

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Task Force on Policing in the 21st Century Listening Sessions
Input from January 14-31, 2015
Policy & Oversight Listening Session Jan. 30, 2015
Technology & Social Media Listening Session Jan. 31, 2015

Summary of Public Comments Submitted by Email

This document is a summary of public comments submitted online. Email addresses and phone numbers were removed for privacy reasons. Public comments submitted with more detail or specific recommendations are included in the Index of Invited Testimony and Public Comment received January 14-31, 2015.

Not included: short cover emails with the submission of written testimony provided in the Index.

Source: Hanna Benton

Dear Sirs:

It breaks my heart to hear what is going on here today. As bad as the protests have been, this trumps that 10 fold. We have laws in this country. Why are you folks refusing to enforce them? It IS ILLEGAL to block traffic, it is illegal to stream vile profanities in public where children are taking it all in, it is illegal to go around intimidating and threatening people and our children and grandchildren are watching all this going on and they wonder why we are telling them to obey the law. Don't you people see what you are doing?? Dressing soft...wow, really??

Sitting here in wonder as to how we are going to fix this with people like you at the helm.

Signing out in utter frustration

Source: Sandy Bernabei

“We attended this meeting to make it clear to President Obama that we are in crisis, and police officers must be held accountable,” said Rasheen Aldridge, director of Young Activists United St. Louis. “It is a crisis when a Black American can get locked up for traffic fines, but police officers are rarely prosecuted for killing unarmed children. Black communities have suffered under racially biased policing and unconstitutional law enforcement policies for far too long. This has to stop.”

Among other avenues for change, the group’s demands include:

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- The federal government using its power to prosecute police officers that kill or abuse people.
- Removing local district attorneys from the job of holding police accountable, and instead having independent prosecutors at the local level charged with prosecuting officers.
- The establishment of community review boards that can make recommendations for police misconduct, instead of allowing police departments to police themselves.
- Defunding local police departments that use excessive force or racially profile. Instead of having the Department of Justice (DOJ) wholesale giving more than \$250 million to local police departments annually, DOJ should only fund departments that agree to adopt DOJ best practices for training and meaningful community input.
- The demilitarization of local police departments.
- Investing in programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, such as community-led restorative justice programs and community groups that educate people about their rights.

Sandy Bernabei , LCSW

President, NASW NYC Chapter

www.antiracistalliance.com

"Undoing Racism in our lifetime! We are antiracist people developers. Networkers building a net that works!" Ron Chisom

"If you don't understand white supremacy – [racism] – what it is, and how it works — everything else that you understand will only confuse you." – Dr. Neely Fuller, Jr.

Source: BK1492

NO RACE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VIOLATE LAWS. NONE. I THINK THE PRESIDENT IS CLUELESS ABOUT CRIME AND ANTS ALL OF US TO BE VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE USA. I THINK ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER IS THE WORST ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE USA ALWAYS TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE. I THINK THAT BLACK CRIME BRINGS ON VIOLENCE IN TOO MANY CASES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COPS DONT COME THERE UNLESS YOU ARE COMMITTING A CRIME. THAT FERGUSON ISSUE WAS BROUGHT ON BY A YOUNG BOY PUSHING AROUND A STORE MANAGER. THAT IS DOCUMENTED AND ON VIDEO. I CERTAINLY DONT THINK ANY RIOTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THAT KIND OF ASSAULT BY THAT BLACK KID. THIS ENTIRE THING HAS BEEN BLOWN UP WITH NOTHING BEHIND IT. WE NEED THE POLICE DO TTHEIR WORK ON SOLVING CRIMES AND I DONT WANT TO GO SOFT ON CRIME. ALL OF IT SHOULD BE PROSUTED, WHITE, BLACK, YELLOW WHATEVER RACE YOU HAVE. ALL OF IT NEEDS TO BE STOPPED. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. PLEASE RECEIPT. B.KERO

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Subject: no race shoudl be pushign store owners around - you cant get away with assault because you are black

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Source: Eli Briggs

Dear Mr. Davis,

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), representing local health departments in nearly 3,000 communities nationwide, we applaud President Obama for convening the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. We write to encourage close consideration of the public health consequences associated with improper policing and issues of community violence in the deliberations of the Task Force.

Specifically, if there are not already plans to do so, we encourage the Task Force to use one of its meetings to address how local law enforcement and public health authorities can work together to promote community-oriented policing. In addition, as discussed by Attorney General Holder last week, there is a need for local data on the incidence of improper policing. Local health departments are skilled in the collection and analysis of data about any number of issues affecting the public's health and could be helpful in this regard as well.

It is our hope that the Task Force would invite testimony from at least one local health official with experience in this arena at one of their meetings. NACCHO is prepared to recommend individuals with expertise in these areas. Although the topics have been set for the meetings this month and next, we urge that one of the discussions could include the role and benefits of working with a public health lens.

A great deal of evidence demonstrates the relationship between significant inequities in morbidity, mortality, disability, deprivation, and police violence, including excessive use of force. Evidence comparing death rates for black and white men documents the increased mortality rates for black men with respect to legal or police intervention. Such violence is a threat to the physical, emotional, and psychological health of residents in those communities where it occurs. It creates a severe burden for families and communities, as well as the health care system. In addition, the World Health Organization indicates that many types of violence or the threat of violence can have long-term and latent consequences and describes the role of public health in investigating and preventing it. We believe the Task Force deliberations would benefit greatly from examining the links between public health and the misuse of force by the police.

The need for such a Task Force also reminds us of the connection between public health, health inequity and social justice, specifically the relation between social and economic inequality and poor health outcomes. Imbalances in political power often play a role in violent events in communities and contribute to inequitable population health outcomes. NACCHO has embarked on discussions of issues of excessive use of force, associated inequity and the role of public health in finding solutions, and plans to have recommendations to share from the public health community later this year.

It is our hope that NACCHO can serve as a resource to inform and advance the discourse of the Task Force. Again, we urge the Task Force deliberations to include an analysis of the relation between

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police violence, public health and the inequities that flow from that relationship. Thank you again to President Obama for his leadership and forward thinking in the establishment of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. We look forward to supporting these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Eli Briggs, MA

Richard Hofrichter, PhD

Director of Government Affairs

Senior Director, Health Equity Program

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

1100 17th St. NW, 7th Floor

Washington, DC 20036

Source: Cherie Brown

January 20, 2015

Commissioner Charles Ramsey, Co-Chair

Professor Laurie Robinson, Co-Chair

President's Task Force on Policing in the 21st Century

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

U.S. Department of Justice

145 N Street, NE, 11th Floor

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Commissioner Ramsey and Professor Robinson:

To supplement the hearings of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (Task Force) on Building Trust and Legitimacy as well as its Listening Session on Training and Education, I write to bring to your attention an important resource developed by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI): a successful, evidence-based trust-building program for law enforcement agencies and community leaders that NCBI can offer immediately to jurisdictions throughout the country.

I have enclosed for your review the following documents that not only provide information about the program but also demonstrate support for its implementation:

- A brochure describing NCBI's law enforcement and community leaders program;
- Research published by Temple University and funded by COPS, demonstrating the effectiveness of NCBI's work with law enforcement agencies and community leaders;
- An editorial by Mr. Benjamin Jealous, former president of the NAACP, that appeared in The Huffington Post and other publications, in which he singled out the work of NCBI as one of the best

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practices in the country for building trust between law enforcement agencies and communities of color; and

-A letter from Mr. John Firman, research director at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), endorsing NCBI's law enforcement and community leaders program.

For over thirty years, NCBI, an international nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, has trained public servants and community leaders to deal with tough intergroup issues, involving not only law enforcement agencies but also college campuses, primary and secondary schools, labor unions, correctional facilities, governmental agencies, nonprofit and neighborhood organizations, and houses of worship. For more information on the breadth of NCBI's leadership training programs, see www.ncbi.org.

If you are interested in what we have learned in our work with law enforcement agencies, we at NCBI are available to testify before the Task Force. I, along with the leaders of NCBI's Police Community Program, Ms. Fabienne Brooks, retired chief of the King County, Washington, Sheriff's Office, and Mr. Guillermo Lopez, a community activist in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, would welcome the opportunity.

The work you are doing is so important for our country. I wish you the best in carrying out your mission.

