



Coalition for a Safe Danville Membership Form



Name			
	First	Initial	Last
Type of Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational	
E-mail Address			
Street Address			
Mailing Address			
City		State	Zip
Telephone Number			Additional Telephone Number
Organizational Memberships - Please complete the following information:			
Organization Name			
Representative's Title			
Organization Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):		<input type="checkbox"/> Place of Worship <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen or Interest Group <input type="checkbox"/> Service Club
Please describe the Organization's Crime Prevention Activities or Programs			

Signature

Date

Please mail or deliver to:

Coalition for a Safe Danville
 City Manager's Office
 City of Danville
 427 Patton Street
 P. O. Box 3300
 Danville, VA 24543
safedanville@ci.danville.va.us



Share Your Concerns & Suggestions!



A. What are the three most important crime related issues you believe the Coalition should take on immediately?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. What suggestions do you have for combating and preventing crime in Danville?

C. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Danville.

<u>How safe do you feel</u>	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Neither Safe nor Unsafe	Somewhat Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Don't Know
Regarding violent crime, such as rape, assault, or robbery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regarding property crimes, such as burglary or theft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In your neighborhood during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In your neighborhood after dark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside your neighborhood during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside your neighborhood after dark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In downtown Danville during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In downtown Danville after dark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please turn this form in today
or mail to: City Manager's Office
City of Danville
P.O. Box 3300
Danville, VA 24543
SafeDanville@ci.danville.va.us

**Working Together for a
Safe Danville
Coalition**

Summary: The Danville City Council will establish the "Working Together for a Safe Danville Coalition" as a means of uniting community stakeholders, sharing information, developing strategies, engaging and informing the public, and undertaking coordinated, results-oriented crime prevention activities that will combat crime and earn public confidence that Danville is a safe community in which to live, visit, and conduct business. Instituting the Coalition will build on the City's longstanding commitment to community oriented policing and proactive crime fighting.

The Challenge: Danville's favorable quality of life is being undermined by crime and public perceptions of diminished personal safety. That Danville's crime rate is actually lower than that of most cities of comparable size and character is of little comfort to citizens worried about their safety. A community's reputation for public safety heavily influences its appeal as a place to raise a family, visit, or in which to invest or open a business. The crucially important transition of Danville's economy cannot succeed if the community is not, or is not perceived to be, a safe place.

Ensuring public safety is among local government's most fundamental obligations. However, crime is a complex problem that defies simple solutions or the solitary effort of the Danville Police Department. It cannot be eradicated simply by apprehending and incarcerating perpetrators if their places are readily filled by others. While responsibility for criminal behavior should be assigned to the perpetrator, criminal activity is enabled by such societal factors as poverty, joblessness, low educational attainment, dysfunctional households, and racism. Preventing and combating crime consequently requires a holistic, coordinated, sustained community effort.

The Response: The Danville City Council will establish the Safe Danville Coalition as a special municipal commission. Coalition membership will not be by City Council appointment, as with other municipal boards and commissions, but open to any organization responsible for or interested in combating and preventing crime in Danville. Representatives from a wide range of associations will be encouraged to join, including but not limited to:

- Community organizations, including non-profits and places of worship
- News media
- Commonwealth's Attorney
- U.S. Attorney
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court
- Virginia Department of Corrections
- Danville Sheriff's Office
- Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services
- Danville Public Schools
- Westover Christian Academy, Sacred Heart, and other private schools
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Danville Community College

- Averett University
- Danville Redevelopment & Housing Authority
- United Way of Danville Pittsylvania County
- Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce
- Danville Pittsylvania Health District
- Danville Regional Medical Center
- Pittsylvania County Community Action
- Danville Regional Foundation
- Corporate and business communities
- State and federal House and Senate offices

The entire City Council will actively participate in the Coalition. So, too, will the following municipal departments and offices:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Police Department | ▪ Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department |
| ▪ City Manager's Office | ▪ Public Works Department |
| ▪ City Attorney's Office | ▪ Transportation Department |
| ▪ Community Development Department | ▪ Human Services Department |

The Coalition's primary purpose is to provide opportunities for networking, information sharing, and strategy development among members. Its hands-on work will be carried out by cooperative task groups drawn from member organizations.

