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**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP OF PHILADELPHIA TESTIFIES AT CITY COUNCIL
HEARING AND RELEASES REPORT ADDRESSING CRIME SCENE CLEAN UP**

Philadelphia, PA – Today the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) released the findings from their report entitled *Blood on Our Hands: Addressing Crime Scene Cleanup in the City of Philadelphia* at a hearing of the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Public Safety.

The report outlines the results from an extensive investigative study exploring the experiences and needs of survivors of intra-familial homicide through interviews with survivors. In addition to the profound trauma interviewees described, many reported the unexpected ordeal of having to clean up the crime scene.

The report identifies the circumstances faced by victims of violence and survivors of homicide in Philadelphia, and examines the current practices that compound the harms of violence and trauma for Philadelphians, noting the disproportionate harm specifically to communities of color and those living below the poverty line.

The report proposes changes to current policies and practices to better service victims and survivors in Philadelphia. These changes include:

- The City of Philadelphia assumes the logistical and financial responsibility for the removal of biohazardous materials from crime scenes. These services should be piloted in either communities hardest hit by homicide and poverty, or across Philadelphia in cases of homicides inside a private residence. AVP proposes two implementation options for the City Council to consider to achieve this:
 - Establish a “Biohazard Remediation Team” of trained professionals with necessary equipment to respond to crime scenes.
 - Create a “Rotational Biohazard Remediation Program,” modeling it on the City’s existing and successful rotational towing program.

- The City of Philadelphia develops trauma-informed and culturally sensitive training and policies for law enforcement that enhance their communications with survivors and victims of crime to let survivors know about available services and supports.
- The City of Philadelphia increases accessibility of information on crime scene cleanup for Philadelphians by providing comprehensive resources that educate and support survivors.

This report was produced by AVP staff and volunteers.

AVP also presented these recommendations and testimony at a public hearing on crime scene cleanup before the Committee on Public Safety of the Council of the City of Philadelphia on March 23, 2021.

You can read the report [here](#) and AVP's testimony [here](#), and watch City Council's hearing [here](#).

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Founded in 1983, the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) victim service agency. Its mission is to end the cycle of violence by providing a wide range of intervention, prevention, and support services to children, youth, and adults traumatized by exposure to violence, to help them rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violence. In media attributions, please refer to us as the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia or AVP.