

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Letters: Reducing Violence Aug. 16, 2018

Gary MacDougal's plan to reduce crime is missing the key ingredient that would work quickly: taking violent criminals off the street ("Chicago's Violence and Its Leadership Deficit," op-ed, Aug. 9). In other words, putting them in jail. Instead, he focuses on other remedies such as lessening mistrust of the police or coordinating the efforts of nonprofits, all of which are less effective than simply taking criminals out of circulation.

Let's look at some numbers. About 3,500 people were shot in Chicago last year, by perhaps 2,000 to 3,000 shooters, although no one knows for sure. If those shooters had been taken off the street in 2017 you can bet that the number of shootings in 2018 would have gone down. Common sense indicates that most of the 2.7 million people in Chicago aren't shooting each other, although perhaps 5,000 to 10,000 have shot someone in the past few years.

Take these 5,000 to 10,000 people off the street and crime will go down. That would raise trust and confidence in the police, much more than promoting a "meaningful dialogue" (whatever that means) between police officers and citizens. When I have a broken pipe, I want the plumber to fix it. If instead he offers to hold a "meaningful dialogue" with me, my trust and confidence in him would diminish.

Mike Weinberger New Orleans, La.