

## Points of Conversation for Gun Crimes to Focus on – Shared with John Choi Ramsey Co Attorney

1. Gratitude for help in Michaels Case – we have had so many positive outcomes considering rapid pace and the number of people involved. Also the staff has been very respectful, kind and honest about what the court process will be like and helping me navigate the cases. Curtis has been AMAZING. Madilynn, Elizabeth - have been very approachable, responsive, and kind. We are so grateful.
2. I come to this situation as a multifaceted person – with my background in nursing – specifically pediatric nursing and being aware of how complex the needs are for some communities from my work in the St Paul Children’s ER, PICU, and Mental Health Units My background has shown me how much teens and families are struggling, and the lives that kids are coming from has pushed them to seek out guns as a problem solving tool because they are faced with such detrimental life circumstances.
3. Reflection on Michael’s murder has led me to some conclusions that I would like feedback on.

### A. Upstream from Michaels Murder:

The Probation Process: all 4 people involved in Michaels Shooting were on probation/recently off probation both as juveniles/adults

- a. How are probation/community service mandates determined: is it judge to judge? Or case by case? Or is there a guide – based on specific crimes then this decision about judgement should be given (like the sentencing grid)
- b. How much coaching/interventions are made during the probation process to help teen/adult move away from crime mindset – or is it just do this time on projects and hope they “learn a lesson”
- c. How much interventions are done to help the parents/guardians of the kids/teens involved to give them resources to help them guide their teens. Or when you know the home situation is broken what happens for those kids?
- d. Do you ever advise parents/guardians about their ability to take away their teens divers license - as it is provisional between the ages of 16-18 and a parent can revoke it at any time with a form downloaded from the DMV, and sent back in? Not sure how many parents are aware of this easy tool the have to use.
- e. Is there ever follow up for kids on probation to make sure they are not slipping back into the life of crime?

Access to Guns: I believe that multiple members of the crew of 4 in Michael’s case have had a known history with guns, and that makes this feel like this event was a forgone conclusion. The stats we have been quoted is that there are 11 guns for every resident of the city of St. Paul. That number is so scary and uncomfortably high!!

- a. If someone is on probation and they are involved with a gun/crime with a gun what happens?
- b. The notion that kids are illegally selling guns via snapchat while under the age of 18 and there is no legal means to charge them with gun trafficking – how do you deal with this?

- c. Safe Gun Storage: I believe that the gun used in Michaels murder was initially acquired from a relative's house where it was left out and it was just stolen and used with the mindset of 'Protection" while "car shopping". How do you as an office see the safe storage of guns and ammunition being an effective deterrent to crime?
  - d. Gun Buyback program in Ramsey county: If there are too many guns – can we take some guns out of the equation with a joint partnership between Ramsey County, City of St Paul, SPPD. Ramsey Co Sheriffs Dept to do a gun buy back program?
  - e. Ghost Guns – untraceable 3D printed guns. This is the next level of gun crime - How does this influence your decisions?
- B. Down Stream from the Crime happening – there are moments where this has all been sooo much to process. The whole speed of this case has made this a steep learning curve on how to navigate what is happening. Having 3 court cases to be ready for at any moment of time has been very challenging. The different components of legal issues has been a lot to take on, especially because Michael was in his 40's and did not have a will – so estate and probate were needed to settle his affairs.

Victim Services after a crime has happened:

- a. Have you all ever considered a care coordinator role to help family members navigate how to best access resources/make sense of what paperwork/details they may need to settle affairs/navigate a case?
- b. I know that the victim advocate role from the county is great for the legal side– but there are so many other entities to connect with and deal with. Sometimes you don't even know you are supposed do something because it is just not obvious.
- c. Is there a similar role to a victim advocate on the Defense side – or does that fully fall on the Defense attorney as well.
- d. Items taken in custody because of crime activities – most specifically cars. How do we change this for victims of crime. I fully understand why my car needs to be in evidence – but there should be some sort of way to support people when it comes to their mode of transportation/asset that is expensive and not able to access it.