Sincerely,

Cherie R. Brown
Executive Director

[National Coalition Building Institute—include this in email, but not in hard-copy letterhead]
Enclosures

Source: Michael Burnham

What are the possibilities of having "de-escalation of volatile situations" training be as mandatory for cops as weapons training, and required as often?

Thanks.

Source: Mark Chaires

Task Force members:

FYI: I watched all the panels from the first day of hearings. I am a retired law enforcement administrator.

A few comments/suggestions:

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Due to the fact that incidents involving deadly force precipitated this task force, there have been repeated calls for a national data base capturing these types of events. I think that would be a mistake to limit the database to such an infrequent, albeit extremely important phenomenon. If you are working towards building trust and transparency, it would seem reasonable to include more metrics in a national database. For example, how many civilian-police encounters are there per year, how many arrests per encounter, how many incidents involve use of force and what types of force, how many injuries occur at the hands of police, how many police are injured in these incidents, what are the characteristics of people who resist arrest (e.g., arrest history, age, race).

The database should be used to give the public a comprehensive picture of the realities of policing. The reality is that force is rare, excessive force very rare, and deadly force – extremely rare. Trust is built on a clear and accurate picture of the relationship between the police and the public.

On a side note, the procedural justice philosophy does provide a useful template for police agencies looking to deliver a high quality of service to its citizens. It can be broken down into a checklist, which can be incorporated into policies, performance evaluation systems, etc. Sam Walker, Tom Tyler, Tracey Meares are spot on regarding how the tenets of procedural justice and avoiding rude and disrespectful behavior are indispensable in building effective community relations. Equally important, if the concepts are thoughtfully imported into an agency and trained effectively, and monitored and incentivized – officers will appreciate the benefits. The lion's share of policing is talking and listening – how much is this reality of policing emphasized in recruitment, hiring, training, evaluations, and promotions? COPS, DOJ, etc. should have programs like this packaged and ready for delivery to agencies. And, it would be beneficial if the aforementioned agencies could support leadership development programs, IACP's Leadership in Police Organizations is one that should be made more available.

And, in order to address a problem of trust and respect, there needs to be an honest and candid discussion about the need for the public to improve. As you know, a lot of police officers' routine requests for compliance are often met with non-compliance, disrespect, and sometime even violence. The police, as professionals, are more responsible than the public for managing the encounters; however, many (a few at the hearings) conducted themselves as if the problems in the police-public relationship are all the fault of law enforcement. That is simply not the case.

One final note, as you are aware, your task force is embarking on organizational change on a national level. One of the most important points is that organizational change requires buy-in. I get the sense from some on the panels that the reforms are something that need to be imposed on police agencies. A lot of the reforms (i.e., procedural justice, community policing, training) are things that the police will readily buy into.

Mark Chaires

Source: Alvydas Civinskas

To the Task Force:

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With the recent outcry of the NYPD slowing down their work in protest to Mayor de Blasio, people have been saying that the NYPD should enforce the laws that are on the books, and they have no right to do a work slowdown. However, Mayor de Blasio stated that he will not turn over illegal immigrants to federal officials even though it's federal policy to do so because he believes that it is unjust. This brings up the issue of what police officers should or should not enforce. Doesn't federal policy/law trump city and state policy/law? Do police officers have to swear an oath to both the US Constitution and the state constitution? Or how about the police officers in more conservative districts that refuse to enforce gun control policies? Are we only going to complain about laws that we agree or disagree with? Why should a mayor, governor, or president then jail anyone for anything then? What's the point of a law if you're not going to enforce it as a leader and yet tell police officers to keep enforcing the law that you don't want enforced? I believe that we have more of an issue of law enforcement gerrymandering by the politicians than by police officers since police officers can get fired much more easily than politicians. What's going to stop a neo Nazi, white supremacist, or any supremacist of any group, of stripping peoples' constitutional right to vote? Why can one Democrat mayor decide not to enforce one law but a Republican mayor will not enforce the a law and yet the Republican mayor will get torn up on social media and the news? Are we not "cherry picking"? Why should we even have councils or legislatures if leaders choose to enforce any law they want? What's the point of a constitution? Why do we need police officers if there's nothing to enforce consistently? What happens when one police officer gets fired for not enforcing the law under one mayor but wouldn't be fired under the next mayor? Can the police officer get his/her benefits and job back? Should we have the FBI patrolling the streets to enforce federal law? Should a mayor be able to allow Russian illegal immigrants and not Mexican illegal immigrants? Should a mayor allow illegal immigrants with drug cartel and organized crime ties in because the mayor themselves is connected with those criminals?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Alvydas Civinskaskas

Source: Alvydas Civinskaskas

To the Task Force:

When the task force convenes in Cincinnati to discuss how technology and policing go, the task force should be made aware that Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil has already encountered an incident where a criminal made sure that a real gun that was loaded looked like a toy gun after the fact that legislation was introduced in Ohio to make toy guns brightly colored. What happens when a police officer sees a brightly colored gun, thinks it's as a toy gun, and then the criminal goes on a shooting spree? That police officer would be fired and accused of not doing their job and have a lawsuit on their hands. Will police officers have the power to inspect anything that looks like a weapon without the risk of being sued or called a racist? It should also be noted that by manufacturing toy guns to look like toys won't help either since intelligence agencies like the CIA and FBI and terrorists that make weapons from everyday items.

Also, if you want evidence of tasers not working, all you need to do is look on Youtube. It depends on what the suspect is wearing and whether or not both prongs actually latch on to the skin.

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Another incident should be brought up to highlight the difficulty of technology and policing. The Boston Marathon bombs were made out of pressure cookers that anyone could buy at any retail store and were put in backpacks. Did anyone introduce legislation to color code them? The old "let's look for wires coming out of a bag" technique for finding bombs is obsolete since you could use pre paid anonymous phones from cell phone carriers, wifi connected devices, bluetooth devices, walkie talkies that have a range of a mile, ham radios that can send signals from the other side of the world, hybrid methods by utilizing wifi and ham radio repeaters, and other radio controlled devices to set off a bomb.

The use of drones is also dangerous thanks to what Rezwan Ferdaus wanted to do back in 2011 in Massachusetts involving explosives and a drone. Who's going to enforce drone security? The FAA might set the rules, but it will be local law enforcement, and not the FBI, who actually arrest anyone - the FBI will come later to press charges - if the person is caught in time since no drone has to be registered nor have a unique transponder code. It's also police officers who responded to the Paris attacks and 9/11. The Paris attackers attacked with automatic weapons.

Remember, technology is intrinsically neutral, but how it's used by the morality/ethics of the user(s) in a situation. The Paris event is the perfect example. Also, just because you might not do one certain action does not mean that another person will go through with that same action.

Thank you,
Alvydas Civinskas

Source: Alvydas Civinskas

To the Task Force:

If you believe that technology can solve crime or help end police brutality, please consider these points. After the incidents in Ferguson and New York, people started a call for the use of tasers instead of guns because they are "non lethal." Unfortunately, that is not the case. There have been many documented cases of tasers being lethal. Plus, please consider the following, not all-inclusive, questions concerning tasers and other non-lethal technologies:

- What happens when someone has a biomedical device and gets tasered or stunned?
- Has the FDA implemented a policy to have all biomedical devices tested at all stages of their lifecycle to be taser proof so that they don't, for example, pop a microchip in someone's brain and have that person sue the police department for millions of dollars thereby increasing taxes/spending in that city and state?
- Did you know that the UN classifies tasers as torture devices?
- What happens when someone has a heart condition? Who's liable for the death of a suspect then? Do we have another Eric Garner issue with protests?
- Are they supposed to wear a tag saying that they can't be tasered? If so, are you going to make them counterfeit proof tags?
- How do we know one person can tolerate a certain threshold of pain and another person can't tolerate that same threshold of pain? (Example: a rubber bullet might break a woman's rib but might not break a football player's rib)

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- Did you know that pepper spray and stun guns don't work on people who are high on drugs since some drugs numb the senses?

