

# Audit Recommendation Follow-up

- **Organized Retail Crime, 2023**
- **Addressing Overdoses and Crime, 2024**
- **Addressing Gun Violence, 2025**

**August 14, 2025**

**Seattle City Council**

**Governance, Accountability, and Economic Development Committee**



**Seattle Office of City Auditor**



# Organized Retail Crime (2023)

**100 DAY CHALLENGE**

Coordinate across City departments to support  
Phố Đẹp interventions.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*Add your thoughts!*

Our progress so far:

- City staff convened a Phố Đẹp Work Group with representatives from the Mayor's Office (MO), Seattle Police Dept (SPD), Dept of Neighborhoods (DON), Seattle Dept of Transportation (SDOT), Office of Economic Development (OED), Arts & Culture (ARTS), Seattle City Light (SCL), and Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)
- City created an interdepartmental agreement to gather \$65K for Phố Đẹp
- City staff have helped FLS and small businesses identify opportunities to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles

What we're working on next:

- City staff are continuing to seek funding sources to support Phố Đẹp implementations
- Building relationships with King County staff to support this work across jurisdictions

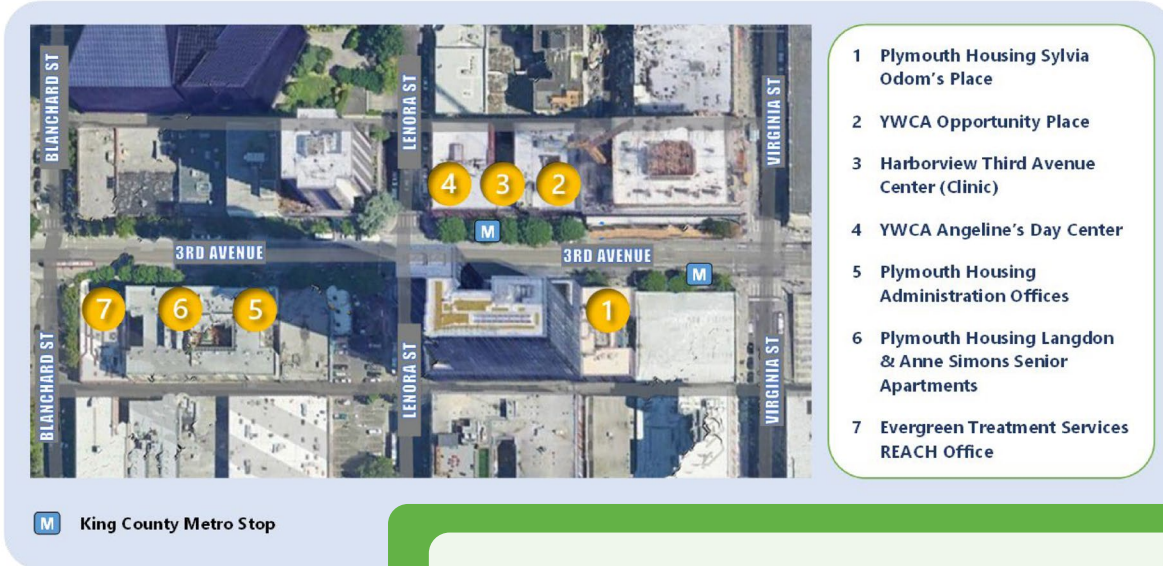
*City staff presenting at the May Phố Đẹp Coalition meeting*

**4 implemented  
(6 pending)**



# Addressing Overdoses and Crime (2024)

Exhibit 3: Audit Case Study Site – Third Avenue from Virginia Street to Blanchard Street



