

# **Project Peace and Safety**

## **AAUW Longmont Input – Worst Fears, Best Hopes, Strategies from March 18, 2023 Discussion**

### **Worst Fears / Concerns**

- Conflict between community members that is not discussed which could lead to greater conflict / violence
- Car break-ins
- School bullying
- Fast traffic
- Racial issues / conflict / violence
- Air quality
- Homeless who have no outlets for their problems
- Graffiti in underpasses
- Lack of funded early education
- Girls / boys / teens mental health
- Political violence
- Access / acceptance to addiction services / lack of services
- Open carry of guns
- Gun violence
- Wealth gap
- Common truth – accepting?
- Sexual preferences
- Elder care
- Gangs – knowledge of activities
- Domestic violence
- Fentanyl
- Lack of respect for others / civility
- Division of social issues will lead to violence
- Inability to bridge political and social issues could lead to violence
- Integration of cultures will be unachieved
- Will new members in community invest in Longmont?
- As population increases will we lose small community feel
- Gun violence / open carry
- Violation of privacy – property damage, robberies, internet
- Mental health – lack of resources
- Education – lack of standards and achievement
- Homelessness

## Best Hopes

- More facilities / access to mental health care – acceptance / no stigma
- “Can’t we all just get along?” ✓ ✓
- Better air / water ✓ ✓
- All children go to sleep safe with enough food and nurturing for a healthy life
- School / community offer such a variety of activities that everyone finds their niche
- Work together / cooperate
- Stop manufacturing ammunition
- Affordable housing for all
- Less poverty
- All individuals reach their full potential
- Everyone listen to the person who is speaking, take a deep breath before they respond
- Climate change solutions found
- Lowering the anger temperature
- Education opportunities for those in prison
- Learn how to live safely in a society with so many firearms
- Less / fewer firearms
- Safe facilities for children for play
- More industry – hopefully green and clean with more jobs
- Residents will connect on local issues
- Finding common ground
- Cultural respect and inclusion
- People learn to embrace change
- Colorado legislature will pass gun safety laws affecting Longmont
- High quality childcare for the 60% not receiving it
- Build neighborhoods on connection and community
- Community involvement in homelessness and mental illness
- Friendliness, more respect and civility in our community

Note – each ✓ means agreement from one other person in the group

## Possible Strategies

- Get outside your own box / people
- Education on the dangers of fentanyl
- Support a ballot initiative to provide educational funding for 0-5 years
- How to talk to children about their physical and brain development
- Create more community groups to address hopes
- Demonstrate (don't stay home and complain)
- Increase taxes on the wealthy and reduce / eliminate loopholes
- Change section 230 / eliminate gradually (social media)
- Innovate to replace plastic with biodegradables
- Be more informed about gun violence (who / where)
  - Address target problems (teen boys & guns)
- Convince naysayers that problem exist
- "Don't worry, be happy"
- Encourage volunteer activities that address our hopes
- Quite conversations on gun control that are not polarizing
- Facilitated discussions / dinner between liberals / conservatives
- Acknowledge people with a smile of acceptance
- Give compliments
- Be aware and get involved in local issues
- Read local newspaper
- Accessible housing for local employees
- Communications and collaboration for mental health and homelessness issues
- Volunteerism in our community
- Acknowledge people's feelings
- Work on childcare issues

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