



CNS 5275 | LIVING SYSTEMS

A WICKED PROBLEM | GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO

MAPPING WILBUR'S WICKED PROBLEM MODEL
BY AVA ST. CLAIRE

A WICKED PROBLEM | GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO

OVERVIEW

General crime vs. gun violence
Boundaries | Areas of Impact
Victims & Offenders
Influencers

STAKEHOLDERS

Community Members
Supporting Organizations
City Citizens
Other citizens in the city-Black vs. White

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Cultural
Economic
Commercial Development
Exposure
Accessible Opportunities
Lack of support for other neighbors in the community
McDonald Effect
Education
Academic Literacy
Social Literacy
Emotional/Spiritual Literacy
Trauma as disease
Community support (in both directions)
Gangs as Familial Constructs
Social Media
Laws & Courts

WEB & MAP

TRAPS

Ignoring Evil
Disregarding race, culture, history
Seeking equality of outcome
Displacing the problem

OPPORTUNITIES

A new generation of leaders
Innovative Mini-Cities
Healed Relationships with Law Enforcement
Cross-cultural growth



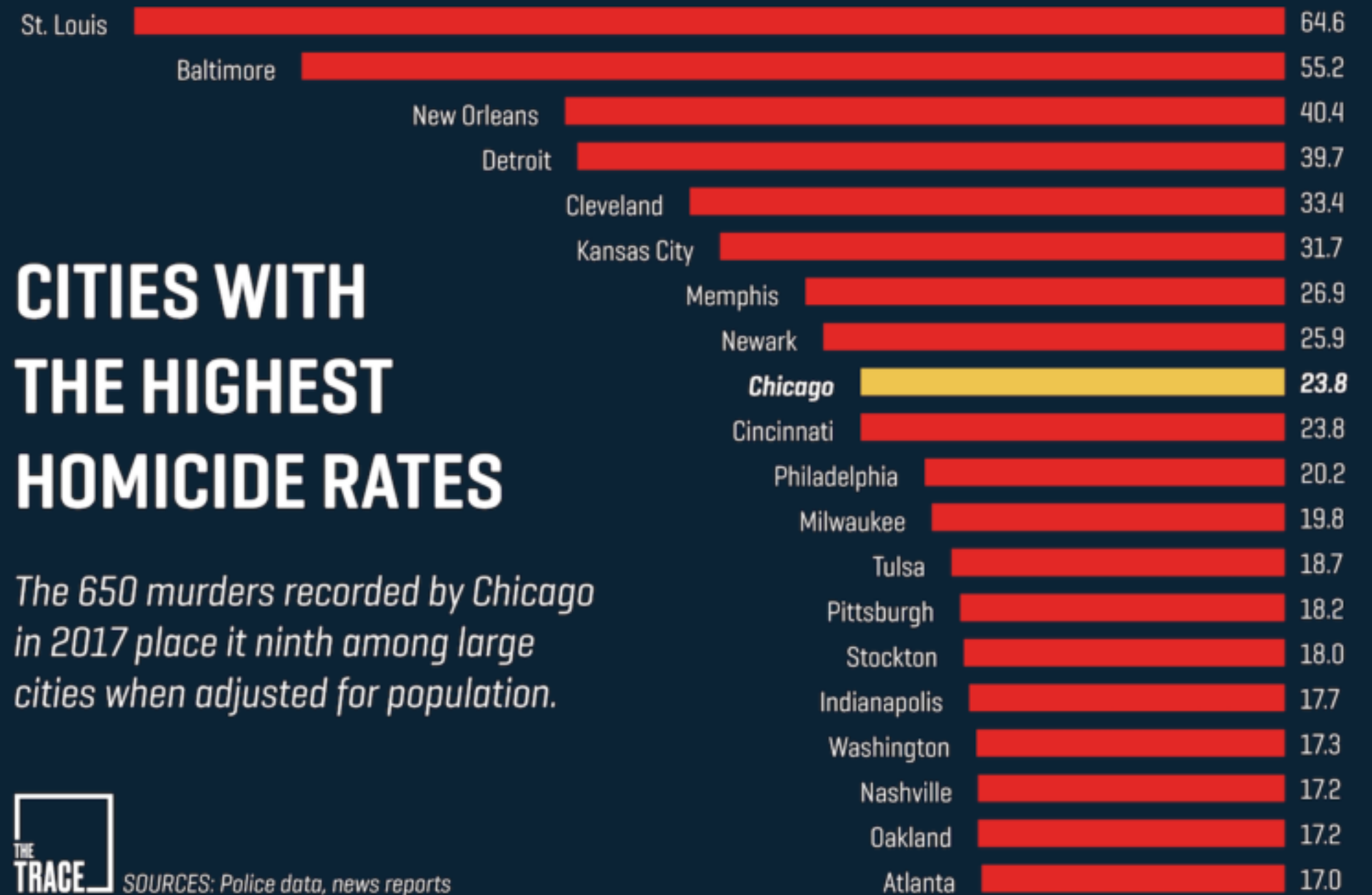
In contemporary capitalist society, the central value of moneymaking goes hand in hand with the glorification of material consumption. A never-ending stream of advertising messages reinforces people's delusion that the accumulation of material goods is the royal road to happiness, the very purpose of our lives."