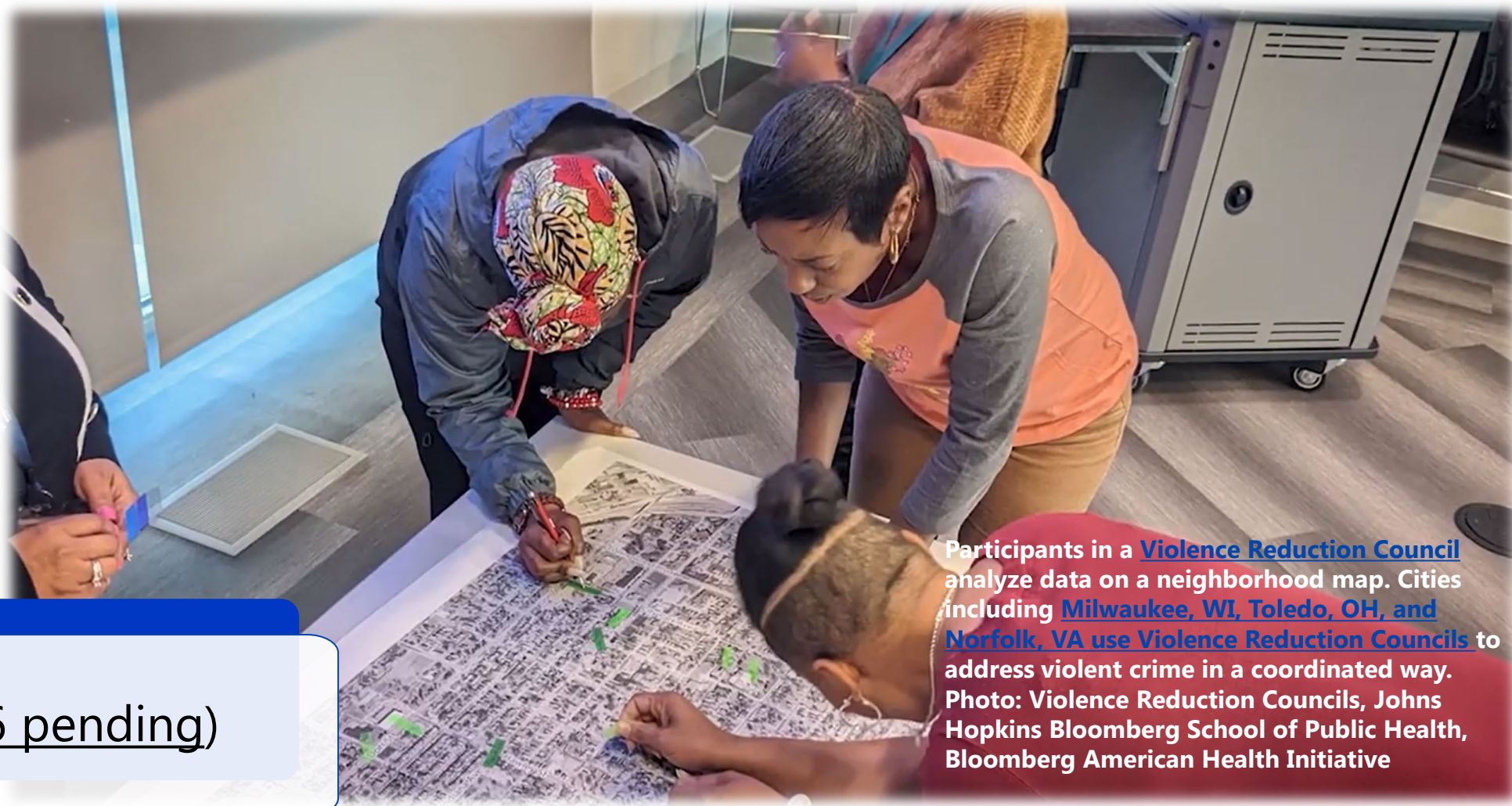
Source: Office of City Auditor

**2** implemented (6 pending)





# Understanding and Addressing Gun Violence (2024)



(6 pending)

