

Sam Vaughn's bio

Committed mentor for violence-prone youth in what was once one of the top ten most dangerous cities in the country; Sam Vaughn serves as Neighborhood Safety Director of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS)/ Deputy Director of Community Services Department. His experiences being mentored by elders while incarcerated for a decade inspired him to become a community leader and help other young men avoid his fate. Believing that traumatized youth will make better choices for themselves and their communities when able to visualize a healthier path and given a continuous support network, the ONS fellowship program serves as surrogate family for these young men. Over 70% of the ONS fellows have stayed away from gun violence and now live with much more hope and promise. Meanwhile, Richmond's homicide rate has plummeted.