Some other ideas that have floated around were to use drones. Here are some issues with using drones:

- Who's liable when a drone crashes into the street, house, building, etc.?
- What other equipment do you need to operate a drone (e.g. mobile launch pads, bigger cars, humvees, etc.)?
- Who's going to operate them?
- Who's going to make sure that they can't be hacked (e.g. RQ170 in Afghanistan incident with Iran, a hacker in a van, etc.)?
- Has the FAA made up rules concerning drone activity in big cities like NYC?
- What happens when someone recreated a police drone and starts dropping bombs on houses? Essentially, how does the public know that it's really from the police department or not?
- Is the FAA drone licensed pilot police offer going to work for less money?
- If a criminal is in an area where drone use is not permitted (e.g. close to an airport)?
- How do you know that the criminals have 3D printers that can make these drones for cheap? (e.g. is the NSA going to monitor Americans who purchase 3D printers that use plastic or metallic materials?)

There are issue with body cameras too, which are listed with the following list:

- If a body camera doesn't work because a police officer is responding to a call, will he be fired?
- How can you tell what's happening if the body camera is being blocked by the criminals hand, or the police officer is in a scuffle?
- Will video from body cameras be dismissed in court just like polygraphs?
- What happens when the criminal tears off or cuts the wire of the body camera?
- Why can't we have body cameras scan faces for potential criminals since police officers are in public venues and have access to public records coupled with supercomputers? Or do we only have it flag someone when it's a serious crime like murder, assault, drug smuggling, etc.?

With all of these questions, now ask yourself, have I made the situation simpler? Will these things make crime go down? But most of all, where are we going to get the resources for every police department to have all this technology? Who are you going to hire and train? Is every person competent to be able to use these pieces of technology? Will police officers need to have engineering and technology degrees? Do you want to put people with high investment degrees into situations where they will get killed? Think about all the electronic waste of outdated equipment, the amount diplomacy needed to get all these natural resources from places like China or other African countries to get rare Earth metals, think about how hard it is to implement technology for consumers in their own homes when things are not compatible, think about hackers from another country or non government organization (e.g. SWATTING from the gaming community to call in a fake bomb, hostage threat, or active shooter), is it going to be cheaper with all the contract and budget issues, decrease the amount of resources available to the medical, electronic, manufacturing, aerospace, etc. sectors; what happens when things break, gun control measure like fingerprint locks that can be bypassed by jumping a wire, and other important issues.

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In the end, we are marching towards a "Robocop"/"Terminator Skynet" world if we want to implement all this technology. However, at the end of the day, it's up to the public to not commit or plan to commit crimes. How many times have you gone to a restaurant and seen somebody take the knife that they have been given to stab someone?

When it comes to social media, as we all know, the Internet is full of narrow-minded sites with their own political agendas. Not only those, but also cable networks like Fox News and MSNBC. In the Eric Garner case, people don't realize that the sergeant who authorized the chokehold was a female American-American. Plus, why hasn't the news media talk about whether or not she was fired? That detail might make it to a place like Fox News but not MSNBC. People will cry that race doesn't matter unless it's a "black vs. white" issue, or if it's advantageous to their cause. People on social media might be trolling through anonymous accounts because no social media company ever verifies an identity physically. Someone could create a fake profile with pictures of an ex-spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend and no one would ever know the difference. Plus, look at how ISIS is using twitter and Facebook to recruit members from the West. So does social media really benefit law enforcement if no one can identify anyone on the internet or really care about police? The only good example of law enforcement and social media is AlertDC. Social media use brings up the fact that people can lie to surveys and polls to skew the numbers. As long as somebody answers consistently, the pollster can't know if a person is truly lying. Ask someone to tell you two lies and a truth and try to figure out which is which. So in essence, people can get bias because the news media might skew the information to get ratings and hook a certain demographic based on culture, race, and/or race. Plus, most of society says "FUCK the Police" or play games like Grand Theft Auto where you kill cops. How does that affect somebody's bias against cops when they play games, listen to music that don't like the cops or refer to them as "POPO", and/or read anti-cop material? What exactly do you think is going to happen?

Another topic I would like to bring up is community policing. What happens when the police implement that, but the community still chooses to not like police officers? What happens when police go door to door, but because somebody has a job during the time the police go door to door and never meets the police officer, that person still feels like the police are not doing community policing? If police choose to have a meeting with community members at a gym/city hall, will every person from the community be able to make it? Will it be mandatory for people to show up at these meetings with police? How much time will it take to form friendships if police are patrolling an area with many transient residents like college towns? The whole collegiate culture is to be against "the man", the government, and police because they limit college students' partying - a very 1960s mentality.

This might seem a lot of information, but it's all-important to think about before we implement any kind of policy or recommendations because it's extremely difficult in this country to repeal any kind of law or policy that doesn't work without having a disaster happening.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Alvydas Civinskas

P.S.

Is there anyone on the Task Force that has a degree in engineering or related technology degree?

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Source: Alvydas Civinskas

To the Task Force:

As I watched the first part of your public debates on CSPAN, a young gentleman declared that we need to fix the grand jury process while others were asking for a special prosecutor. What if we did change the system and the new system needs to be fixed because somebody didn't like their outcome? What if we need a new special prosecutor because the first special prosecutor didn't go the way people thought it should have? How much more bureaucracy are we going to have if we have citizen committees and watchdog groups? What watchdog groups are going to watch over the citizen committees and watchdog groups? Will those committee members be ever fair, have a clear mind, and not have an agenda? For example, if Al Sharpton or Rev. Jesse Jackson are on a citizen committee/watchdog, would they not cry out racism at every opportunity just to get media attention? How do we make sure it's not biased? Are local governments supposed to pay people on these committees? If the whole point of a grand jury is to suppress any evidence that will help the defense, how can anyone have a fair trial? If the prosecutor in Ferguson released all the evidence in the grand jury that would have shown up in a regular trial, did that not save the taxpayer money and not clog the system? Or is it only a bad thing because it didn't go the way people wanted it to go?

Another issue I would like to bring up is profiling. Yes there might be profiling, but there is also political profiling, fashion profiling, car profiling, and many more forms of profiling. For example, do you think someone who's white driving in a predominately poor black community at 3am in a BMW is there because to visit friends? No, the person is there for drugs. Another issue is how judges claim that they are "impartial", want to be activists, receive campaign money to be an activist, and be seen as impartial. Justice Sonya Sotomayor even claimed that she is going to be an activist on the bench. What do you think activism is based on? Profiling and bias! The question is what type of profiling. For example, if you have an illegal immigrant being prosecuted by a rich white prosecutor for breaking the law, a Democratic judge or activist judge, who has an agenda, will most likely rule in favor of the illegal immigrant. Again, what's the point of a justice system that doesn't rule consistently with the laws of the land? Why have police officers arrest people if the judge will let people free due to some kind of activism or profiling based on income, class, dress, politics, etc.?

The last thing I want to bring up is the issue of trying to arrest somebody. As in the Eric Garner case, there was a legal complaint that the police had to enforce. As we see in the videos of that case, Eric Garner resisted arrest. How is a police officer supposed to arrest anyone who resists arrest? If any person can say "you can't arrest me" and the police officer can't use any kind of tactic to arrest them because everything can either kill or get the police officer sued for emotional distress (e.g. tasers, physical holds, guns, batons, pepper spray, etc.), why should officers enforce any laws? Do you think showing a piece of paper (aka arrest warrant) is going to convince the person being arrested to surrender themselves? The Eric Garner case shows exactly what could happen. Plus, why can't the person about to be arrested just rip up the arrest warrant? Does this mean rapists, stalkers, drug smugglers, human smugglers, murderers, etc. can't get arrested or ever be issued a restraining order? Does this mean that because selling loose cigarettes, I can start selling bootlegged copies of movies? How about moonshine without a liquor license? Does this mean that I can sell drugs without the danger of ending up in prison? Also, how is a 80-lb female officer supposed to take down a NFL football player sized criminal?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Alvydas Civinskas

Source: Faye Coffield

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

LEAP - Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
8730 Georgia Ave., Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Source: James E. Gierach

DEAR TASK FORCE STAFF -- THOUGH THIS STATEMENT WAS PREVIOUSLY FILED WITH YOUR TASK FORCE, IT DOES NOT APPEAR IN LIST OR OUTLINE OF FILED DOCUMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE. JAMES E. GIERACH

PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Statement of JAMES E. GIERACH of LEAP

Honorable Co-chairs Charles Ramsey and Laurie Robinson and Taskforce Members:

One Taskforce Recommendation

LEAP has only one recommendation for this Taskforce:

Call upon Congress and the President to End the War on Drugs. Call upon them to jointly push for an Amendment of the Three United Nations Drug-Control Treaties that serve as Fountainhead for the World War on Drugs. Call upon them to replace the Criminalization and Incarceration Model of Drug Control with a System of Legalized, Controlled and Regulated Drug Markets, making Drugs primarily a Health Problem and Not a Law Enforcement One. And Call upon them to introduce a new Drug Policy Paradigm Based upon Individual Freedom, Human Rights, Harm Reduction, Accessible Medications, Economic Development, Fundamental Fairness, Racial Equality and Respect for the Law, Its Enforcers and One Another.