Organization & Operation: The Coalition's initial term will be for three years, extended as warranted by City Council if it proves worthwhile. The Mayor will serve as chairman. The Deputy City Manager will act as its coordinator and be assisted by personnel drawn from the City Manager's Office and municipal departments. As a Council established municipal commission, the Coalition would be subject to open meetings and transparency requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The Coalition will neither oversee the Danville Police Department, nor attempt to direct activities of member organizations. Each member organization will maintain its own identity, autonomy, program responsibilities, staff, and budget. The Coalition will function in accordance with written by-laws. Its decision making will generally be based on consensus rather than formal votes.

The Coalition will catalogue and disseminate information on crime response and prevention activities being undertaken by itself and member agencies. It will sponsor periodic public forums, conferences, and town hall meetings. The Coalition will disseminate information through multiple venues, including a dedicated internet website, social media outlets, e-mails and e-newsletters, City TV-20, printed materials and articles, and radio and television public service announcements. It will issue periodic "report cards" on crime levels and progress being made.

Task groups will be established by the Coalition to focus efforts in combating and preventing crime; for example, to maintain safety in and around schools, encourage reporting of suspicious or criminal behavior, rein in gangs, close illicit drug markets, control underage alcohol use, prevent burglaries, or maintain safe neighborhoods. Care will be taken to avoid duplication of effort or improper

assumption of duties already being successfully performed. Task group programs will provide the means for public engagement at the interest group and neighborhood level.

The mission, size, membership, and length of assignment for each task group will vary depending on the issue being addressed. In some cases, task groups will be primarily drawn from municipal departments. Others will involve many Coalition organizations. For example, a task group assigned to address school safety might involve the School District, Parent Teacher Associations, the Police, Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Community Development, and Public Works Departments, as well churches and such community youth serving agencies as the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, and Boy and Girl Scouts. Activities would likely encompass design and operation of school buildings and grounds, in-school monitoring of student conduct, policies on student attendance and off-campus privileges, on and off-campus after-school activities, security of surrounding neighborhoods, and traffic control.

The municipal government and member organizations share responsibility for dealing with multifaceted, deep rooted societal problems afflicting Danville. However, the Coalition will primarily focus on the immediate causes of crime and disorder that can be most effectively addressed in the near term. In so doing, the Coalition and its task groups will employ a pragmatic problem-oriented approach using the following steps:

1. Identify and describe the problem;
2. Analyze causes and contributing factors;
3. Review crime control and prevention literature on which techniques are likely to be most effective in Danville's circumstances;
4. Evaluate current responses and determine strengths and limitations;
5. Consider best practices and proven strategies employed elsewhere;
6. Design and implement an improved response strategy;
7. Measure results and make appropriate refinements.

Commitment of City Departments: In addition to the Police Department, other municipal departments and offices will redouble efforts to effectively combat and prevent crime. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Civil and municipal law enforcement and refinement of City Code to effectively thwart crime and disorder (City Attorney's Office);
- Building inspection and code enforcement to ensure that owners are responsibly maintaining their properties and supporting safe neighborhoods and business districts (Community Development Department);
- Planning and regulating land use and environmental design in ways that discourage crime (Community Development Department);
- Properly designing, maintaining, and securing parks, public parking lots, and municipal facilities (Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Human Services, and Public Works Departments);

- Designing and managing roads and speed limits to maintain safe traffic flow and reduce negative impacts on residential neighborhoods (Public Works Department);
- Providing street lighting to minimize the risk of nighttime crimes (Utilities Department);
- Providing leisure and recreational programs that fill needs for at-risk segments of the population (Parks, Recreation & Tourism and Human Services Departments);
- Undertaking City-sponsored public events in ways that minimize opportunities for disorder and criminal behavior (Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department);
- Regulating passenger conduct in municipal transit vehicles and properly designing, maintaining, and securing transit stations (Transportation Department);
- Providing crisis intervention and assistance to vulnerable individuals at risk of becoming criminal offenders or victims (Human Services Department); and
- Enabling Police Department use of technology and information in a way that maximizes its ability to combat and prevent crime (Information Technology, Public Works, and Utilities Departments).

Reference: "Effective Policing and Crime Prevention: A Problem-Oriented Guide for Mayors, City Managers, and County Executives," July 2009, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Available at

<http://www.popcenter.org/library/reading/pdfs/MayorsGuide.pdf>

Prepared by the City Manager's Office
December 2009

Comments & suggestions welcomed!
Contact Joe King, Deputy City Manager
kingjc@ci.danville.va.us 434-799-5100