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New Madison community program looks to solve gun violence

By Morgan Wolfe | Posted: Fri 10:07 PM, May 19, 2017 | Updated: Fri 10:44 PM, May 19, 2017













MADISON, Wis. (WMTV) -- To help encourage co-operation with police, Mayor Soglin says his office is implementing a new program called "Rapid Response."



Courtesy: MGN

The program helps assist victims of crimes and their families either by finding them secure housing or assisting in a funeral. Assistant to the Mayor, Gloria Reyes says there's a misconception of what the program is after the mayor spoke at a press conference on Tuesday.

"He said that our community responders of peer support people will be there for investigative purposes. That wasn't correct," Reyes said.

There will be 11 members of the Rapid Response Team, and only one Madison Police Officer is affiliated to the group: Captain James Wheeler.

"The community has to take ownership of this and we hope that this team will facilitate that," Wheeler said.

Soglin is asking the Madison Common Council next month for \$50,000 -75,000 to provide to organizations that will be working for Rapid Response Team like Nehemiah and the Focus Interruption Coalition.

"It's going to be a deadly summer if they don't respond now," Dane County Boys and Girls Club President Michael Johnson said.

Johnson says he wants the mayor to fiscally put a plan into place that will curb the violence happening across the city.

Johnson says, "If he was serious about this, there would be resources and budgetary priorities with boots on the ground addressing these issues."

Johnson thinks that



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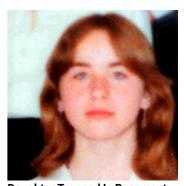
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