The LEAP Organization

My name is Jim Gierach. I am a former assistant state's attorney of Cook County, delegate to the Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention 1970 and now a director and former acting Board Chairman of LEAP, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. LEAP is an international, nonprofit organization with "consultative status" received from the United Nations regarding illicit drugs. I am also the draftsman of LEAP's "Proposed Amendment of UN Drug Treaties – 2014."

LEAP is an organization composed of currently serving and former soldiers in the war on drugs – police, prosecutors, judges, federal agents, undercover narcotics officers and other criminal justice professionals. After decades of service in the front lines of the war on drugs, we, individually and collectively as an organization, now oppose it. We do so not because drugs are good, but because the war on drugs is worse.

What does the "War on Drugs" have to do with policing in the 21st Century and your Taskforce assignment? Everything.

Disrespect for the Law and Law Enforcement

As American street gangs prove daily, we cannot have safe streets and drug prohibition. It's one or the other but not both. With drug prohibition not only do we want for safe streets but there is also little *respect* for the *rule of law*, law enforcement and its mission. For example, when 7.4 percent of the U.S. population violates an unpopular marijuana prohibition law monthly, no amount of improved *community policing*, better *training* or racially representative *hiring* can fix the problem. When competing drug gangs fight

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over lucrative drug turf and battle police trying to stop their business operations, *violence* escalates, *guns* get bigger and deadlier, and people become “the enemy” and are treated as such, engendering disrespect. The *militarization* of local police and the use of ever-more force (battering rams, tanks, smoke and concussion grenades, assault weapons, etc.) make the police “the enemy” to people on the other-side-of-the-coin and their families, friends, neighbors and relatives, and militarization is the inevitable consequence of drug-war policing, again breeding disrespect. Likewise, in a drug-prohibition environment, *corruption* in the criminal justice system becomes more prevalent, and corruption is again anathema to respect for law enforcement officers, their mission and the law.

Constructively, American voters and state legislatures are changing bad drug laws that police have been asked to enforce for years, doing what the *U.S. Congress* has been unable to do: approve the *lawful* use of *medical marijuana* for the sick. In 23 states and the District of Columbia, voters have repudiated *federal* drug law, changed state law and rethought policing. Likewise, voter approval of the *recreational* use of marijuana in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska says something about the changing mission of policing. *Uruguay*, the first nation of the world to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, is saying the same thing as voters in these four American states. The lesson: people do not respect laws with which they fundamentally disagree.

How great is the public disrespect for American drug laws and drug-war policing? So great that the *judicial and executive branches* of government are attempting to minimize the harms caused by the prohibition laws enacted by the *legislative branch*, the *U.S. Congress*. “*Jury nullification*” seeks to avoid the harm of intolerant, drug prohibition laws aimed at nonviolent offenders and mandatory-minimum prisons sentences. Within the executive branch, on-the-other-hand, the U.S. Attorney General has administered, in effect, a form of “*executive nullification*” by admonishing assistant U.S. attorneys within the U.S. Department of Justice not to bring certain charges against nonviolent drug offenders to avoid the harm and injustice of those laws and applicable sentencing mandates.

Unfortunately, as American states and Uruguay lead the world out of The Drug-War Dark Ages, the United States is being pressured by the *United Nations* to get these four states back into prohibition line, as UN officials and agencies call upon Pres. Obama to smash state marijuana legalization. These developments underscore the need to reexamine the mission of American policing in the 21st Century to see where policing went “off the rails,” leading to Ferguson, police executions, national protests, examination of the grand jury process, police impunity, poor police-community relations, the alleged use of excessive force, the militarization of local police departments, and the creation of this Taskforce.

The Misdirected Policing Mission

Forever, it has been the time-honored police mission “*to serve and protect*” the public, but that mission has morphed into “*morality policing*,” where violent crime takes a back seat to *drug policing*. Drug-dealer profits and property are subject to seizure, civil forfeiture and a law-enforcement “split of the plunder,” nurturing mission temptation and “*policing for profit*.” In the process, the rate of solving violent crime has plummeted as more police are deployed to stop drug-dealing between consenting adults. The motivation for the deployment is, of course, to accomplish the typical *trilogy seizure* of cash, drugs and guns. Why? Because drugs are “bad” and “against the law.” Maybe “yes” sometimes to the first notion but “no” for sure to the second because it should not be.

Cops aren't doctors, and abusing drug users have greater need for medical help than police help, though sometimes that too. The use of mind-altering substances was not a crime until America and the world made it one, and then with fickle selectivity and poor judgment. For example, once upon a time (c. 1650), Sultan Murad IV of the Ottoman Empire made smoking tobacco a death penalty crime. In the 1920s and 1930s, America and other countries made it a crime to sell alcohol but Prohibition failed, and regulated, legal sales displaced the Al Capone's and the gang business of that era. Before and after Prohibition, some people died of alcohol. In contrast, no one has ever died of a marijuana overdose yet some Americans are servicing life sentences for pot crimes. Hundreds of thousands die from alcohol and tobacco each year, yet both of these mind-altering substances are outside the recreational-prohibition scope of UN drug treaties and the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). It is nonsensical and difficult to respect these senseless disparities, since drugs constitute a huge part of American policing and the problems assigned to the Taskforce

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for recommendation. Therefore, we must refresh our memories how we got to the so-called “War on Drugs,” resulting in widespread disrespect for the law and its enforcers.

Some “War on Drugs” History

America has been fighting the “War on Drugs” with bipartisan political support since Pres. Richard Nixon declared it on June 17, 1971, and even earlier, dating from the U.S. Senate approval of the foundational United Nations treaty that effectively declared a “World War on Drugs” in 1961. The seminal treaty declaring that war is called, “The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs” (*eff.* 12/13/64). Article 4 of that treaty provided that the initial 153 signatory and party nations (now 186 nations) “shall” legislate and pass laws that criminalize the *recreational* use (use other than for *medical* or *scientific* purpose) of drugs from marijuana to heroin along with pages listing other drugs in treaty schedules. Every year, the UN drug prohibition list gets longer, according to the Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment with more than 100 new drugs invented the prior year and at a rate faster than authorities can add the newly invented drugs to UN prohibition lists.

Pursuant to its treaty obligation, “the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) was passed by the 91st United States Congress as Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 and signed into law by President Richard Nixon. The CSA is the federal U.S. drug policy under which the manufacture, importation, possession, use and distribution of certain substances is regulated. The Act also served as the national implementing legislation for the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.” Thus, the CSA criminalized consensual drug transactions even between consenting adults, exploding America’s prison population. In 1986, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 was passed by the U.S. Congress. Among other things, these laws changed the system of federal supervised release from a rehabilitative system into a punitive system. The 1986 Act also prohibited controlled substance analogs. And the bill enacted new mandatory minimum sentences for drugs, including marijuana. When that was done, America had a prison inmate population of 300,000, not the current 2.2 million. When the CSA was passed, a kilo of cocaine or heroin was a “big” drug bust, crack cocaine wasn’t invented, meth started getting “better,” ecstasy (alias MDMA, first synthesized in 1912 by Merck chemist Anton Köllisch) was not a problem and, as noted above, 100 new synthetic drugs created in just the last year did not exist.

At the outset of the drug war in 1971, the best American heroin was only two percent pure but now 80-percent pure heroin, and even 90 percent-pure heroin, is commonplace in America. Thank you “War on Drugs,” or rather “No thank you.”

What as police, politicians and parents have we done to American kids with the drug war?

50 States and Local Law Enforcement Followed the Federal Lead

Soon 50 states followed the United States lead, and every state passed its localized version of the UN-mandated, federal prohibition drug laws with thousands of local police agencies to enforce sumptuary prohibition laws. Gangs began to proliferate, crime increased and political leaders rather than addressing neo-substance prohibition called for tougher drug and crime penalties. Pres. Clinton’s 100,000-more-police “solution,” initially federally funded, was a popular response to burgeoning addict crime and turf-war crime caused by the war on drugs but that solution failed to address the fact that those crimes were caused by prohibition itself.

