



New Haven Register

Serving New Haven, CT

Buying silver and gold for 35 years

Sally Goodman Ltd. • New Haven

[click here to see our ad from today's newspaper](#)

[News](#) > [New Haven](#)

New Haven Mayor John DeStefano's political foes decry city's homicide rate (video)

Published: Thursday, September 08, 2011

Tweet 0

0 Digg ↑

Recommend

share



6

By Angela Carter, Register Staff

acarter@nhregister.com / Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/reachangi>">@reachangi



[Click to enlarge](#)

NEW HAVEN — Rabbi Eliezer Greer, founder of the Edgewood Park Defense Patrol, and three Democrats running for mayor took to the Green Wednesday to blast the mayor and police chief over the 25 homicides that occurred this year.

“We have now surpassed the 22 murders in 2010 and this year is headed to be the deadliest year in decades in Homicide Haven,” Greer said, flanked by candidates Clifton Graves Jr., Anthony Dawson and Jeffrey Kerekes.

The three challengers and the Democratic Party’s nominee, Mayor John DeStefano Jr., will square off in the Tuesday primary. DeStefano is seeking a 10th term.

“Family members of New Haven residents are being murdered at all times of day and night, nearly every week. Sadly, we marked a catastrophic milestone over the Labor Day holiday weekend, our 25th homicide,” Greer said.

Greer said DeStefano was not invited to the press conference because the event was about “new ideas.”

The mayor said crime is a serious issue using terms like Homicide Haven is “political theater.” On the part of both victims and perpetrators, DeStefano said, there is a nexus of ex-offenders returning to New Haven from prison, drug activity and guns. The average age of victims is 27.

The city has ramped up narcotics enforcement, working with the state on re-entry policies and seeking serious penalties for gun-related crimes, the mayor said. “Deal with the facts, not theater,” DeStefano said.

Dawson said the police chief should come from the rank-and-file of the department and live in New Haven as a neighbor to city taxpayers. "We must make a change in this city and we must do it now," he said, adding that the city administration and delegations to the General Assembly and Congress have not done enough "to recognize that this problem is a chronic problem in New Haven and we are feeling very unsafe."

Police Chief Frank Limon lived and worked in Chicago prior to heading New Haven's department.

"This has nothing to do with where the police chief lives," DeStefano said. "The police department solved 17 homicides this year. They're putting themselves at risk and they're doing a good job."

Kerekes said the city needs a mayor who "actually cares" and would enforce small crimes before they become big ones; a police chief and community policing officers who live in New Haven and law enforcement support from state and federal organizations.

"He has a new ad that says he's tough on crime. But where's the proof? Not in the murder rate," Kerekes said.

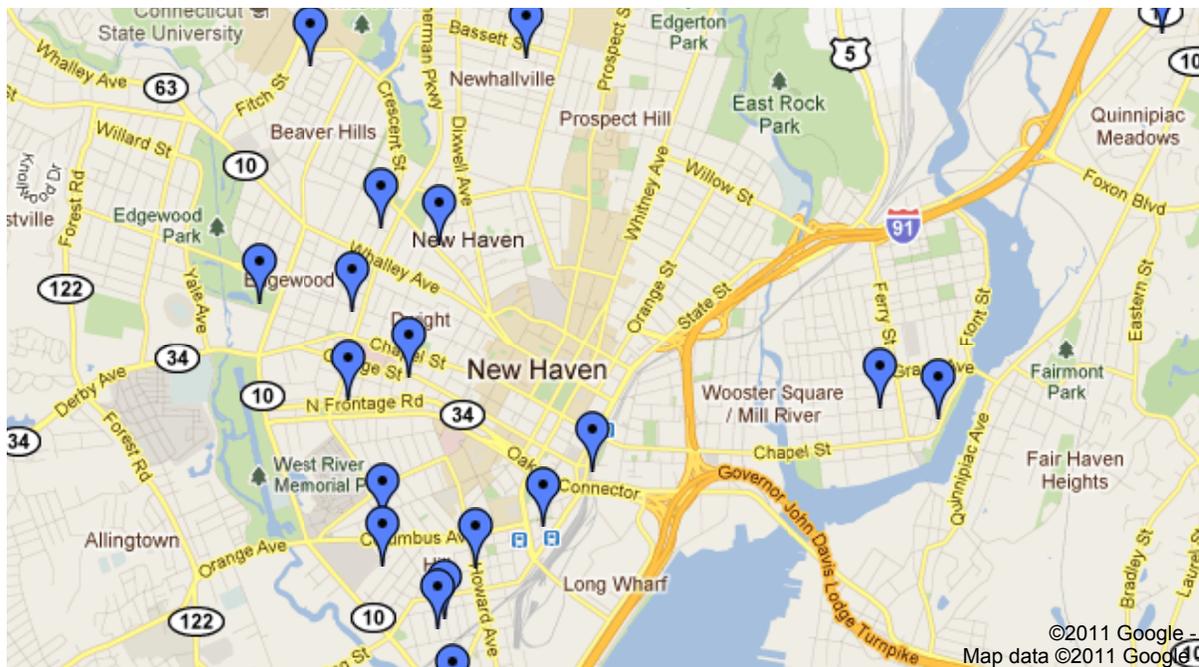
Graves said violence should be a concern to all residents of New Haven.

"We call for more aggressive community policing. We want to have more police officers out of the cars, off the bikes, off the motorcycles — on the streets," Graves said. "We need to be more aggressive in getting these guns off the streets."

Young people have told him they would not be on corners if they had jobs and access to youth programs, Graves said, adding that more parental and community responsibility is a critical component to quelling violence. He called for more after-school and weekend programs for youth.

"If someone's under 17 and living in your house, you have to take some responsibility. We will empower you and help you - you as a parent. We as parents, we as community leaders must take more control of this and be more assertive in addressing this," Graves said.

Follow us on Twitter @nhregister and @ReachAngi. To receive breaking news first, simply text the word nhnews to 22700. Standard msg + data rates may apply.



View [New Haven Homicides 2011](#) in a larger map

- [Return to Paging Mode](#)



Reader Comments »

[View reader comments \(6\)](#) » [Comment on this story](#) »

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

share



[ShareThis](#)

TALK OF THE WEB

No Tweets...yet.
Please feel free to share your thoughts about this article at www.twitter.com

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

POPULAR



[Mom Turns \\$97 Into \\$6795](#)

New Haven mom spills secret on how she makes \$6795/mo part time.

- ▶ [Russian jet carrying hockey team crashes, 43...](#)
- ▶ [Russian jet carrying hockey team crashes, 43...](#)



[New Policy in Connecticut](#)

Connecticut Drivers With No DUIs Can Apply for Full Coverage Car Insurance at as Low as \$30/Mo.

-- SPONSORED LINK --

Reviews: Acme Made Orikata for iPad 2
(From DailyMe.com)



FACTCHECK Missing or inaccurate information in this story? *Tell us.*



▲ Back to Top ✕