

## For Immediate Release

Kevin Beckner, Hillsborough County Commissioner, Countywide  
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The Hillsborough County Commission approved a violence prevention initiative today designed to transform the way local policy makers address violence. “Violence prevention efforts occur in our community, but are not coordinated across multiple jurisdictions and agencies. This is a countywide plan to establish data driven and evidence based priorities for implementation using a model that has a proven track record of success throughout the U.S.,” said County Commissioner Kevin Beckner who spearheaded the effort.

The initiative shifts policy from a public safety to a public health model and aligns community and professional stakeholders to develop a comprehensive prevention and intervention approach. It uses a deliberate process of bringing together formal and informal leaders to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

The leadership structure for the initiative includes the Mayors of Plant City, Tampa and Temple Terrace; the Hillsborough County Sheriff, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit’s Chief Judge, State Attorney and Public Defender; and the School Board of Hillsborough County. This team will work with subcommittees staffed by community stakeholders to include: Public Safety/Judiciary; Health Care; Education; Community-based Organizations; Faith Community; Business Community; Communications/Outreach; and Infrastructure (such as planning, community services, transportation and housing). “Rates of crime and violence determine where people prefer to live, work, shop, walk and drive. Using data unique to Hillsborough County, prevention and intervention strategies will target risk factors that contribute to violence *before* injury or death occurs. Not only is this the most humane and cost effective approach, but it will also strengthen our communities” Beckner said.

The Prevention Institute, a national nonprofit in Oakland, California with extensive experience in planning and implementing large-scale community violence prevention initiatives, will serve as an expert consultant. It has worked with 18 other communities throughout the U.S., notably the city of Minneapolis, MN and Alameda County, CA. Minneapolis produced a [Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis](#) and tracks results of its efforts at [Results Minneapolis](#).

See the detailed proposal approved by the Commission [here](#).