World Drug War

America with her money and international influence inside and outside the United Nations, spread her “War on Drugs” far and wide, annually certified “cooperating nations,” and through Plan Colombia and the Merida Initiative, bought the loyalty and fealty of other nations, including Columbia, Mexico and Afghanistan. But prohibited drugs continued to flow – stronger, cheaper and more available – as noted in the Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy. World disrespect for the rule of law and its enforcers increased, as weekly corruption stories were featured

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in *Drug War Chronicle*, published by StoptheDrugWar.org, and crime and incarceration thrived internationally as it did in America. Prisons filled. New prisons were constructed, filled and over-crowded. Private-for-profit prisons emerged with government contracts guaranteeing certain occupancy rates.

Eventually, the “Land of the Free” became the “Prison Capital of the World” with the highest per capita rate of incarceration anywhere. Bill of Rights liberties and control over one’s own castle and one’s own body were subordinated to the new policing mission to “get the drugs, cash and guns.” In the “drug-free world” frustrated with endless violence, the public consented or at least acquiesced to the subjugation of “others” by no-knock entries on warrant execution, drug-dog searches, cameras in the public way, metal detectors in the schools, random drug tests at school and work in the noble quest and greater good of a “drug-free-workplace, park and school.” The courts limited the sphere of “expected privacy,” okaying rampant “*informant policing*,” paid-informants and accomplice-satisfied probable cause, stop-and-frisk tactics, more gun-control, racial profiling if justified by any other reasoning. In a nutshell, what we see today is “Drug-War Policing” and a “Drug-Free World” in full bloom.

Drug-War Protagonists and the Drug-War Gravy Train

Some may disagree with the opinions expressed here on behalf of LEAP. The drug war tempts the “good guys” – law enforcement officers and others – to support a flagrantly failed prohibition and criminalization system, liking the financial rewards that accompany it. The rewards come in many forms, including, but not limited to, more police overtime pay, more police hires and promotions, seized and appropriated drug dealer cash, property, motor vehicles, airplanes, real estate and jewelry. It comes in the form of new police stations, bigger and better weaponry, 1033 programs, Tasers, new squad cars, vests, clothing and equipment. Often time, civil forfeiture practices and procedures following a drug raid, seizure, confiscation and government forfeiture of “drug dealer” properties handcuff citizens’ civil and constitutional protections without a criminal case ever brought, or conviction ever attained. Like Rodney Dangerfield, the War on Drugs “Gets no respect.”

Many industries – prisons, drug treatment, drug-testing, banking, drug selling, policing and academia – are benefiting financially from the war on drugs. Like the “bad guys,” the “good guys are riding the “drug-war gravy train.” We must not allow those financial interests to dissuade us from restoring the credibly and public trust in police officers who bravely and honorably work to serve and protect the public. Public trust in law enforcement can be restored by ending drug prohibition and returning to the traditional “serve and protect policing mission.

The drug-war created the crisis in policing and destroyed public support in some quarters, and that is what has brought us here today. Both police and academic leaders have offered and will continue to offer their ideas regarding improved community policing, better training, more accountability, civilian review boards, grand jury reform, gentle policing, ending police impunity for misconduct, *ad infinitum*. Many recommendations by others may have merit and capacity for improved policing and better community relations.

However, it is the opinion of LEAP law-enforcers and LEAP criminal justice professionals that without the reform of U.S. and world drug policy, no proposed reform or set of reforms can stop the unending perversion of American values, virtues or correct 21st Century policing. Thank you for your time and attention.

James E. Gierach
Executive Board Vice Chairman
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)
Chicago, IL USA, [1 \(708\) 951-1601](tel:17089511601)
[1-708-448-2554](tel:17084482554)

James E. Gierach 1.15.15, edit 1.30.15Page 6

Source: Hadley, Jeffrey

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Respected Task Force Members:

I will try to be concise as I know you will be getting voluminous information from all over the country.

Training:

For the long term implications a complete and thorough review of the basic curriculums/POST standards nationwide. It is my humble opinion we have not drastically changed the core elements of these for some time. Significant and considerable attention needs to be paid to trust and legitimacy (Tom Tyler/Meares). It should compare to the hours devoted to Firearms/defensive tactics/emergency driving ect...

Implicit Bias:

The Fair and Impartial Policing (Fridell) training is an excellent Segway into dealing with this dynamic. This should also be imbedded into the basic curriculums throughout the country. An analysis of whether the IAT (Implicit Association Test) has a place in pre-employment screening ect.???

Use of Force:

A complete analysis of the use of force continuum, Use of Force Policy's ect.. We need to challenge our assumptions in this regard. Conversely much is misunderstood by the general public and exposure to the real implications/dynamics of use of force must be part and parcel to any community engagement strategies.

I also believe the "Officer Created Jeopardy" dynamic needs to be examined and tactical training adjusted to demonstrate how some officers through poor tactics may force a deadly encounter. While in the final analysis the shooting may be justified, better tactics may have prevented that officer from having to engage in deadly force.

Consent to Search Policy:

Many of the data sets we see across the country relative to consent searches notes that African Americans are searched at a higher rate and less contraband is found on them compared to their white counterparts. This has played out all across the country (Ferguson, Kalamazoo Mi, ect..) A Policy clearly articulating and defining when an officer can ask for consent will mitigate this to a certain degree. It stops the fishing expeditions and maintains community trust. Numerous agencies have adopted these (Milwaukee, Austin, Kalamazoo).

Police Legitimacy:

Tom Tyler/Tracy Meares work is increasingly relevant in today's world. The curriculum developed with Chicago PD is an excellent start and very digestible by officers. A greater piece to that is creating the INTERNAL legitimacy within the Law Enforcement Organizations so the pillars of legitimacy and procedural justice can take root. We (Executives) can't expect our officers to go out

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in their communities and practice/engage/believe in police legitimacy when internally they see something totally different. It sends mixed messages and is disingenuous!

Ground Troops are the Force Multiplier:

As we have pushed community policing for close to 25 years it seems to have been a consistent theme (certainly not everyone) that the relationship building was left to a select few people (Chief/Administrators) or units (Community Policing Unit) while the "REAL POLICEWORK" was left to the district officers, narc units, street level teams (jump-out boys) ect..

The lion's share of our human capital are our patrol officers and many times we have held them harmless in the aspect of relationship building. Part of the operational philosophy of any organization committed to community policing/relationship building needs to be engagement from the front line officers in an authentic and real way. There needs to be a management intensity/focus everyday on this aspect and the SGT's need to push their assigned officers to seek out and be intentional about the opportunities that exist on any given day.

The value in this runs both ways! The community gets more contact in a non-traditional way with an officer and hopefully leaves the experience with a different perspective. Conversely, the officer gets to see the community in a different way and slowly realizes that not everyone is a criminal, thug, ect . This build mutual trust, respect and legitimacy.

This approach needs to be woven into the everyday fabric of the organization. When the average patrol officer gets in their car for their shift, as much as they think about looking for speeders and drugs and guns, wanted subjects ect.. they need to look for those opportunities to engage their community as they go about their business.

Regard Systems:

Continuing from the above organizations need to challenge their assumptions on what a good officer is and how we reward our employees (Promotions, awards, specialty units ect...) As much as we recognize good arrests ect. We need to balance that with recognizing community engagement and trust building. This is not an abdication of catching the bad guy but that comes naturally based off of our training, police culture ect.. We have always admired and revered the hard- nosed crime fighter; The warrior worship! The softer approach has always been maligned, marginalized and dismissed as politically correct but ineffective. Research and events certainly tell a different story. This has to be intentional!

Federal Funding:

While Federal Funding is important as it provides the needed resources and capacity to implement training, add human capital ect.. I believe prospectively there needs to be conditions attached through the COPS Hiring funds. Any agency accepting funds through the program must meet certain policy and training requirements (Consent to Search Policies, Implicit Bias Training, Legitimacy Training).

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Also, state ran and/or regulated Law Enforcement Academies must imbed Legitimacy and Trust Building Components into their basic curriculums by 2016. This could also be tied to other Federal Funding (Transportation/Roads, Criminal Justice Funding) that states receive.

