**Alarming surge in urban violence recap**

The issue is the surge of violence in American cities; the homicide rate has risen in US cities (for example in Chicago 40 people were murdered in January alone). And the situation is the same in other big cities. The urban US is “in crisis”. The question is what’s causing this violence and what can be done apart from gun control.

John Paitakes, the guest, is a professor of criminal justice at Seton Hall University ad he used to be on the State patrol board (people who decide whether a prisoner should be released on parole).

There is a combination of factors and not just one reason. The roots of this violence are socio-economic. First kids who drop out of school try and earn a living and then get solicited by gangs and start selling drugs. Poor neighbourhoods are hot spots for gun violence because when buildings are old and dilapidated, people leave the area and gangs take control. So the problems are basically poverty and unemployment. Plus, there have been many layoffs in police departments, so it is hard for the police to do their job.