



CRIME CRACKDOWN 2024

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

DAVIS ADMINISTRATION FIVE PILLARS APPROACH TO SOLVING THE ROOT CAUSE OF CRIME





CRIME CRACKDOWN 2024: BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Davis Administration's Five Pillars Strategy to build safer communities is an integrated and collaborative framework for addressing the multiple social, economic, legal, and health challenges which contribute to crime and violence.

THE FIVE PILLARS:

Prevention: Attacking the root causes of crime with community development, education, social services, and economic opportunities.

Policing: Strengthening law enforcement with community-oriented policing, enhanced officer training, and new tools and technology .

Prosecution: Advancing fair and effective criminal justice with swifter legal proceedings, new specialized courts for specific types of crimes, and support systems for victims and witnesses.

Punishment: Ensuring criminals are brought to justice and held accountable for their crimes, including harsh penalties for gang and gun-related offenses.

Rehabilitation: Preparing offenders for successful reintegration into society, with vocational training, educational programmes, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and support networks to reduce recidivism.



CROSS-GOVERNMENT, WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

Central to the strategy is collaboration across various government departments and the active involvement of communities, NGOs, and the private sector.

1 PREVENTION

Reducing crime and violence requires addressing the risk factors and underlying challenges which give rise to criminal activity. Our approach includes investing in safer neighbourhood environments, improving engagement between law enforcement and communities, improving school attendance, creating more opportunities for at-risk youth, and supporting efforts to counter gang recruitment.



Making our Neighbourhoods Safer: Lighting for our streets, cleaning up abandoned cars and lots, renovating community centers.



Strengthening Urban Renewal: Community development projects, including improvement of public spaces, home repairs, basketball tournaments, and marching bands.



Improving School Attendance: Additional attendance officers to identify children who are chronically absent, and encourage and support attendance, including via mentorship and parental involvement initiatives.



Expanding HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) Program: Intervening early to address behavioural issues in younger students.



Expanding Smart Start: Addressing learning loss and disengagement from school for students in grades 10-12.



Launching a Centralized Hub for Vocational Studies: A new hub for high school students, specializing in vocational education, with an expanded curriculum and new career paths.



Expanding Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) Scholarships: Additional opportunities for at-risk youth, focusing on job-ready skills and career-oriented training and education.



Countering Gang Recruitment: Awareness campaigns, conflict resolution, and after-school programs to provide alternatives to gang involvement.

POLICING

To improve law enforcement's capacity to prevent and respond to crime, we are expanding school policing, adopting a clear, hold, and build strategy in areas where gangs are operating, investing in community policing, increasing saturation patrols in high-crime zones, implementing advanced surveillance technology, and enhancing regional cooperation against drug and weapons trafficking.

-  **Expanding School Policing:** Placing more trained officers in schools to build positive relationships with students, and to engage in prevention, detection, and intervention.
-  **Implementing a Clear, Hold, and Build Strategy:** Adopting a phased approach to moving gangs out of our neighborhoods, maintaining security, and investing in community development.
-  **Expanding Saturation Patrols:** Increasing police presence in high-crime areas to deter criminal activity.
-  **Introducing Facial Recognition CCTV:** Implementing state-of-the-art surveillance technology to aid in crime detection and prevention.
-  **Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Drug and Weapons Fight:** Working with our partners in neighbouring countries to tackle cross-border drug trafficking and illegal arms trade.
-  **Intelligence Building through Community Policing:** Building strong community ties to improve relationships and aid intelligence gathering.
-  **Investing in Communication Centers:** Establishing centers to facilitate better communication between law enforcement and communities, and provide resources for conflict resolution and crime reporting.
-  **Enhancing Witness Support:** Creating dedicated teams to provide assistance and protection to witnesses in criminal cases.
-  **Utilizing Unexplained Wealth Orders:** Using legal tools to confiscate assets accumulated through criminal activities.
-  **Bolstering the Confidential Informant Fund:** Enhancing information gathering and covert operations.
-  **Constructing a National Forensic Laboratory:** Reducing dependency on external jurisdictions for forensic analysis, thereby speeding up the investigative process and improving the quality of evidence.