Professionally
Chief Jeff Hadley
Kalamazoo Michigan .

www.kalamazoopublicsafety.org

Source: Louis Hayes, Jr.

The public safety tripod of citizen privacy, government transparency, and community trust with police...specifically with regards to technology is more than two-hundred years old. Back in 1928, the US Supreme Court ruled on the case "Olmstead versus United States" (277 U.S. 438). That was a case that identified the 4th Amendment concerns regarding a new piece of technology: the landline telephone.

We are facing an environment where the speed and acceleration of emerging technology is exponentially faster than in 1928. The policies and directives controlling and empowering the police will ALWAYS be behind the curve. We do not yet know all the Constitutional implications of this future technology, let alone how it affects the trust and support of the community.

Finding definitive answers is an unrealistic ideal. Policy MUST be a living breathing document that flexes with a countless number of known and unknown factors that we currently face, as well as those factors we will face in the future.

Louis Hayes, police officer & trainer, Chicagoland

The Virtus Group, Inc

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Source: Joel Johnston, dti@shaw.ca

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been following the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing in the wake of a number of high-profile, controversial use of force incidents and the resultant aftermath. I am saddened to see the effect of these incidents on the confidence of the American public and others who are affected by the state of affairs in the United States - as we are here in Canada.

I am a recently-retired Canadian police officer (28 years service - retired 2013) and a still-active Court-certified use of force subject matter expert in Canada. I have presented to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Canadian Parliamentary Sub-committee on National Security & Public Safety (SEC), been involved with a number of US National Institute of Justice Working Groups (Tactical Operations Working Group, Excited Delirium Syndrome Working Group), as well as with the International Law Enforcement Forum on Minimal Force Options, and numerous Canadian national working groups related to use of force issues for the past 20-plus years. I have presented at dozens of international law enforcement conferences since 1993.

I have observed that a serious issue identified in the US is the lack or absence of standardized use of force data among police agencies. This has been an issue in many countries for years. As the inaugural Use of Force Coordinator for the Province of British Columbia from 2005 - 2011, it was my self-directed number one priority to create a standardized, automated (embedded within existing police reporting and data management systems) use of force reporting system in British Columbia and Canada - which previously had not been tightly regulated nor standardized. Reporting on the use of force or force response by police is critical to any meaningful discussion of the subject. In its absence progress is difficult to manage and to measure as there are no comparators.

In the aftermath of perhaps Canada's largest use of force controversy and public backlash during 2007-2009, I had the opportunity to team with Canada's National police force (the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - RCMP) and shared with them the program that I had created called "Subject Behaviour-Officer Response Reporting" (SB-OR). This program is all about capturing critical data in police-public interactions - including but not limited to, what brought the police officer and the member of the public together, under what circumstances and what resulted (specific subject behaviours and officer response options and what the outcomes were). The threshold for reporting has been set in any incident where there has been an injury related to "Physical Control" (non-weapon use by police); any use of Vascular Neck Restraint; any use of an "Intermediate Weapon" (pepper spray, baton, TASER, extended range impact weapons, etc.); any use of a firearm (including when the firearm has been used to coerce compliance - but not when it has simply been drawn as a safety measure - for example when conducting a risky building search, etc.).

SB-OR essentially directs officers to specifically what must be reported, with defined categories and "pick-lists" that can be embedded into existing automated records/reporting management systems. The data is collected and analyzed for a variety of purposes including public accountability, but also serves as an "early-warning system" for "near-miss" situations, and may identify officers who appear as outliers or may require additional training. It also serves to inform training so that police agencies are actually training their officers for situations that they are most-commonly facing in the street currently.

This program has become the National Standard for the RCMP across Canada and has been adopted by a number of Provinces in Canada as the Provincial Standard for reporting on force response encounters.

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I shall not go on about this, but I will attach a sample of the BC Provincial SB-OR report template for your perusal and a copy of my CV should you wish to query my background. I would be pleased to share any of these ideas with the Task Force should there be any interest in the materials.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joel A. Johnston

Source: Rodney Jones

Good morning,

I was impressed with the meeting last Friday. I have one suggestion. I recommend a component of media relations. When we have significant events like we had in Ferguson, New York, and even Fullerton on the death of Thomas Kelly. Not handling the media communications can exacerbate a bad situation or sooth a potential bad situation. I have had several significant events that I received some excellent advice on how to handle the media.

Please let me know if I can help out.

Thanks,
Rod

Rodney G. Jones
Chief of Police
Fontana Police Department

Source: Cliff Karchmer

I would like to submit the following as input for consideration by the President's Commission. I am doing this because I believe you are expected to make recommendations for discrete steps that can be taken to improve police-citizen encounters, especially when race is a factor. Most important, the core document noted below represents a good foundation for the type of prescriptive material that your Commission might recommend because they mutually impact police and citizens they encounter.

Several years ago I came across the document noted below from NHTSA. Parts of it appear to be relevant for the objective of orienting police traffic stops within an atmosphere of respect and civility. The extent of NHTSA expectations for "solving the problem" through the use of their protocol may well be naive. However, this is the first prescriptive document I found that

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obligates both police and citizens to engage with each other in an atmosphere of mutual respect that is, by police instigation, sustained throughout in that atmosphere of civility. The document:

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/enforce/professionalism/index.html>

I will stop here so as not to make too much of this...except to underscore that the report's publication by NHTSA is another example of a potentially workable alternative hiding in plain sight: I have yet to find police who even knew it existed. But that is how NHTSA does things.

Perhaps the objectives, themes, content, and overall scoping of the NHTSA document presents opportunities for similar "engagement protocols"--for *Terry* stops and other problematic encounters.

Below I have also listed several other documents, including one on controlling police profanity, that may present additional opportunities for cogent recommendations:

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2014/11/8557402/getting-nypd-officers-stop-cursing-not-hard>

<http://samuelwalker.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Denominator.pdf>

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the work of your Commission, and best regards,

Cliff Karchmer

Source: Ethan Learned

Chief Villaseñor and Task Force Members,

I was introduced to you a few years ago by Captain Paul Sayre during a tour of Headquarters. Not too long before then, I wrote you a letter after my first ride along expressing my excitement and gratitude for such a wonderful experience. I have since been on three more ride alongs in different areas of town and can't seem to get enough! I received my bachelors degree in 2013 from the University of Arizona and majored in Public Management and Policy with emphasis in Criminal Justice. I recently applied with your department and made the Eligibility List, waiting now to be scheduled for my psychological examination.

The Tucson Police Department's Facebook account informed me that you are a member of this task force and I immediately tuned in to the first session, minutes after. I have had both friends and family ask me if I am still in the process for becoming a police officer, even after the recent events involving police across the nation. Not once have I considered withdrawing my application and I remain motivated to making a difference in Tucson. Community policing, leadership, and ethics are

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topics that were touched on consistently during my educational career. These topics seemed to resonate with me and are what motivated me to earn my degree. I believe that this task force will make a remarkable difference for law enforcement, given the wide range of expertise of all who are involved.

Over the years and throughout the application process, I have been in touch with several officers and members of staff. They have all been very helpful, have conducted themselves in a professional manner, and have been extremely encouraging. I want to thank the members of this task force, as well as you personally for both your service and the time and the effort all of you will dedicate as members of this task force. I remain very optimistic about the Tucson Police Department's future as well as the future of policing, nationwide.

Sincerely,

Ethan Learned

Source: Lt. Travis Martinez

Can you please forward the below email to Director Ronald Davis? I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. Ronald Davis,

As a current police lieutenant who served under retired Chief James Bueermann of the Redlands Police Department, I have been following the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing with interest. I understand one of the main objectives of the task force is to build trust between local police departments and the community while keeping crime rates down. As described below, the Redlands Police Department has developed an affordable and very effective policing strategy that accomplishes that specific goal.

For the last four years, the Redlands Police Department has engaged in a community policing program that has proven to build community trust while at the same time reducing crime rates in our community. The program entails using specialized GPS tracking technology to solve crime trends. Basically, when a crime trend pops up, we partner with community members to deploy small GPS tracking devices that have the capability of being hidden in items that are being targeted by thieves. In essence, we are creating a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week electronic surveillance of their property without having to incur the high costs associated with traditional police surveillances.