- Fritjof Capra, The Hidden Connections

It is relative poverty, not absolute poverty that powers and connects the contributing factors in Chicago's Gun Violence problem. It is the need to be seen as a worthy and valuable human being by amassing money, power, and material possessions by any means necessary. From this perspective, there is no difference between these men and those who consistently commit great financial, technological, or ecological crimes.

MURDERS PER CAPITA BY CITY

"Chicago's murder rate becomes even more unexceptional for a large city when the category of homicides that inflates its level is factored out. [But], when you look at murders by how they were committed, the data shows that Chicago has a much higher rate of gun homicides, specifically, than Los Angeles or New York. For non-gun homicides, the cities' rates are effectively equal. It's because Chicago has so many more fatal shootings, per capita, that it does not enjoy the same safety as those other metropolises."



HOW CHICAGO GUN VIOLENCE MADE THE HEADLINES

Former President Barack Obama's President run and presidency prompted criticism from all sides. Conservatives pointed to his inability to solve the Murder Rate as a prime example for why he shouldn't be President.

Primarily, African-American Democrats demanded he fix the problem as a condition for their support.

Both voices echoed in the chamber.



"Throughout his four years working for "change" in Chicago's Roseland and Altgeld Gardens neighborhoods, Obama ignored the primary cause of their escalating dysfunction: the disappearance of the black two-parent family. -City Journal, 2010

"The president's slim record on guns has earned him harsh criticism from both sides. The Brady Project, which supports strong gun controls, branded his first term a "failure," while the National Rifle Association said that Obama "has a long history of trying to regulate, restrict and ban your Second Amendment rights out of existence." -U.S. News, 2012

CRIME VS. GUN VIOLENCE

Keeping the Difference in Mind

“Crime in Chicago is High”
“Chicago is a violent place”

The above are blanket statements that are not accurate. It is important to make the distinction between generally high instances of crime and Murder and Shootings.

It is also important to note that only a few neighborhoods experience this kind of violence.

HISTORICAL COMPARISON									
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	% Change 2018 - 2017	% Change 2018 - 2016	% Change 2018 - 2015	% Change 2018 - 2014
MURDER	362	454	471	311	254	-20%	-23%	16%	43%
CRIM SEXUAL ASSLT	1375	1310	1191	999	916	5%	15%	38%	50%
ROBBERY	6295	7366	7297	5746	6063	-15%	-14%	10%	4%
AGG BATTERY	4357	4434	4759	4325	4268	-2%	-8%	1%	2%
BURGLARY	7626	8528	8700	7911	9217	-11%	-12%	-4%	-17%
THEFT	9698	10189	9279	7924	9617	-5%	5%	22%	1%
MTR VEHICLE THEFT	6498	7342	7024	6397	6388	-11%	-7%	2%	2%
TOTAL	36211	39623	38721	33613	36723	-9%	-6%	8%	-1%

