



# Community Conversation

*September 24, 2018*

## Gun Violence: Can it be reduced?

*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter”*

*This evening's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.*

[www.glastonburymkci.org](http://www.glastonburymkci.org)

## **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative**

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. Since then, the GMLKCI has sponsored up to three Community Conversations per year. GMLKCI works to increase Glastonbury residents' knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

A goal of GMLKCI is to bring people together to discuss social justice issues which are as important to us today both as individuals and as members of our community as they were to Dr. King. As Dr. King noted, "**...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evening's Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles:

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

## **Program**

**Reception** - Meet the Panelists

**Welcome** - Robyn Guimont

**Introduction to the Program** - Alfred Carter

### **Panelist Presentations**

**Tom Campbell** - Greater Danbury Brady Campaign

**Jackson Mittleman** - Junior Newtown Action Alliance

**Tommy Murray** - Junior Newtown Action Alliance

**Maura Murphy Osborne** - Assistant Attorney General

**Marshall Porter** - Town of Glastonbury Chief of Police

**Jeremy Stein** - CT Against Gun Violence

**Conversation—Questions and Answers**

**Closing Remarks** — Alfred Carter

**Thank you**—Robyn Guimont

**Please visit the advocacy tables—the work these organizations do is important to our communities.**

**Please complete and return  
the program evaluation feedback form.  
Your opinions are important to our  
programming and fundraising efforts.**

## Tom Campbell

**Tom Campbell** is the President of the Greater Danbury Brady Campaign. He is also the Director of The Newtown Foundation and The Newtown Action Alliance.

The Newtown Foundation and Newtown Action Alliance are dedicated to preventing gun violence in our country through education, common sense legislation, and community activism.

The Brady Campaign is headquartered in Washington DC with chapters throughout the country. Brady's sole objective is to prevent gun violence in the country. The Brady Campaign focuses on awareness and educational programs, lobbies for local and federal legislation, and works in concert with like-minded groups and individuals.

The Brady Campaign's goal is to cut the number of U.S. gun deaths in half by 2025, based on a strategy that centers on the idea of keeping guns out of the wrong hands through three impact-driven, broadly engaging campaigns: (1) a policy focus to "Finish the Job" so that life-saving Brady background checks are applied to all gun sales; (2) to "Stop 'Bad Apple' Gun Dealers" – the 5 percent of gun dealers that supply 90 percent of all crime guns; and (3) to lead a new national conversation and change social norms around the real dangers of guns in the home, to prevent the homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings that happen every day as a result.

## Jackson Mittleman

**Jackson Mittleman** is a senior at Newtown High School and has been co-chairman of the Junior Newtown Action Alliance since his sophomore year. He has been fighting for common sense gun reform since he lost his friend in the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting in his hometown of Newtown, Connecticut.

His career in Gun Violence Prevention activism has led him to assist in organizing the March 14th Women's March National School Walkout, and speak at the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C.

Jackson also helped plan his community vigil after the Parkland school shooting, and has been traveling to Washington DC every year for 3 years to attend the national vigil for all victims of gun violence and lobby on Capitol Hill for change.

## **Tommy Murray**

**Tommy Murray** is a senior at Newtown High School and the co-chair of the Junior Newtown Action Alliance. Tommy and his three sisters are graduates of the Sandy Hook Elementary School and when he was in sixth-grade, his school went on lockdown for hours while his neighbor gunned down 20 first graders and six educators with an AR-15.

Beginning when he was 11 years old, Tommy has protested the National Shooting Sports Foundation - the gun lobby in Newtown - and traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress to pass strong gun laws and to participate in the National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. On March 24 of this year, he joined the Parkland students as a guest speaker at the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C., representing the youth of Newtown, CT. He also spoke at the Rally for Reform in Dallas when the NRA was holding its convention and the Blue Wave Festival in Connecticut.

## **Maura Murphy Osborne**

**Maura Murphy Osborne** is an Assistant Attorney General in the Special Litigation Department of Connecticut's Office of the Attorney General. Her primary focus is defending the State of Connecticut in civil litigation and her practice spans a diverse range of constitutional and statutory areas. She is a lead election attorney in the Office of the Attorney General where she litigates First Amendment, Equal Protection issues that arise from candidate ballot access, voters' rights, political party rights, redistricting, and campaign finance. She also litigates religious freedom and employment discrimination claims and defends against Second Amendment challenges. She has successfully defended various constitutional challenges to Connecticut's landmark campaign finance program in the Connecticut federal district court, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Since 2013, she has successfully defended against state and federal constitutional challenges to Connecticut's gun laws that were strengthened in response to the Sandy Hook massacre. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Cornell Law School, clerked in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut for Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel, and was an adjunct professor in the University of Connecticut Law School's Moot Court program in 2017.

## **Marshall Porter**

**Marshall Porter** is the Chief of Police in Glastonbury, appointed in November, 2017. Chief Porter has been a police officer since 1989. He previously served as the Captain/Executive office in Farmington (1994 - 2017), and as a patrol officer in the Winchester, New Hartford and Harwinton Police Departments.

Chief Porter has held the rank of Narcotics Detective, Corporal, Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain during his career with the Farmington Police Department. He represents the Connecticut Police Chief's Association on the Private Security Committee, the Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

Chief Porter has earned an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Northwestern Connecticut Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Finance from Central Connecticut State University and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from CCSU.

## **Jeremy Stein**

**Jeremy Stein** is the new executive director of CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV). His expertise in gun violence prevention stems from his more than 23 years of experience as a litigator. After graduating from Emory University School of Law, he served as a prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office for the District of Columbia, where he worked on gun prosecutions with many different police agencies including the ATF, FBI, Secret Service and Metropolitan Police Department to name a few. Additionally he served as judicial law clerk for the Honorable Patricia A. Broderick in the DC Superior Court. He also served as an assistant public defender with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in its Baltimore City felony trial division. Most recently he was the managing partner of a defense litigation firm, managing both the New York and Connecticut practices. Jeremy has been quoted by the NY Times, The Hartford Courant, CNN, NPR, and BBC Radio.

## **Alfred Carter**

Alfred L. Carter, the retired Dean of Students at Manchester Community College, is an accomplished career educator, sociologist and humanist who has extensive experience and has been active in the field of higher education for approximately forty years and has provided training in the areas of diversity, team building, stress management, leadership, communications, conflict management, mentoring / advising, managing change, and teaching effectiveness. Dean Carter was a founding partner in Rodgers and Carter Educational Consulting. Since retiring, he has continued participating in higher education, serving as Special Assistant to the Dean of Students at Capital Community College, training and speaking as well as continuing to mentor students and professionals who seek support and encouragement.

## **Appreciation**

**Thank you for attending today's program.** Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. We must each play our part.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501 (c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.

*The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible*



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