

LIBRARIES SELF-PUBLISHING JOBZONE

SUBSCRIBE: PRINT + DIGITAL LOGIN E-NEWSLETTERS

Search Publishers Weekly



Home > Authors > Interviews
Profiles | Interviews | Obituaries | Why I Write | PW Select

The Boston Miracle: PW Talks with David M. Kennedy

—Diane Molleson | Aug 12, 2011

Like 5 Send Tweet 4

Comments



Kennedy shares his radically successful program—"Operation Ceasefire" or "the Boston Miracle"—for bringing communities, criminals, and policeman together to curb street violence in Don't Shoot.

Your program has been adopted by more than 50 cities. How does it work?

Most serious street violence is driven by gangs, drug crews, and the like.

Privately, even most of the guys doing it don't really like it: they're at horrible risk, they're scared all the time, they're not getting rich, and they feel trapped. They think the cops hate them, and they think their own community doesn't care. Operation Ceasefire identifies the groups, pulls gang members into meetings, and has a partnership of law enforcement, social service providers, and community figures say, "We all want you to succeed, and live, and stay out of prison. The violence is completely intolerable, and is mostly hurting you and your own community. This is not a negotiation, and everybody in law enforcement is going to go after the next gang that kills someone." It undercuts the street narrative that nobody cares, puts cops on the side of caring about even gang members, and creates a real legal deterrent. It's pretty

RELATED STORIES:

- Don't Shoot
- PW issue Contents
- More in Authors -> Interviews

FREE E-NEWSLETTERS

Enter e-mail address

PW Daily Tip Sheet

SUBSCRIBE More Newsletters

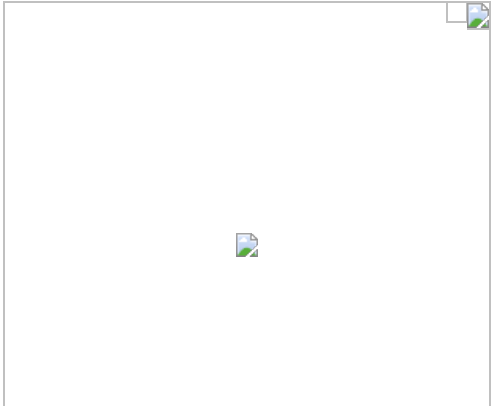
simple, really

You note that while crime rates overall are going down, homicide rates for black males continue to rise, especially in smaller cities. Why?

"Why" is about the whole of American history: it's taken us a couple of hundred years to get us where we are. Crack sealed the deal; crack didn't have to happen, it wasn't inevitable, but when it hit it devastated these communities, and the fallout is still reverberating. Our national response to crime is now part of the problem, too: when we arrest all the men in the neighborhood in the name of protecting it, and they come out of prison and can never get a good job again, we've effectively destroyed the neighborhood. A key part of what I've learned, and the story the book tells, is how the three key communities involved—law enforcement, the hot neighborhoods, and the street guys—all hate what's going on. The Ceasefire strategy and the other things like them that have been developed are really just a way of getting everybody together and saying, we all have to stop what we've been doing. And it works.

How has your work affected (or changed) your view of humanity?

QUICKLINKS



BLOGS

PWxyz Blog
Nora E. Derrington
From the X-Men to the Greeks of Antiquity: Genre in Contemporary Poetry

Happy National Poetry Month! You may not have been expecting an exclamation like that in a blog post with the "Genreville" tag, but the truth is that there's a lot of poetry out there that plays with genre tropes, or fits into the category of genre entirely (and I'm using genre here as an umbrella [...])

Beyond Her Book

ShelfTalker

Genreville

ListenUp



I have been totally amazed and humbled by the core goodness I've found in the most unlikely places. There's strength in the most devastated communities: cops that get written off as racist put their bodies on the line to save gangbangers; gang members and drug dealers turn themselves inside out not to have to hurt people; little old ladies in the neighborhoods tell big armed thugs to behave and they do. The most profound moment has been seeing these groups, who genuinely mistrust and hate each other, being willing to look at things differently and change what they think and what they do. It's so completely unexpected, and deeply, deeply hopeful.



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Jeff Moran (Not you?)

Comment

Facebook social plugin

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Submission Guidelines](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Calls for Info](#) | [Editorial Calendar](#) | [Archives](#) | [Press](#) | [FAQ](#)

© PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

News

Book Deals
Financial Reporting
Page to Screen
Bookselling
Awards & Prizes
Publisher News
Comics
Business Deals
Shows & Events
Cooking
People
Religion
Audio Books
Manufacturing
Marketing
PW Tip Sheet
Licensing
BEA

Reviews

Fiction
Nonfiction
Children's
Religion
Audio
Comics
Web Exclusive
PW Select

Bestsellers

Audiobooks
Children's Frontlist
Fiction
Children's Picture Books
Hardcover Fiction
Hardcover Nonfiction
Mass Market
Top 10 Overall
Trade Paper

Children's

Authors
Book News
Industry News

Authors

Profiles
Interviews
Obituaries
Why I Write
PW Select

Announcements

Adult Announcements
Children's
Announcements
Religion Listings
On-Sale Calendar
Galley Talk

Digital

Devices
Copyright
Retailing
Conferences
Content / e-books
Apps

International

Deals
Book News
Trade Shows
Frankfurt Book Fair
London Book Fair

Job Zone

The Roundup

Opinion

Beyond Her Book
Genreville
ShelfTalker
Soapbox
PWxyz Blog
Cory Doctorow
President's Letter
Nancy Pearl
The Tools of Change
Perspective
ListenUp