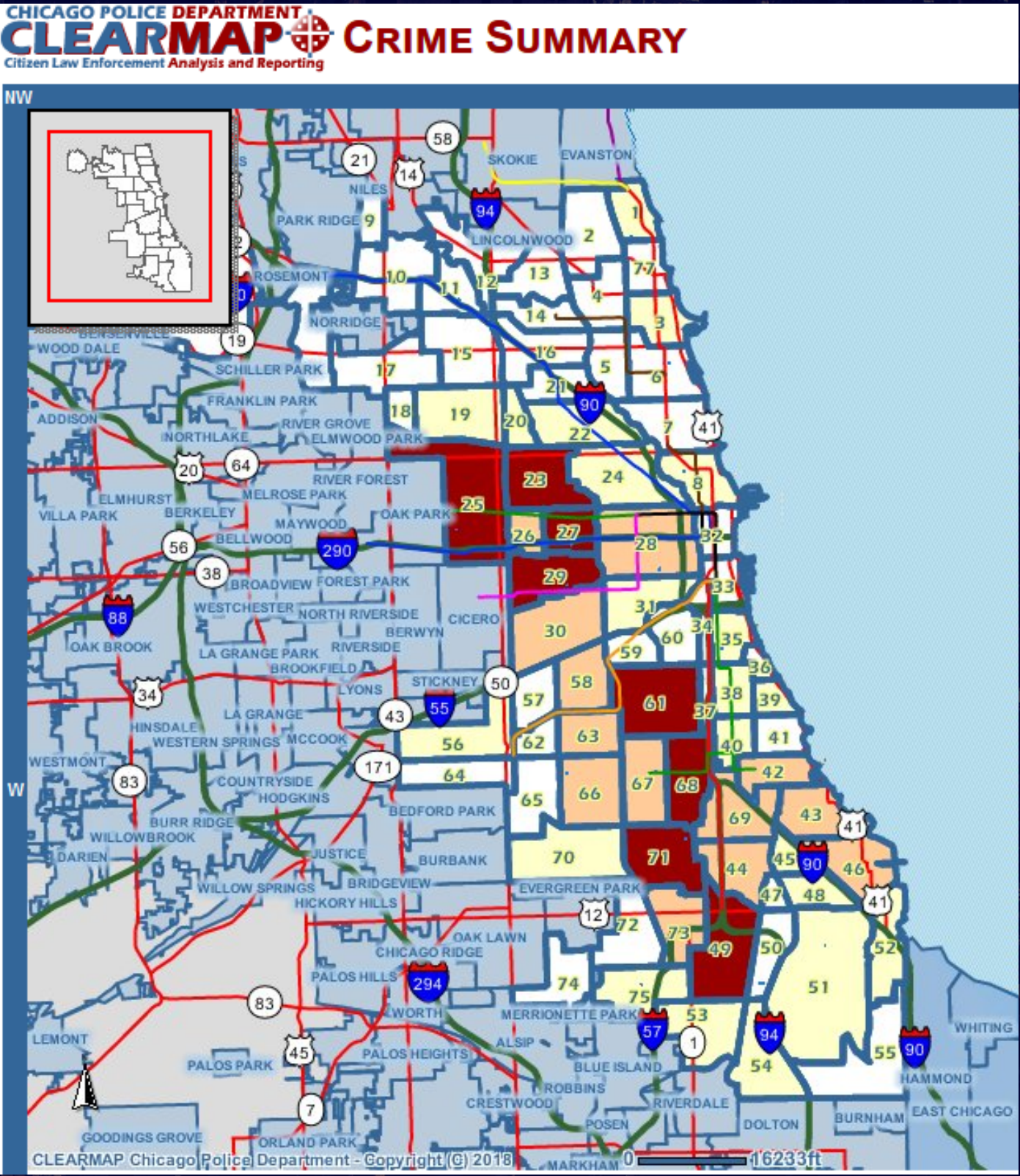
The above CompStat figures are posted on Monday, one week after closing date.

CompStat figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Crime statistics reflect Illinois Compiled Statutes and differ from the crime categories of the [F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reporting System](#). All degrees of Criminal Sexual Assault are included in the Criminal Sexual Assault category.

BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD.....

Five South and West side communities with 9 percent of Chicago’s population (Austin, Englewood, New City, West Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing) accounted for nearly half the city’s increase in 2016 homicides.

African-American men ages 15-34 made up more than half of the city’s homicide victims in 2015 and 2016 while accounting for just 4 percent of the city’s population. Almost 40 percent of victims had prior violent crime arrests.