3 PROSECUTION

Our judicial process must work faster and more effectively, and criminals must pay for their crimes. We are expanding swift justice initiatives, aggressively challenging bail in cases where granting bail is likely to endanger public safety, expanding specialized courts, enhancing training for prosecutors, improving legal officer retention, and investing in modern forensic labs.

-  **Delivering Swift Justice:** Reducing case backlog is essential to delivering justice and building public trust and public safety; our approach includes building nineteen new court facilities.
-  **Specialized Courts:** Expanding specialized courts for family, juvenile, commercial, and sexual offenses, and coroner's cases, allowing for focused, efficient, and expert handling of these cases.
-  **Hiring Additional Prosecutors:** Augmenting the workforce to handle an increased caseload, manage the growing demands on the justice system, and prevent delays in legal proceedings.
-  **Amending the Bail Act:** To ensure that bail is automatically revoked when the accused is convicted for violating the terms of their bail.
-  **Enhancing Training for Prosecutors:** Providing ongoing professional education for our prosecutors.
-  **Improving Legal Officer Retention:** Increasing pay and benefits for legal officers to attract and retain top talent.
-  **Challenging Decisions to Grant Bail:** Vigorously challenging bail decisions in cases where there are clear risks to the individual charged or to public safety.
-  **Countering Defense Litigation Delay Tactics:** Implementing strategies to counter excessive or unwarranted delaying tactics which impede the efficient delivery of justice.
-  **Introducing New Sentencing Guidelines:** Reforming sentencing guidelines to reflect current societal norms and legal priorities. This ensures that punishments are appropriate, fair, and serve as effective deterrents.
-  **Recruiting Additional Public Defenders:** Increasing the number of public defenders to ensure capable legal representation for all individuals.
-  **Hiring Additional Pathologists:** Increasing the number of pathologists will help in reducing delays in forensic examinations and autopsy reports, which are crucial for criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

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PUNISHMENT

Criminals must pay for their crimes, and the consequences they face should act as a deterrent to other potential offenders. Punishment for crime is essential to achieving justice, maintaining public safety, and deterring criminal behavior.



Penalizing Gang Involvement: Evaluating and strengthening the efficacy of current anti-gang penalties through analysis of arrest rates, conviction rates, sentencing outcomes, and recidivism rates. Penalties must be swift and severe enough to discourage participation in gangs, reduce reoffending and protect public safety.



Penalizing Illegal Firearms Possession: Ensuring that penalties for illegal firearms possession, with a focus on high powered weapons such as assault rifles, are severe enough to deter illegal gun ownership.



Consulting with Stakeholders: Working with community groups, and leaders and participants in anti-gang programs, to gather perspectives on the efficacy of penalties for specific crimes, and the impact on communities.



Evaluating the Potential of Restorative Justice Practices: Evaluating the impact of restorative justice practices on accountability, victim satisfaction, and offender reintegration.



Using Risk Assessment Tools: Evaluating the use of evidence-based risk assessment tools to identify individuals with a higher risk of reoffending so that penalties for specific crimes can be tailored accordingly.



Increasing Public Awareness of Penalties: Ensuring public awareness of the severity of penalties for specific crimes, to increase deterrent effect.

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REHABILITATION

To prepare offenders for successful societal reintegration, we are expanding cognitive-behavioural therapy for inmates, streamlining reintegration programs, creating partnerships for ex-offender employment, and offering educational and vocational training to equip ex-offenders with necessary skills for reintegration.



Expanding Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT): Offering evidence-backed CBT to inmates to disrupt and change harmful behavioural patterns and prepare them for reintegration.



Streamlining Reintegration Programs: Increasing collaboration between government and private efforts to rehabilitate in order to streamline resources and improve outcomes.



Building Partnerships for Ex-Offender Employment: Collaborating with the private sector to create job opportunities for ex-offenders.



Extending Educational and Vocational Training: Offering extensive training programs to equip ex-offenders with skills necessary for employment.



Expanding Second Chance Programs: Supporting initiatives by the Royal Bahamas Police Force to provide former offenders with opportunities to re-integrate into society positively.