

	CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA YOUTH COUNCIL Agenda Item Summary	COUNCIL MEETING DATE: September 8, 2026
Requesting (Initiator) <i>Jonesboro Youth City Government</i>		Sponsor(s) <i>Councilman Alfred Dixon</i>
Item Title:	Youth Safety and Violence Prevention at City-Sponsored Events	
Requested Action: Request that the Jonesboro City Council direct City Administration and the Jonesboro Police Department to evaluate current safety and prevention practices at city-sponsored events and develop recommendations for improving youth safety, conflict prevention, crowd monitoring, and incident response. The recommendations should include opportunities for collaboration with the Jonesboro Youth City Government (JYCG).		
Requirement for Council Action: Yes. Formal Council action is requested to direct City Administration and the Jonesboro Police Department to evaluate existing practices and return to Council with recommendations for potential implementation.		
Is this Item Goal Related? Yes. This item aligns with municipal goals related to: • Public safety and community security. • Quality of life for residents and families. • Safe and accessible public events. • Youth engagement and civic participation. • Community partnerships and proactive problem prevention.		
Summary and Background: Jonesboro Youth City Government recommends that the City Council direct City Administration and the Jonesboro Police Department to evaluate and strengthen safety and violence-prevention measures at City-sponsored events, with the goal of developing a comprehensive Youth Event Safety and Prevention Plan in collaboration with the Jonesboro Youth City Government (JYCG) and other community partners. This recommendation follows a physical altercation involving multiple young people at Lee Street Park on August 22, 2026, as a city event was winding down. Video of the incident was recorded and has since circulated on social media. While the circumstances leading to the altercation are not known to JYCG, the incident occurred on City property while children, youth, families, and other members of the public were present.		

The event included a significant public-safety presence, including the **Jonesboro Police Department and Clayton County Sheriff's Office**. Following the incident, JYCG members discussed the circumstances and identified concerns regarding event-area visibility, crowd monitoring, volunteer coverage, youth reporting, conflict prevention, and the protection of individuals who are not involved in an altercation.

JYCG recognizes that conflicts cannot always be prevented and that law enforcement plays an essential role in maintaining public safety. However, the organization believes that **police presence should be one part of a broader prevention strategy**, rather than the sole method of addressing potential conflicts.

The proposed approach would evaluate measures such as increased officer circulation, additional trained adult volunteers, youth reporting mechanisms, conflict-resolution education, pre-event safety planning, post-event incident reviews, proactive youth-safety messaging, and stronger coordination between City staff, law enforcement, event organizers, and youth leaders.

JYCG has also reviewed youth-safety and violence-prevention approaches used by other Georgia municipalities, including **Savannah, Atlanta, and South Fulton**, to identify practices that may be adaptable to Jonesboro.

The purpose of this item is not to assign blame for the August 22 incident. Rather, it is to provide the City Council with an opportunity to **proactively evaluate existing practices, identify gaps, and establish preventative measures before another serious incident occurs**.

JYCG intends to discuss this matter at its **September 21, 2026 meeting** and is requesting that the City Council consider the issue at the municipal level as well. The goal is to develop practical, sustainable measures that allow young people and families to participate in City events in a safe environment while ensuring that youth involvement in prevention efforts does not place young people in security or enforcement roles.

Fiscal Impact: No specific funding allocation is requested with this agenda item.

Initial evaluation and development of recommendations may be completed through existing City Administration and Jonesboro Police Department resources.

If implementation requires additional personnel, training, technology, event security, programming, or other expenditures, those costs should be identified and presented to the City Council for consideration through the appropriate budget process.

Exhibits Attached

- Video of the August 22, 2026 incident at Lee Street Park.
- JYCG youth-safety discussion and member recommendations.
- Proposed Youth Event Safety and Prevention Plan framework.
- JYCG correspondence to the Mayor, City Council, and law enforcement.
- Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement materials.

- Atlanta Office of Violence Reduction materials.
- South Fulton P.A.C.T. and Police Athletic League materials.
- South Fulton youth safety/prevention initiative materials.
- Proposed recommendations for City consideration.

Staff Recommendation (Type name, Title, Agency, Approval or Denial)

FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION (City Manager)	
Typed Name and Title	Date
Signature	

CITY OF JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL EXHIBIT PACKET

**Youth Safety and Violence Prevention at City-Sponsored Events
September 21, 2026
Requested by Jonesboro Youth City Government (JYCG)**

Prepared for City Council consideration. This packet supports discussion and potential Council direction; it does not make factual findings regarding the August 22 incident.

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EXHIBIT A — August 22, 2026 Lee Street Park Incident

Purpose: Provide a neutral documentation cover sheet for the incident referenced in the agenda item.