Five South and West side communities with 9

VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

Offenders by Age:

Age	Under 10	10-13	14-16	17-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	Over 55
Count	0	0	7	91	45	14	10	4
Percentage	0.00%	0.00%	4.09%	53.22%	26.32%	8.19%	5.85%	2.34%

Offenders by Race:

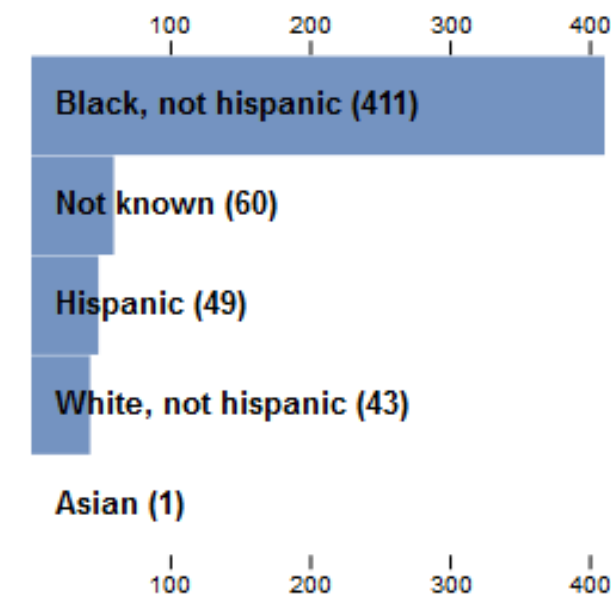
Race	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
Count	122	42	6	1
Percentage	71.3%	24.6%	3.5%	0.6%

About the victims

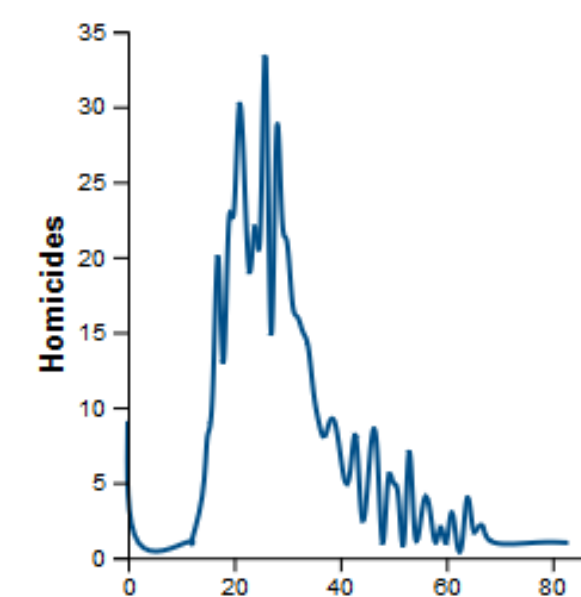
For the previous 365 days

The majority of the victims of homicide in Chicago are young, black men.

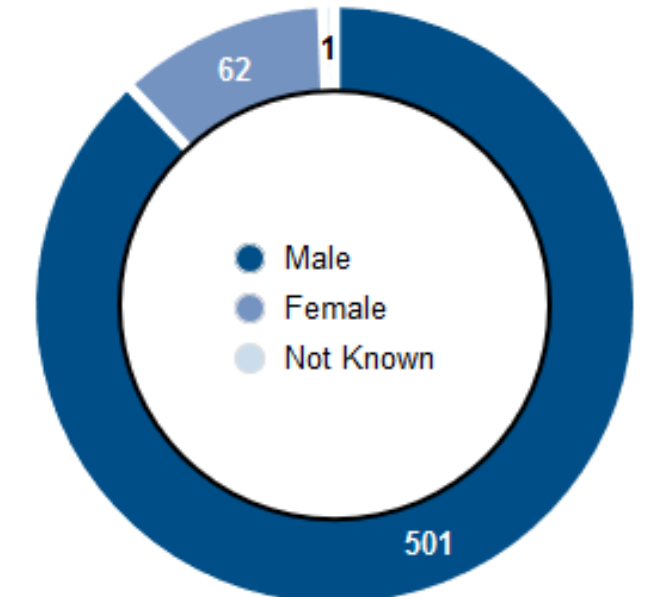
Race/ethnicity



Age



Sex



INFLUENCERS

"Most of the guns police seize come from Indiana and other states where firearms laws are more lax, police and researchers have found. After they were purchased legally, most were sold or loaned or stolen. Typically, individuals or small groups are involved in the dealing, not organized trafficking rings, experts say."

Unlike the drug trade — often dominated by powerful cartels or gangs — illegal gun markets operate more like the way teenagers get beer, "where every adult is potentially a source," said Philip Cook, a researcher at the University of Chicago Crime Lab who's also a Duke University professor. "

-Propublica.org, October 2017



CARTELS



TRAFFICKERS



GANGS



**NEIGHBORING
STATES**



**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**



**LAW &
COURTS**

STAKEHOLDERS & PERSPECTIVES

1 = I/WE

2 = US

3 = THEY

Offenders

1

I need to protect myself
I will render my own justice
I need to make a way for myself

This proves I'm not afraid

I am the hero in my story.