Participants in a [Violence Reduction Council](#) analyze data on a neighborhood map. Cities including [Milwaukee, WI](#), [Toledo, OH](#), and [Norfolk, VA](#) use [Violence Reduction Councils](#) to address violent crime in a coordinated way. Photo: Violence Reduction Councils, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

# THANK YOU

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**Seattle Office of  
City Auditor**

## AUDIT REPORT: [The City Can Do More to Tackle Organized Retail Crime in Seattle](#)

**Total Recommendations:** 10

**Implemented Recommendations:** 4

**Pending:** 6

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Organized Retail Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Mayor	2	The City should make a coordinated and prioritized request(s) to the Washington State Attorney General and Homeland Security Investigations for assistance with organized retail crime fencing crime analysis.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO develops and implements its action plan to address organized retail crime in Seattle.
Mayor	3	The City should consider using free technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice to begin to apply problem-oriented-policing techniques to address known organized retail crime fencing operations.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO develops and implements its action plan to address organized retail crime in Seattle.
Mayor	4	The City should explore opportunities for other law enforcement agencies to assist with conducting and documenting booster interviews for the purpose of gathering information on organized retail crime fencing operations.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO develops and implements its action plan to address organized retail crime in Seattle.

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Organized Retail Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Mayor	7	The City should leverage its experience with place-based crime prevention to address illegal street markets where stolen goods are fenced. This should include supporting the completion of Seattle Police Department's place-based recommendations for the 12th and Jackson intersection.	The Mayor's Office through the Pho Dep place-based initiative, is currently working through implementing the community recommended list of items and the Seattle Police Department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design recommendations. Additionally, the City has begun working with other enforcement agencies to work on addressing some of the anchored criminal issues they are seeing in the area. This work is ongoing. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the Pho Dep Little Saigon Safety Plan has been implemented. See <a href="https://flsSeattle.org/what-we-do/advocacy/phodep/">https://flsSeattle.org/what-we-do/advocacy/phodep/</a>
Mayor	8	To help address organized retail crime, the City should explore ways to reduce barriers for small businesses to participate in crime prevention trainings.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO develops and implements its action plan to address organized retail crime in Seattle.
Mayor	10	The City should advocate for new state and federal legislation that could help address organized retail crime investigations and should seek opportunities for funding, technical assistance, or collaboration resulting from the legislation.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO develops and implements its action plan to address organized retail crime in Seattle.

**AUDIT REPORT: [Addressing Places in Seattle Where Overdoses and Crime are Concentrated: An Evidence-Based Approach](#)****Total Recommendations: 8****Implemented Recommendations: 2****Pending: 6**

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Overdoses and Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Mayor	1	The Mayor's Office should lead the City in addressing places where overdoses and crime are concentrated using a proven problem-solving methodology (e.g., the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework). This should include continuing the problem-solving work on Third Avenue from Virginia to Blanchard.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that the City established the Downtown Activation Team (DAT) as a coordinated multi-department place-based problem-solving methodology to address areas with high levels of crime and overdoses. DAT involves public safety, cleaning, and neighborhood activation functions. It further includes close collaboration with service providers, including case workers, substance abuse treatment providers, and milieu management. We will consider this recommendation implemented when the Mayor's Office provides and our office has reviewed a report by Innovation and Performance that evaluates the work of the DAT and the Seattle Restoration Framework to address the places in Seattle where overdoses and crimes are concentrated.



Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Overdoses and Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Mayor	2	The Mayor's Office should lead the City in seeking federal technical assistance and funding to address places where overdoses and crime are concentrated.	<p><b>Status: Pending</b></p> <p><b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) is not in a position, staffing-wise or jurisdictionally, to establish such a task force. SPD does, however, coordinate with the Drug Enforcement Agency's Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Taskforce, which coordinates with more than 75 federal, state, local, and tribal agencies regionally, to tackle the pipelines that feed drug distribution in the Seattle area. Additionally, SPD is a ready partner to the work organized of King County Public Health and the King County Medical Examiner's Office, which manage an interdisciplinary team to investigate local fatal overdose trends and prevention strategies. We will consider this recommendation implemented when the Mayor's Office provides, and our office has reviewed a report by Innovation and Performance that evaluates the work of the Downtown Activation Team and the Seattle Restoration Framework to address the places in Seattle where overdoses and crimes are concentrated.</p>