Incident Information

- Location: Lee Street Park, Jonesboro, Georgia.
- Date: August 22, 2026.
- Context: Incident occurred as the associated event was winding down and the crowd was becoming smaller.
- Description for Council record: Video circulated on social media showing a physical altercation involving multiple young people.
- JYCG position: JYCG does not know what led to the incident and is not making findings regarding fault, motive, injuries, or responsibility.
- Public-safety context: JYCG members reported that law-enforcement personnel were present at the event.
- Purpose of inclusion: Provide context for the request that the City evaluate event-safety and prevention practices.

Attached Media

VIDEO PLACEHOLDER —  ScreenRecording_08-22-2026 21-58-28_1.mov

EXHIBIT B — JYCG Member Discussion and Youth-Safety Recommendations

Source: JYCG internal discussion following the August 22, 2026 Lee Street Park incident. Comments are summarized for agenda purposes and are not findings of fact.

Member Input

- Dylan Jenkins, Director of Finance — emphasized visible police presence but suggested greater officer circulation throughout the event area and attention to crowd patterns and possible escalation. He also suggested an anonymous reporting option for young people.
- Miranda Gutierrez, Councilwoman — emphasized that police presence is important but cannot be the entire solution, and that youth engagement, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making should also be addressed.
- Riley Roscoe, Director of Events — emphasized officer circulation and the need to protect JYCG members when considering youth participation in event-safety initiatives.
- Chyna Thorton, Secretary — raised concerns about adequate police and adult supervision at large events and the importance of responsible adults being present around young people.
- Lillian Heard, City Manager — suggested increasing the number of volunteers who are attentive to activity throughout an event and emphasized the importance of understanding what happens after incidents involving youth.

Shared JYCG Principles

- Police presence matters, but prevention should not rely on law enforcement alone.
- JYCG members should never physically intervene in fights or dangerous situations.
- Youth participation should be limited to safe observation, communication, reporting, and positive engagement.
- Children and uninvolved attendees should be protected from conflicts occurring at public events.
- Not every conflict can be stopped, but escalation and exposure to uninvolved attendees can be reduced.
- Youth input should be included when designing youth-safety measures.

EXHIBIT C — Proposed Youth Event Safety and Prevention Plan

Area	Potential Action	Responsible/Partner
Pre-event planning	Create a safety briefing and event map for larger or youth-centered events; identify staffing, communication, medical, and escalation procedures.	City staff; JPD; organizers; JYCG
Police deployment	Evaluate officer positioning and periodic circulation through the full event footprint, especially during arrival, peak attendance, and dispersal.	JPD; event command
Adult volunteers	Increase trained adult volunteer coverage for observation, wayfinding, reporting, and connecting attendees with staff/officers.	City staff; organizers
Youth reporting	Evaluate a safe reporting channel for youth concerns with clear instructions for emergencies.	City; JPD; JYCG
Youth messaging	Develop short age-appropriate safety/de-escalation messages for major youth events, potentially featuring the Chief and JYCG.	JPD; City communications; JYCG
Conflict prevention	Offer age-appropriate conflict-resolution, communication, and de-escalation education through youth programs.	JYCG; City programs; partners
Post-event review	For serious incidents, conduct an after-action review identifying timeline, response, gaps, and corrective actions.	City staff; JPD; organizer
Youth participation	Create a youth-advisory role; prohibit physical intervention or security	JYCG; City staff

Provide		duties for youth volunteers.		Purpose: a practical
	Social media	Use City/JYCG channels for proactive safety expectations, reporting information, and positive youth messaging.	City communications; JYCG	
	Measurement	Track participation, reported concerns, incidents, and lessons learned to evaluate changes.	City Administration; JPD	

framework for City staff and JPD to evaluate. This is a proposal for consideration, not a directive to implement every component. **EXHIBIT D — Savannah: Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement**

Model reviewed: City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE).

What Savannah Does

- ONSE is a City department dedicated to reducing youth and young-adult violence and increasing neighborhood safety through a collaborative community-wide approach.
 - The City's framework includes prevention, intervention, redirection, and ongoing progression/support.
- ONSE works with government, justice-system partners, community partners, and residents to connect youth and young adults with services, supports, and positive opportunities.
- Savannah's 2026 public-safety presentation identifies joint staff training in trauma-informed youth engagement, de-escalation, conflict resolution, and youth-development practices.
 - The same presentation identifies youth safety and engagement hubs and increased marketing/social-media reach as areas for strengthening youth engagement and public safety.

Official sources: Savannah ONSE —

<https://www.savannahga.gov/3445/Neighborhood-Safety-and-Engagement>

2026 Youth/Public Safety presentation —

https://agenda.savannahga.gov/content/files/2026-public-safety-presentation_address-violence-among-youth.pdf

EXHIBIT E — Atlanta: Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction

Model reviewed: City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction (MOVR).