Community Members

1

I/We need protection/more policing
I/We do not trust the police
I/We do not want the system involved and just locking everyone up
I/We need more jobs

This problem and narrative helps others view me as a hero in my story.

Northside City Citizens

1

I am in no way effected by this issue. I don't live where crime is occurring.

3

Why should I have to pay taxes or donate to any cause that helps people on the southside?

Philanthropists

3

This has nothing to do with me. I am willing to throw only money at the problem based on the facts and evidence of improvement.

Politicians

1

I/We have given them every opportunity they need to overcome this. It should be over by now.

2

This is making us look bad.

3

I am in no way effected by this issue. But I will use it as a platform to win the votes of people effected by it

Law Enforcement

1

I/We am/are not here to risk my/our life/lives

Not trying to risk my job

Overworked and underpaid

3

They're all in a gang

Celebrities

1

I am only willing to throw money or attention at the problem

Perpetuating the narrative of being from a tough city gives me a good story to tell for both my brand and my art (music, film, etc.)

This narrative also helps people to view me as a hero in my story.

Party Lines

1

We can use this as exhibit A of Democratic policies.

We can use this as exhibit A of Republican policies

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



EDUCATION



SOCIAL
LITERACY



EMOTIONAL
LITERACY



TRAUMA AS
DISEASE



SUPPORT



GANG AS
FAMILY



RACE IN
CPD



EXPOSURE



MCDONALD
EFFECT



AGENCY IN
UPPER CLASS



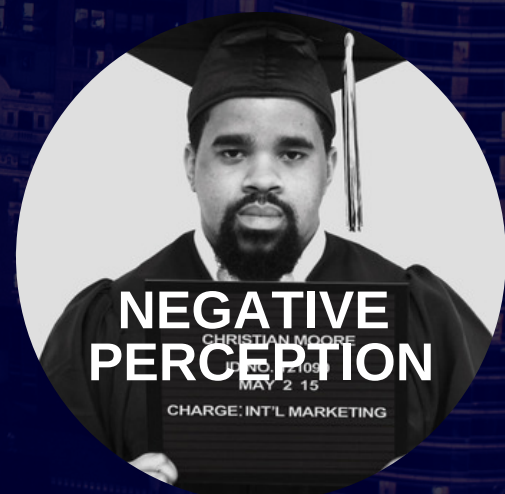
CULTURE



ECO DEV

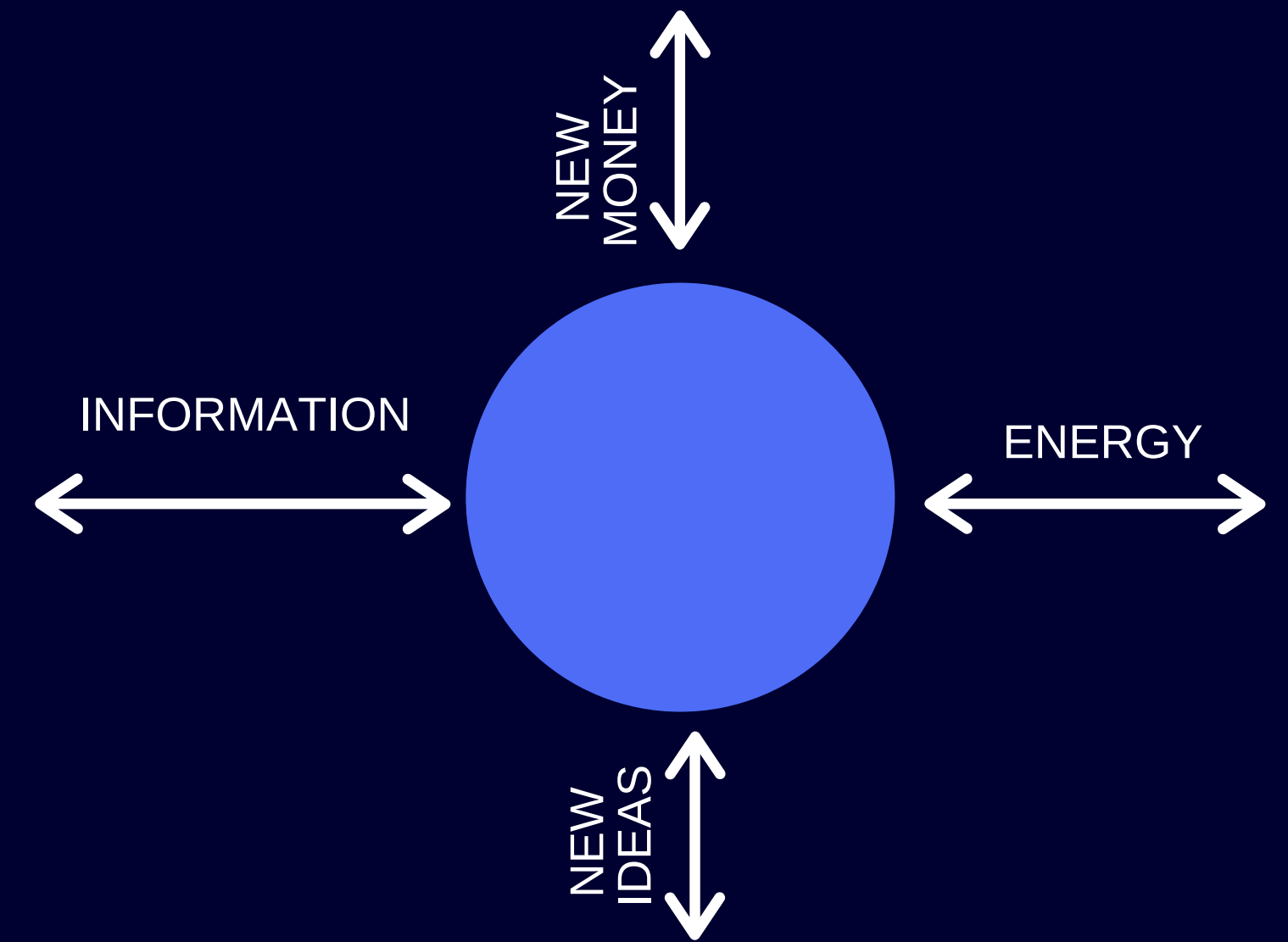


HIDDEN
ECONOMIES



NEGATIVE
PERCEPTION

CHRISTIAN MOORE
JAN 2 2005
MAY 2 15
CHARGE: INT'L MARKETING



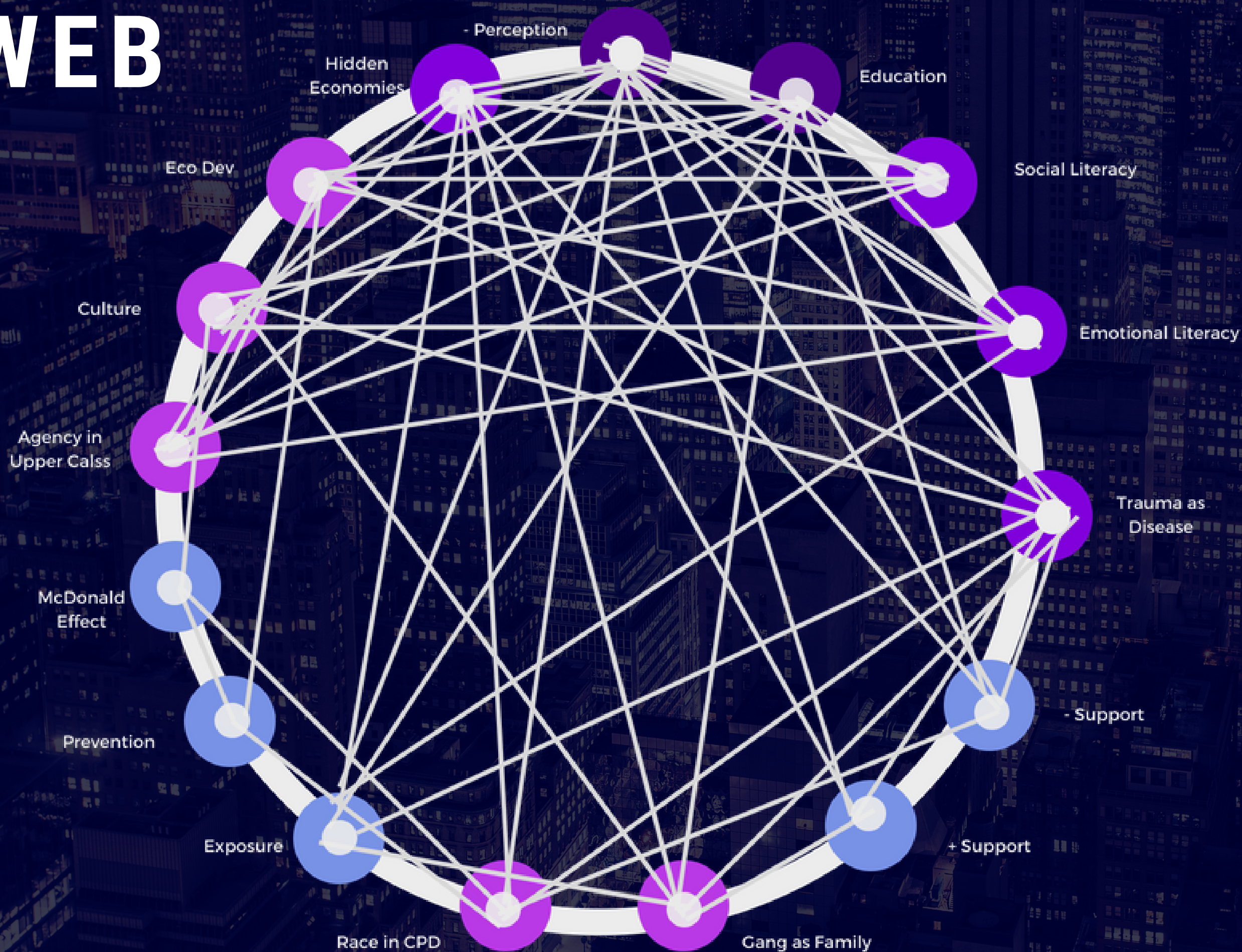
RESILIENCE AND SUB-OPTIMIZATION

These communities lose their resilience against violence partly because they become closed systems. By looking at the dominant factors of negative perception, lack of education, social, and emotional literacy, it is easy to see how a once open system can become closed.

The new closed system, then self-organizes. However, those with the most power in the system lead the organization. In this case gang members and dealers with access to money and the power of fear.

WEB

CAUSAL FACTORS BY DOMINANCE



Level 1
(Most Dominant)

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4
(Least Dominant)

