

Gov. Rendell Expected At Harrisburg Meeting On Gun Violence

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HARRISBURG, Pa. -- A public meeting focusing on the rash of shootings in Harrisburg this month is expected to draw quite a crowd -- police, city leaders, residents, citizen crime fighters from York and the governor of the state of Pennsylvania.

Gov. Ed Rendell will attend the meeting at the Heinz-Menaker Senior Center on North Fourth Street, according to his spokesman, Chuck Ardo. That meeting is expected to begin at 6:30 p.m. News 8 will also be at the meeting.



Police say robbery and revenge is behind most of the gun violence.

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Month Of Violence In City

The city of Harrisburg has had 11 shootings in the month of June. Seven of those happened within the last eight days. Police have put out extra patrols, started a robbery task force and even gotten help in the form of two detectives from Dauphin County's criminal division -- all in response to the increasing violence.

Police say robbery and revenge appear to be the two biggest motives in the shootings.

Officials are calling on the public to help.

"We have to take control of our community. We have to notify the police. You can't run away and ignore. You got to turn in those guys, those license plates and descriptions. You can't turn your back and say it didn't exist," said District Justice LaVon Postelle.

York Guardian Angels Head To Harrisburg

Thursday afternoon a group of Guardian Angels, used to patrolling the streets of York, headed to Harrisburg.

The group will conduct a brief patrol and then attend the public meeting at the Heinz-Menaker Senior Center.

"We're getting them motivated, letting them understand that there is something regular citizens can do: unite together, become Guardian Angels, get trained, work with the police to make a difference in their community," said Mike Smith, of the Guardian Angels.

The York Guardian Angels started patrolling in York last fall after a surge in gun violence.

The volunteer crime fighters are part of a national effort to curb violence within communities and they said that Harrisburg is next on their list.



Some leaders of the York Guardian Angels boarded a bus Thursday afternoon and headed to Harrisburg.



Some Harrisburg residents have been asking for the Angels to come to town, Smith said.

All they need is for someone to stand up and start a chapter

in the city, Smith said.

Dauphin County Offers Investigators

In light of the rash of shootings, Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico said the county will assign two of its criminal investigations division detectives to work full time with Harrisburg police.

That arrangement will continue as long as it is necessary, according to the county.

Police: Investigations Limited By Lack Of Cooperation

Police said the recent shootings were fueled by "reckless men" and are not gang related.

"I realize people want to see more police officers out there,

and we're trying to do that. But there's only so many of us," said Kellar.

Police Chief Kellar spoke to News 8 in a live interview. [You can watch the complete interview here.](#)

Kellar said that often times, their investigations are limited.

"How many times do we get these kids up there and the parents tell the kids not to cooperate with us? And on the exact opposite, the kids are there calling their mother a snitch for talking to the police," said Kellar.

And it's not always the suspects and witnesses who refuse to help, Kellar said.

"Very few victims that we've had in this rash of shootings have cooperated with us at all," he said.

Track Recent Shootings With Interactive Map

Wednesday's shooting marks the seventh in seven days in the city. You can use the interactive map below to find where all of them happened and get a brief summary on each.



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