When the "bait" property is moved, the GPS device activates and immediately sends alerts to the Redlands Police Department Communications Center and to select officers' cell phones. The dispatchers can then use the Internet to pull up a map depicting the speed and direction of travel of

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the device. The Community Policing Bureau has used the devices to make 148 apprehensions for various crimes including armed robbery, vehicle burglary, bike theft, laptop theft, oxycontin theft, larceny, metal theft, credit card skimming, and copper theft.

Just like any other police department, the Redlands Police Department strives to reduce all crimes in the community while maintaining a strong sense of public trust. When the fiscal crisis hit in 2010-2011, the Department was forced to reduce staffing levels by 26.5%, going from 98 officers to 72 officers. Unfortunately, the criminals continued victimizing the community especially when it came to property crime. With staffing levels reduced to the bare bones, discretionary proactive policing time was basically non-existent. Meanwhile, vehicles were being broken into at the local LA Fitness parking lot on an almost daily basis. Our Citizen Volunteers would conduct extra patrols, but their presence in the parking lot was limited to about 15 minutes out of a 24 hour day. Under then Chief James Bueermann's direction, we began deploying the specialized GPS device in a laptop that was placed in a locked vehicle in the parking lot and made apprehensions the very first day. In essence, we found a way to provide constant surveillance of an area for only \$1.65 a day the first year and \$.55 a day every year after.

After experiencing success at LA Fitness, community policing officers began deploying the devices to address a variety of crimes. The devices have not only enhanced our community policing program, but they have also improved our police legitimacy. A good example of the device's impacts on the community is illustrated in the case involving several thefts from the local cemetery. A group of mothers that had banded together to create memorials at the gravesites of children were frustrated that somebody was stealing memorial items left at the sites. Despite measures enacted by cemetery staff, the thefts continued. When the Community Policing Bureau heard about the thefts, officers engaged the help of one of the mothers. Since the GPS devices have the ability to be hibernated until a certain time, officers gave a device to the mother who in turn sewed it into a pink Hello Kitty purse. The mother then left the purse at the gravesite memorial. Within a few days, the device activated and patrol officers were able to apprehend two females for stealing numerous items from the cemetery. Officers were able to return several stolen items back to the rightful owners who were not only surprised by the fact they saw the stolen items again but were profoundly grateful and pleased that their local police department was willing to address minor crimes. By simply taking a few minutes to program the GPS device and explain the concept to the mother, the police were able to create many "raving fans" in the community. Examples such as this abound at our department.

In a time where many police departments simply refer victims of misdemeanor crimes to on-line reporting, the Redlands Police Department has discovered a strategy that partners the police and the community to catch criminals in the act. I know many police departments across the nation have begun to adopt a similar policing strategy. Since the Department first began deploying the devices in 2011, Redlands has experienced a decrease in the vehicle burglary crime rate each year despite criminals being released early from prison due to realignment. If your goal is to build public trust between police and the community while at the same time reducing crime, I would strongly encourage you to consider promoting the concept of local law enforcement using high tech

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GPS tracking devices to solve crime trends. This concept definitely has the potential of creating a national paradigm shift as to how law enforcement partners with the community to solve property thefts, burglaries, and robberies. The COPS Office and the Police Chief Magazine have both published articles that I have written on the Redlands Police Department's GPS tracker program. I included several links to the articles below. I have also taught POST classes on the subject in several states including the recent FBI-LEEDA Conference in Philadelphia. I know you are on a tight time schedule to make recommendations to the President so I feel as if I am obligated to make sure you have this information. I look forward to any opportunity of working with you to create new strategies of building community trust and reducing crime. If any questions arise, I can be reached at [\(909\)557-6583](tel:9095576583) or tmartinez@redlandspolice.org.

Articles

http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=3227&issue_id=12014

http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/02-2014/while_youre_away.asp

http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/10-2014/gps_and_credit_card_skimming.asp

http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/09-2014/using_gps_technology_to_address_theft.asp

http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/11-2014/vehicle_burglary.asp

Lt. Travis Martinez

Redlands Police Department
Special Operations Bureau

Source: Jim Mikel

I would like to be part of the task force.

Spirit Foundation, a 5013c would like to incorporate trained police officers on the task force as part of the Home Energy Score Quality Assurance program, using the vidcie camera.

This would enable trained policing individuals in an additional income stream, working with communities on energy efficiency, as well as doing quality assurance checks for the US Department of Energy's Home Energy Score, on a national basis. (see www.homeenergyscore.gov)

Please allow us to be part of the program, and assist moving forward. We believe in building strong community partnerships, and helping those less fortunate.

Thank you.

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Jim Mikel

Source: Mary Molloy, mmolloy@teamkids.org

To Whom it May Concern,

Team Kids submitted a public comment paper on Friday, January 9. After 14 years of working with youth and law enforcement, we recommended creating positive, non-law enforcement interactions between youth and police through community engagement projects. We wanted to ask if the Task Force believes that creating youth-police community engagement projects is valuable and, if so, what conditions of such projects would need to be present to be most effective in building trust between these two groups.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Molloy
Team Kids
Director of Research and Development

Source: Doug & Jan Parker

We believe college education is very important for law enforcement officers. We would like to see criminal justice degree programs include social science and humanities curriculum. These specific disciplines allow students to develop a more humanistic approach to interpersonal communication, a key element for effective law enforcement. We also would like to see government support for college similar to the LEAP program years ago.

These ideas would contribute greatly to police legitimacy.

Thank you,

Doug & Jan Parker
Colorado

I applaud your efforts and the impressive backgrounds of the Task Force members.

As a 36 year police veteran I have seen a profound and disturbing trend in American law enforcement in past years. I am sad to say that so far the information gathered by the Task Force is indicative of a serious issue, which I hope you intend to consider and address. The issue is the reliance on "experts" and law enforcement CEOs to devise and construct policies with little or no regard for the ideas, issues and concerns of those who will be tasked with carrying them out.

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The Task Force is a prime example. Where are the voices from the men and women on the street? Who speaks for them? I believe you are relying entirely too much on people with many letters after their names, but many years removed from serving as a line officer.

I firmly believe there are serious reforms needed in law enforcement and criminal justice. I pray that your efforts will devise some of them. However, I believe these efforts will be in vain if you do not consider these issues:

1. Seek out and solicit input from those of us who are at the front lines and live with the real problems of policing every day. We are "experts" even though we don't have impressive credentials. Talk to us instead of dictate to us!
2. Most of the police agencies in America are very small. How do you possibly think they will have the personnel, funds and time for tasks such as daily review of body camera recordings, filing daily logs filled with long lists of details about every contact they make, and paying for time, travel and costs for mandatory training? Without funds these ideas will never succeed. Further, how do you propose to enforce these mandates?
3. There are validated training programs out there. There have been initiatives in the past to assist police officers with higher education. You need to implement these again. The old LEAP program worked exceedingly well. There should be something like this implemented again. I firmly believe continuing education and college education are critical components of law enforcement professionalism.
4. It is noble to say "Hire a more diverse workforce." Instead of quotas, recommendations for recruiting would help. I have extensive experience in this area, and can tell you that it is difficult to hire qualified and trainable candidates when pay is low, without criminal records, and when agencies are desperate to fill a slot because they can't afford OT to cover shifts. How can we recruit from the current generation when they have little interest in a profession which doesn't pay well, is dangerous and little respected?

I firmly believe that your intentions are for the best, bless you for taking them on.

Thank you for allowing my input. I offered my services to the Task Force but wasn't considered. Nevertheless, I appreciate the opportunity to share my ideas. I dearly love my profession and pray we can move forward to a better future.

Doug Parker
Colorado

Source: Lynda Petrides

Hi, I'm a retired Police Officer with 20 years at the Norwich Police Department, Norwich, CT. I have additional training/experience in Community Policing, Domestic Violence, as well as mental health within the Norwich community as a CIT officer. Our Domestic Violence Team contributed in the development/implementation of new strangulation laws in CT. I'm currently employed as a Navy

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Police Officer at Subase New London, CT. I currently have serious concerns with the lack of training for our Police due to lack of manpower. We receive no training in mental health issues, and have no systems that allows us to send a person to the Hospital ER for critical mental health/suicidal person issues. (This deficiency probably contributed to the Navy Yard shooting in DC a few years back, when the shooter/person wasn't assisted at the Newport Navy Base in RI.) We work with local Police Departments but we are very limited to our scope and actions due to current laws and Navy protocols. We have brought up these issues to our chain of command but have seen no improvements, things have only gotten worse lately. Thanks for you work, and allowing me to vent.