What Atlanta Does

- MOVR coordinates a comprehensive citywide effort focused on violence reduction and community-based intervention.

- Its stated pillars are prevention, intervention, and community trust building.
- Prevention includes education, awareness, policy changes, and efforts addressing conditions associated with violence.
- Intervention includes timely responses, crisis management, conflict resolution, and other appropriate interventions.
- Community trust building emphasizes communication, collaboration, and relationships between residents, authorities, and organizations.
- Atlanta's 2026 executive-office materials report violence interrupters/credible messengers, community mediations, conflict-resolution and violence-prevention training, and public education/outreach.

Official sources: Atlanta MOVR —

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/mayor-s-office/executive-offices/office-of-violence-reduction>

2026 Executive Office Highlights —

<https://citycouncil.atlantaga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/19870/639149505812400000>

EXHIBIT F — South Fulton: P.A.C.T. and Police Athletic League

Model reviewed: City of South Fulton Police Department community-partnership and youth programs.

What South Fulton Does

- The P.A.C.T. (Police and Community Together) unit builds community partnerships to reduce crime and increase safety.
 - The unit describes its work as proactive and includes crime-prevention training, neighborhood-watch development, senior activities, and safety-awareness workshops.
- South Fulton PAL uses sports, education, recreation, mentoring, and skill-building to connect police and youth.
- PAL's stated mission includes positive law-enforcement/youth relationships and prevention of juvenile crime and violence.
- These programs demonstrate a model in which police, recreation, mentorship, education, and community engagement operate together.

Official sources: South Fulton P.A.C.T. —

<https://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov/2718/PACT-Unit---Police-and-Community-Togethe>

South Fulton PAL — <https://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov/3713/Police-Athletic-League-PAL>

EXHIBIT G — JYCG Correspondence

Purpose: Include the formal correspondence sent to the Mayor, City Council, and law-enforcement leadership regarding the August 22, 2026 incident.

EXHIBIT H — JYCG September 21, 2026 Agenda Item / Proposed Council Action

Requested action: Direct City Administration and the Jonesboro Police Department to evaluate current safety and prevention practices at City-sponsored events and develop recommendations for a Youth Event Safety and Prevention Plan, including opportunities for collaboration with JYCG.

Proposed Motion

"I move that the City Council direct City Administration and the Jonesboro Police Department to evaluate current safety and prevention practices at City-sponsored events and develop recommendations for a comprehensive Youth Event Safety and Prevention Plan, including opportunities for collaboration with the Jonesboro Youth City Government, and return those recommendations to the City Council for further consideration."

Potential Deliverables

- Current-state assessment of event safety practices.
- Recommended minimum safety-planning elements for large/youth-centered events.
 - Recommended police deployment/circulation considerations.
 - Volunteer and staffing recommendations.
 - Options for youth reporting and communication.
- Proposed youth engagement and conflict-prevention programming.
 - Post-event review process.
- Estimated implementation costs and potential funding sources.
 - Recommended timeline for returning to Council.

City	Observed Model	Relevant Practice	Potential Jonesboro Adaptation
Savannah	Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement	Prevention, intervention, redirection, youth engagement, de-escalation/conflict-resolution training, community partnerships	Create a coordinated youth-safety framework connecting City staff, JPD, JYCG, programs, and community partners.
Atlanta	Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction	Prevention, intervention, community trust, conflict resolution, credible messengers, public education	Develop prevention/mediation education and trusted youth/community messengers alongside law enforcement.

EXHIBIT I Georgia

South Fulton	P.A.C.T. and Police Athletic League	Police-community partnerships, crime prevention, youth sports, recreation, mentoring, education	Strengthen positive police-youth relationships through recreation, mentorship, and structured youth programming.
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Municipal Comparison and Recommended Jonesboro Actions

Recommended First-Year Jonesboro Priorities:

- Establish an interdepartmental/event-safety working group.
- Create a standard pre-event safety checklist for major City events.
- Evaluate police circulation and event-area visibility practices.
 - Create a trained adult volunteer framework.
 - Develop a youth-safe reporting/communication option.
- Launch short youth safety/de-escalation messaging with JPD and JYCG.
- Create a post-event after-action review process for serious incidents.
 - Establish recurring youth-safety feedback involving JYCG.
- Measure incidents, reported concerns, participation, and lessons learned.
- Return to Council with implementation recommendations and fiscal impact.

Source Notes

The Georgia city examples in this packet are based on official municipal sources reviewed for the September 21, 2026 agenda item. The packet distinguishes between what other cities report doing and what Jonesboro might consider adapting.

The August 22 incident information should be treated as context provided by JYCG. The Council packet should not characterize unverified social-media claims as established facts.