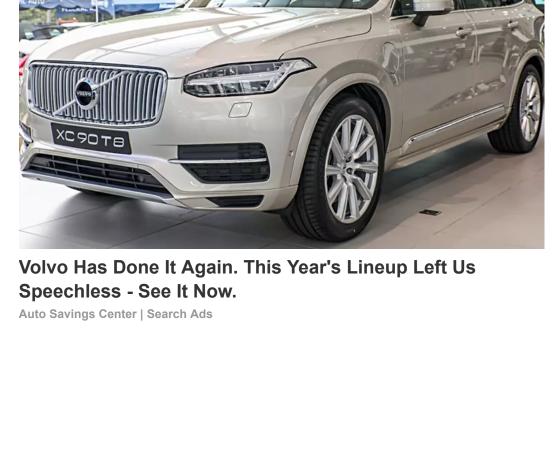
CHICAGO BEARS

It's that easy! TRIBUNE You May Like **Sponsored Links by Taboola**

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise

Here's What Gutter Guards Should Cost You In 2023 LeafFilter Partner



The New Kia EV6 Is A Jaw Dropper

Best EV6 Deals | Search Ads

ADVERTISEMENT

The Volkswagen Bus Is Back With A Vengance

The New VW Bus

Sponsored

A Still 3D Replica of Your Pet Photo on the Front Side and the 3D Following Effect in the Back.

CONNECT

TRIBUNE PUBLISHING New York Daily News Orlando Sentinel The Morning Call of Pa. Daily Press of Va. Studio 1847

The Baltimore Sun Sun Sentinel of Fla. Hartford Courant The Virginian-Pilot

Help Center Terms of Service Contact us Manage Web Notifications Media kit California Notice at Collection Notice of Financial Incentive

Read Now

COMPANY INFO

Careers

Privacy Policy Archives Local print ads Chicago Tribune Store Site Map Do Not Sell/Share My Personal Information Cookie Policy **Cookie Preferences**

About us

Copyright © 2023, Chicago Tribune

ArtPix 3D | Sponsored

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter Sign up for Daywatch