

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Minutes from the Listening Session on Building Trust and Legitimacy

**Newseum
555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001
January 13, 2015
9:00 a.m. EST**

Attendance

Task Force Members: Charles Ramsey, Laurie Robinson, Cedric L. Alexander, Jose Lopez, Tracey L. Meares, Brittany N. Packnett, Susan Lee Rahr, Constance Rice, Sean Michael Smoot, Bryan Stevenson, Roberto Villaseñor

Staff and Agency Personnel: Ronald Davis, Darrel Stephens, Steven Rickman, Melanca Clark, Katherine McQuay, Charlotte Grzebien, Deborah Spence, Laurel Matthews, Silas Darden, Michael Franko, Jennifer Rosenberger, Robert Chapman, Melissa Bradley, James Copple, Colleen Copple, Jessica Drake, Jason Drake, Monica Palacio, Latitia Harmon

Invited Witnesses: Charles Ogletree, Jennifer Eberhardt, Tom Tyler, Samuel Walker, Carmen Perez, Jim St. Germain, Jim Winkler, Richard Beary, Chuck Canterbury, Andrew Peralta, Richard Stanek, Sherrilyn Ifill, Laura Murphy, Vikrant Reddy, Maria Teresa Kumar, Kevin Johnson, Michael Nutter, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Welcome and Opening Statements

Ronald Davis, Executive Director of the task force and Director of the COPS Office, opened the first listening session of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing at 9:00 a.m., welcoming both the in-person audience and the online viewers.

The co-chairs, Laurie Robinson and Charles Ramsey, each made welcoming statements. They spoke to how impressed they were with the information that was being submitted and that today was about listening.

They were followed by opening statements by each of the task force members in alphabetical order. Each introduced themselves and stated why they were honored to be a part of this effort.

Director Davis presented an overview of the agenda, thanked the staff who had organized the meeting, and introduced the two task force technical advisors, Darrel Stephens and Stephen Rickman.

Panel One—Subject Matter Experts

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

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Charles Ogletree encouraged the task force to think back about all the issues that have happened historically and look to redefine what a police officer is.

Jennifer Eberhardt talked about extensive research on racial bias and stereotyping and the need to offer law enforcement officers training in racial bias. She also spoke on the need for early warning systems that use data and patterns in data to establish practices that build trust.

Tom Tyler spoke about how the fair exercise of police authority requires two-way communication and opportunities for dialogue. He noted that federal resources must be used to support policies and practices that improve trust through procedural justice.

Samuel Walker proposed that DOJ design the Respectful Policing Initiative (RPI). He talked about how language is key; disrespectful language used by officers causes injury to the citizen, fills reservoirs of anger and mistrust, leads to escalation and inappropriate uses of force, and undermines standards of professionalism.

Panel Two—Community Representatives

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Carmen Perez spoke about how accountability is the foundation for trust and how broken windows and stop-and-frisk policies eat away at trust. There is a need for training that focuses on harm reduction and de-escalation.

Jim Winkler talked about how the American criminal justice system is among the most punitive in the world and has disproportionate impacts on communities of color. He recommended a review of the justice system to focus on reconciliation over punishment and the need for system responses to be commensurate with the harm caused.

Jim St. Germain said that communities want public safety but not at the cost of civil liberties. He also noted that you can't expect officers to fix everything but can ask them to at least have some training and background in the problems that affect the neighborhoods they work in.

Panel Three—Law Enforcement Organizations

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Richard Beary addressed the fact that the vast majority of contact officers have with the public is nonviolent and nonconfrontational and was concerned that the public forgets that deaths are rare and threats faced by officers on the job are real.

Chuck Canterbury talked about how local law enforcement agencies are the front line of failure of all government services and that poverty of true opportunity is bigger problem, and kids are robbed of an education, and it is a robbery that law enforcement cannot respond to.

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Richard Stanek advocated for training on bias reduction but also more consistent funding to ensure modern and effective policing.

Andrew Peralta encouraged everyone to stay focused on principles of community oriented policing and offered examples of how it works, referencing his written submission.

The task force adjourned for a lunch break and was called back to order at 1:30 EST by Ronald Davis.

Panel Four—Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Sherilyn Ifill presented on how racial bias and excessive force are key issues and that the NAACP has been historically involved and has known for decades that a real problem exists. To acknowledge the problem is not to demonize police.

Laura Murphy noted that the ACLU supports all fair-minded, law-abiding law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day but cannot ignore the fact that the use of excessive and deadly force is being used against children, the mentally ill, and people of color or that the majority of arrests for drugs are African American even though usage rates are the same across races.

Vikrant Reddy offered recommendations for policy makers to stop overcriminalizing behaviors because this eats away at public trust of police officers.

Maria Teresa Kumar spoke about decoupling policing from immigration enforcement; encouraging police officers to live in the communities they serve; and the need for cultural competency, community participation, and the use of violence only as a last resort.

Panel Five—Mayors

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Kevin Johnson noted that mayors are best positioned to bridge the gaps in trust and accountability because issues are local issues and each community needs tailored solutions.

Michael Nutter talked about experiences in Philadelphia and how they have successfully balanced effective community policing strategies with new technology and specialized initiatives to target hard crime and more cutting edge youth intervention models.

Stephanie Rawlings Blake spoke on how trust between law enforcement and communities of color is the key issue and is central to ensuring public safety and how a critical balance must be struck between crime reduction and trust.

Audience Participation

During the open comment period, James Copple read a few of the emails and tweets that had been submitted by online viewers. They were unattributed. In addition, Executive Director

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Ronald Davis provided time for people in the audience to speak. Comments were made by Kimone Freeman, Dr. Lih Young, Olu Comfort, George Fachner, James Stewart, Dr. Stephanie Meyers, Keith Gray, and Edmond Raymond.


Concluding Remarks

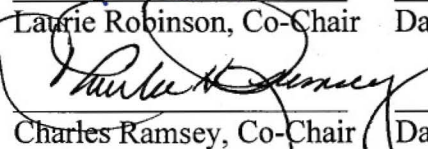
At the end of the audience comment period, each of the task force members took a few minutes to thank all the presenters and summarize what they were taking away from the day. They spoke in alphabetical order, concluding with the co-chairs.

Executive Director Ronald Davis then thanked everyone for attending and noted that this was the first of six listening sessions. The future sessions are scheduled for January 30–31 in Cincinnati, Ohio; February 13–14 in Phoenix, Arizona; and February 23 in Washington, DC. He also noted that the interim report of the task force would be submitted to the President by March 2, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m. EST.

Minutes Certified By:

 2/23/15
Laurie Robinson, Co-Chair Date

 2/23/15
Charles Ramsey, Co-Chair Date