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Overdoses and Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Mayor	4	The Mayor's Office, in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management, Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Police Department, and other stakeholders, should establish a coordination system such as the Multi-Agency Coordination Group. The group should have well-defined objectives, goals, and reporting mechanisms.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending. We will consider this recommendation implemented when the MO provides, and our office has reviewed a report by Innovation and Performance that evaluates the work of the Downtown Activation Team and the Seattle Restoration Framework to address the places in Seattle where overdoses and crimes are concentrated.
Mayor	5	The Mayor's Office should formalize an ongoing City relationship with Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's Overdose Response Strategy group to continue to leverage its technical assistance resources and coordination with other government agencies.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor's Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending and indicated that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) does, however, coordinate with the Drug Enforcement Agency's Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Taskforce. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO formalizes the relationship with the Northwest HIDTA Response Strategy group to continue to leverage its technical assistance resources and coordination with other government agencies.

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Overdoses and Crime	Current Status – As of Dec. 31, 2024
Police	7	The Seattle Police Department, in consultation with the Mayor’s Office and federal partners, should explore the establishment of a joint law enforcement task force for fatal overdoses.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor’s Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending and indicated that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) does, however, coordinate with the Drug Enforcement Agency’s Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Taskforce. We will consider this recommendation to be implemented when the MO and SPD consider and make a determination on establishing and implementing a joint law enforcement task force to investigate fatal overdoses.
Mayor	8	The Mayor’s Office should ensure that the City regularly evaluates its efforts to address places where overdoses and crime are concentrated as required by proven problem-solving methodologies (e.g., the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Strategic Prevention Framework).	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> The Mayor’s Office (MO) reported that this recommendation remains pending with work being performed by the Downtown Activation Team (DAT) using the metrics established by Innovation and Performance as part of the Seattle Restoration Framework. We will consider this recommendation implemented when the MO provides, and our office has reviewed a report by Innovation and Performance that evaluates the work of the DAT and the Seattle Restoration Framework to address the places in Seattle where overdoses and crimes are concentrated.



**AUDIT REPORT: [Four Recommendations to Better Understand and Address Current Gun Violence Patterns in Seattle](#)****Total Recommendations: 4****Implemented Recommendations: 4****Pending: 4**

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Gun Violence Audit	Current Status – As of March 25, 2025
Mayor	1	The City of Seattle should develop systematic reporting on gun violence patterns to City departments, other government agencies, elected officials, and the public/community stakeholders. The U.S. Department of Justice (through the Office of Justice Programs and the Police Executive Research Forum) is willing, as federal funding permits, to continue to provide technical assistance to Seattle to address this recommendation.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> Report issued March 25, 2025
Mayor	2	The Mayor's Office should provide an update to the Seattle City Council on the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Department's ordinance-mandated new initiative to integrate the City's violent intervention programs. This should include the feasibility of CARE to convene City departments and partners involved with violence prevention and response and to help disseminate systematic reporting on gun violence patterns.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> Report issued March 25, 2025

Department Assigned	#	Recommendations from Gun Violence Audit	Current Status – As of March 25, 2025
Mayor	3	The City of Seattle should improve its capacity for problem analysis to address gun violence, including 1.) implementing problem-oriented policing, 2.) exploring the use of problem analyses such as homicide reviews and place network investigations, and 3.) requiring organizations that receive City funding to address gun violence to complete evidence-based problem-solving training.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> Report issued March 25, 2025
Mayor	4	To address gun violence the City of Seattle should implement a framework for regular systematic coordination among City departments, other government entities, and community organizations.	<b>Status: Pending</b> <b>Update:</b> Report issued March 25, 2025