Sincerely, Pete Petrides

Hi again! I wanted to provide some additional information as well for you to consider. The Navy currently uses a water based stream OC spray that should be used at greater than a three foot distance. It is very difficult to use this type of OC spray effectively at a distance of less than three to four feet from the accused/suspect. (Which is where most police encounters occur.) It is also dangerous because of potential eye injuries to the accused/suspect. Most other Police Departments use a fogger type water based spray for this reason. We still use the stream, and no one seems inclined to change. If this stream fails to disperse properly, it creates a situation where we may have to escalate use of force when we otherwise might not have to. We also have no tazers on Subase New London, and I don't think that any Navy bases in CONUS have tazers at this time. This also creates a situation where we might have to escalate to lethal force sooner than we would like to. In my experience, I've seen tazers used to get a suicidal person to drop a knife and allow us to de-escalate the situation effectively. Low Police manpower issues also create a situation where one officer might have to escalate to lethal force sooner than he would want to. Thanks again.

Pete Petrides

Source: Lt. Scott Prell

Are negative consequences being assessed in regards to the recommendations for use of force?

For example will recommended changes result in delays in decision making?

Will violence against police increase?

Will apprehensions be delayed?

Will more violent offenders escape leading to more victims when the offender reoffends?

Thank you,

Scott Prell
Lieutenant
Youth & Family Services
Cheektowaga Police
3223 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
sprell@cpdny.org
O: [716-686-3535](tel:716-686-3535)
FAX: [716-685-1239](tel:716-685-1239)

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Source: Jean Public

I HAVE RECENTLY COME INTO CONTACT WHERE EXACTLY THIS KIND OF SITUATION OCCURRED WITH A POLICEMAN. THE POLICEMAN DID NOT WITNESS THE ACCIDENT AT ALL. AFTER THE ACCIDENT, HE TOLD ME, A FEMALE, TO LEAVE THE SCENE. HE ALLOWED THE MIDDLE AGED MALE TO STAY AFTER THE ACCIDENT AND RECOUNT HIS ACCOUIUNT OF THE ACCIDENT (HE HIT MY CAR IN THE BACK). THEN THE POLICEMAN WROTE UP THE REPORT WITH ONLY THE MALES ACCOUNT OF THE ACCIDENT, SHOWING COMPLETE FAVORITISM TO THIS MALE OF INDIAN DESCENT. WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? WHY WOULD HE PREJUDICE ME WHEN HE DIDNT SEE ANYTHING HIMSELF IS VERY VERY STRANGE. THE POLICEMAN HAS FAILED TO ADEQUATELY ADDRESS HIS PREJUDICE TO DATE.

WE CANT BUILD UP PUBLIC TRUST WHEN YOU HAVE POLICE ACTING THIS WAY. IF YOU DONT SEE THE ACCIDENT, AND CANT CLEARLY SEE WHAT HAPPENED YOU SHOULD NOT MAKE SUPPOSITIONS BASED ON WHAT ONE PARTY TELLS YO. ONE PARTY. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF LOUSY POLICING.HOW CAN WE GET IT STOPPED?

Source: Andrea J. Ritchie, Esq.

Please accept the attached submission to the President's 21st Century Task Force on Policing in anticipation of the upcoming hearing on Policy and Oversight focusing on policy recommendations addressing women of color's experiences of profiling, policing, and police sexual assault.

The submission is endorsed by over 30 women's, anti-violence, racial justice and civil rights organizations and over 45 individual scholars, researchers and activists.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information, have any trouble opening the attached document, or wish to receive expert testimony specific to women's experiences at upcoming hearings on Community Policing and Training and Education.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this submission and for your efforts to address profiling, discriminatory policing practices, and police brutality nationwide.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea J. Ritchie, Esq.
Soros Justice Fellow

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Source: Andrea Ritchie

Please find attached a submission on behalf of over 45 national, state and local LGBTQ and criminal justice organizations to the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing in anticipation of its upcoming hearing on Policy and Oversight.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information regarding the attached submission, or have any trouble opening the attached file.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the Task Force, and for the critical work you are doing to end discriminatory policing and police abuse in the U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ritchie
Senior Policy Counsel
Streetwise and Safe (SAS)
147 W. 24th St., 4th floor
New York, NY 10011
andrea@streetwiseandsafe.org
(212) 929.0562
www.streetwiseandsafe.org

read: www.queerinjjustice.com
support: www.streetwiseandsafe.org
stay: **streetwise and safe!**

Source: Dannie Ritchie

To whom it may concern,

I endorse the attached letter for submission to the upcoming hearing on policy and oversight of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing asking for a focus on the experiences of women of color - queer and not queer, trans and not trans.

Thanks,

Dannie Ritchie, MD, MPH
Clinical Assistant Professor Family Medicine
Brown University Center for Primary Care and Prevention

Website: chi-ri.org

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

www.facebook.com/chirihealth

Source: Craig Roberts

Dear 21st Century Policing Task Force,

First, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for being invited to participate in the January 9th conference call. This is such an important topic and I hope that I am able to assist you with your goals.

Based on the six foundational pillars for 21st Century Policing, we are submitting recommendations on ways to train for and deal with the mentally ill. Our department has had many successes with our training programs and collaboration with local resources in order to identify issues and implement solutions for those in mental health crisis. It is our hope that other law enforcement agencies can benefit from our years of experience and lessons learned.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the information I have provided. I can be reached at [503-785-5022](tel:503-785-5022).

Thank you,

Craig Roberts
Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (Oregon)

Source: Dan Shields

I recently heard that a Police Officer witnessed another Police Officer committing a crime against a civilian and reported what he saw to the proper authorities. After which, he was threaten by his superiors and ostracized by his co-workers.

This sounds virtually identical to what criminals say and do to those in the community who speak up about crimes in the neighborhood.

Are the police and criminals (gangs, etc.) playing by the same rules?!

Why does Law Enforcement refuse to do among themselves what they ask those in the community to do?

Are the rules different for members of the community who have info about crime than those of the police force who witness or have info about crime?!

Don't both have a duty to come forth and speak up?!

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Source Johnny Tank

I respectfully answer your call to citizen input on policing in the 21st Century. I am available for further dialog and continued support for police industry reform.

3 letters were submitted

Source: Keona Trotter

I find it ridiculous how there is always a handful of people, commenting of a recent police shooting with "Why are American cops like this? They aren't like this where I live". EVERY single time. Police these days are out of control and something needs to be done. What happened to shoot to wound? Why can't officers detain that person? These reckless police have no idea what they're doing, and by their recent string of "Shoot to kills" it has everyone believing that that is the ONLY way to handle a situation. "Well, if you listen, you wont get shot" "Don't talk back and you won't get shot, simple as that". What kind of logic is that? There's people justifying 12 year old Tamir Rice's death. Watch the surveillance video. The officer who shot him wasn't even fully standing up, he shot him WHILE getting out of the car, not to mention the car itself wasn't completely stopped. You might as well call it a drive by, Enough is enough. People are TIRED, people are MAD. How is it that former officers and people who have served this country, see this? Even they are appalled with this behavior. It has got to stop. I refuse to believe nothing can be done. I'm sure this happens in other places around the world, but at LEAST they have a proper way of doing things. Police in Mexico for example. They approach the situation, hands on their hips, sides, whatever, they talk to everyone to find out what happened, and if it comes down to it, they take that person to the car and take them away. No excessive force, no unnecessary yelling, no trigger happy thugs with their guns already drawn. That's AMAZING and that's how it SHOULD be. So I refuse to believe that police in Amerikkka can't change their tactics and receive better training. I absolutely refuse.

Have a nice day.

Source: Ron Weitzer, weitzer@gwu.edu

Dear Task Force staff,

I have conducted research on police-community relations for many years, and I thought you would find interesting my recent op-ed in *The Guardian* on diversification of police departments (link follows).

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/20/diversity-among-police-officers-is-key-but-it-wont-solve-the-problems-with-policing>

I have also written a book, *Race & Policing in America: Conflict & Reform* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006), which has an entire chapter on reforms in policing (as well as covering other issues directly relevant to the Task Force's mandate). The book is based, in part, on a national survey of the American population.

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21ST CENTURY POLICING

Sincerely, Ron Weitzer