MAP

- CAUSE
- ◆ STAKEHOLDER

I

BEHAVIORAL & INSTINCTUAL

IT

COMMUNAL
SYSTEMS

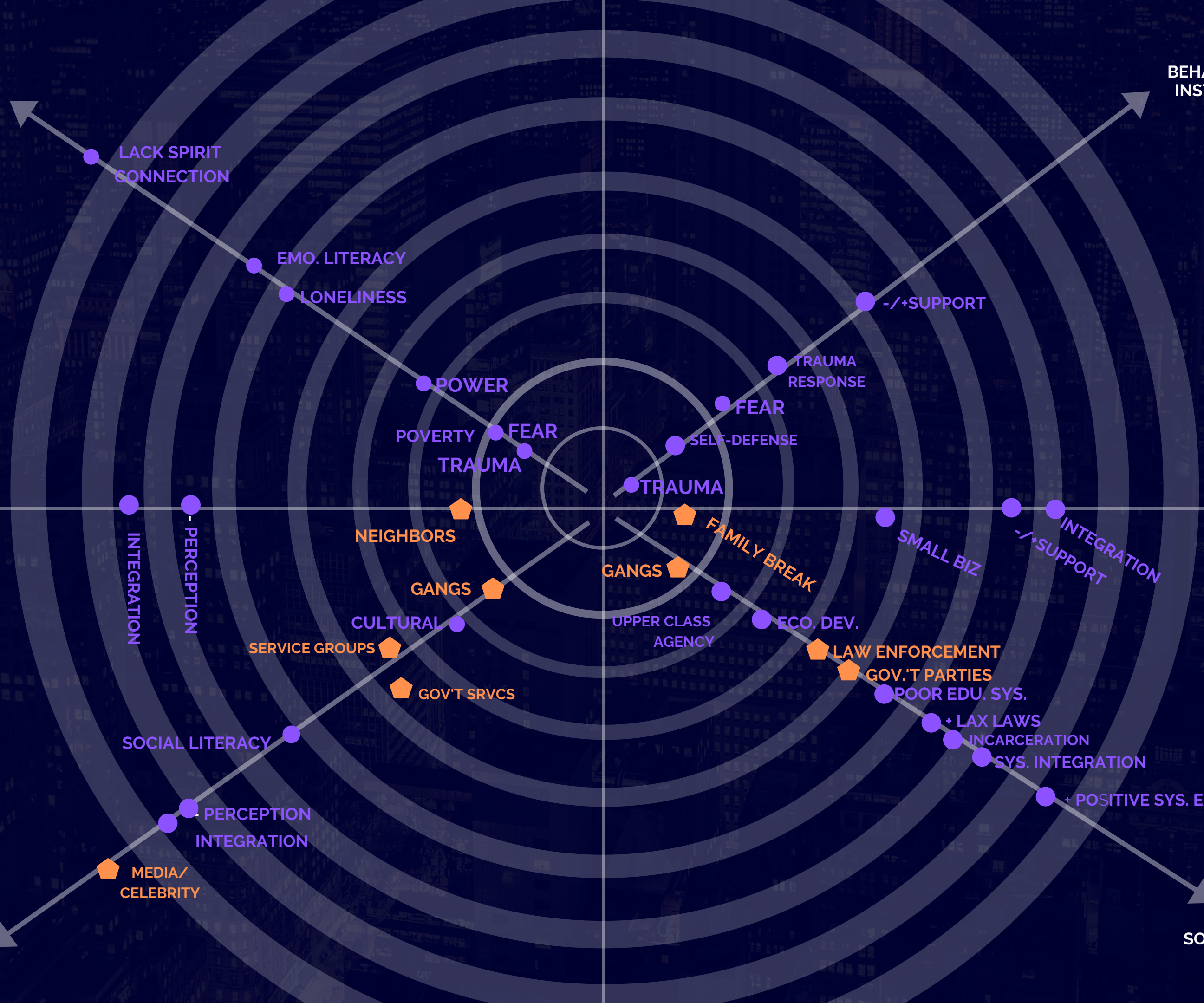
ITS

SOCIAL & GOVT'
SYSTEMS

CULTURE &
WORLDVIEW

WE

COMMUNITY



TRAPS

Disregarding race, culture, history



It would be very easy to ignore race and racial inequalities. Culture, history and systemic issues have a large impact on the perpetuation of gun violence. Breaking up families during slavery > Breaking up of families during Great Migration > War on Drugs > Present Day

Seeking first equality of outcome



Because of race and culture, economic developmental needs are much different than the needs of others. Mirroring development in other higher end white neighborhoods will not necessarily serve the needs of the communities. For instance, One community has a high number of vegetarians and vegans since it is the mecca for members of the Nation of Islam. A Potbelly or even Chipotle is not going to necessarily serve the community's needs.

Displacing the problem



For the past few years, the city, CHA, and other private interests have been gentrifying high crime areas while using grants, vouchers, and other tactics to move people out of these communities. Most of the displaced are women with children. Young men, who are either living with these families as sons or partners are moving with them to either other communities or nearby suburban municipalities.

Ignoring evil



While many gang members are simply responding the wicked problem of economic and racial disparities, it wise not to make the mistake of ignoring the fact that some of them are just flat evil and take joy in being so.

Sensationalizing



Because the problem is so vast, it can become a fascinating one to study and discuss. While this is an important aspect of solving the problem, it is also easy to glamorize all aspects of it, which is much of what's happening now.

OPPORTUNITIES

Fresh Entrepreneurs



This is a bit cliché, but it is true. Many of the young men wreaking havoc on the streets are incredibly capable of running legitimate, high level businesses. This opportunity has been recognized by a number of organizations, and they have slowly begun to increase the small business programming to accommodate low and mid-level ex-offenders.

Innovative Activations



It's not such a rare instance that trying anything would be better than not trying at all. Researchers have the opportunity to collaborate with NGO's who can collaborate with artists, technologists, and great thinkers to bring about change. This is happening in a few communities where they are using music and art to activate troubled corners and induce positive loitering.

Healing Relationships



This would be an excellent opportunity for CPD to to heal broken relationships within the community as true community service men and women who know the neighbors intimately.

Restoring Rites Passage



Programs like the Dovetail Project help men to see themselves as necessary leaders, fathers, and active citizens then gives them the tools to fulfill those responsibilities with confidence.

Cross Cultural Exposure



My Block My Hood My City provides guided opportunities to expose youth from all over the city to each other, the opportunities in the communities, the city, and the globe.

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QUESTIONS?
