

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Minutes from the Listening Session on Community Policing and Crime Prevention

**Phoenix Conference Center
Executive Conference Center Lecture Hall
100 N 3rd St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
February 13, 2015
9:00 a.m. MST**

Attendance

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

Staff and Agency Personnel: Ronald Davis, Darrel Stephens, Steven Rickman, Melanca Clark, Charlotte Grzebien, Deborah Spence, Laurel Matthews, Silas Darden, Michael Franko, Jennifer Rosenberger, Shannon Long, James Coppie, Colleen Coppie, Jessica Drake, Jason Drake, Letitia Harmon, Steven Minson

Invited Witnesses: Anthony Batts, Kevin Bethel, Jeffrey Blackwell, Reverend Jeff Brown, Delilah Coleman, Dwayne Crawford, Bill Geller, Jose Gonzales, Justin Hansford, Melissa Jones, Dolores Jones-Brown, David Kennedy, Jamecia Luckey, Chris Magnus, Patrick Melvin, Nicholas Peart, Michael Reynolds, Dennis Rosenbaum, Wesley Skogan, Cecil Smith, J. Scott Thomson, George Turner.

Welcome and Opening Statements

Ronald Davis, Executive Director of the task force and Director of the COPS Office, opened the listening session of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing at 9:00 a.m.

The co-chairs, Laurie Robinson and Charles Ramsey, each made welcoming statements noting the importance of this work and the timeline of producing recommendations to the President by March 2. They noted that after two days here in Phoenix, the task force would have further hearings in Washington, D.C.

They were followed by opening statements by each of the task force members in reverse alphabetical order. Each introduced themselves for the audience.

Director Davis presented an overview of the agenda and thanked the staff who had organized the meeting before handing over to the co-chairs to introduce the first panel.

Panel One—Community Policing and Crime Prevention Research

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

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Bill Geller talked about nonviolent, nonarrest options for police that would help community relations. The COPS Office should operate as part of communities to help with sustainable development that creates a crime-free atmosphere.

Dr. Delores Jones-Brown urged a neighborhood policing approach to fighting crime. This approach in San Diego has reduced crime more dramatically than the approach of New York City.

Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum made the case for new versions of foot patrol and REP policing. Officers should be trained in social competencies, initiate positive contacts with the community, and receive evaluation and feedback using body worn cameras.

Dr. Wesley Skogan said it's not clear where community oriented policing is today, but he believes dropping this approach would be counterproductive. With the political will to support policing organizations and to get word out to command staff, a resurrection of community policing is possible.

Panel Two—Building Community Policing Organizations

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

Anthony Batts talked about measures within the Baltimore Police Department that included a focus on repeat offenders, not doing mass incarceration, Ceasefire, and eradicating stop and frisk. They are moving toward body worn cameras, but the procedure is complicated.

Jeffrey Blackwell said the Cincinnati Community Oriented Policing program came out of a consent decree in 2003. He said they walk the talk and work with the community to overcome root causes of poor relationships (such as poor training and oversight and lacking diversity in the force).

Chris Magnus said his community, Richmond, California, has historically struggled with high crime rates and a longstanding distrust of police. They now have an engaged management team and ensure that *all* their officers do neighborhood policing and keep a diverse group of officers on the same beats for many years.

Patrick Melvin spoke about the relationship with the tribal community in Scottsdale, Arizona. Community oriented policing should include the community in how to fight crime and have a special cross-deputized force that works with federal agents.

The task force adjourned for a lunch break and was called back to order at 1:15 p.m. MST by Ronald Davis.

Panel Three—Using Community Policing to Reduce Crime

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

Kevin Bethel said in Philadelphia, delinquent acts are handled by the school district instead of the police department. They have a diversion program and intake center designed to combat the school-to-prison pipeline. Zero tolerance policies are not a solution for school misbehavior, as they unfairly target students of color.

Melissa Jones has LISC programs in 30 cities working on comprehensive community revitalization. They work to make poor communities less hospitable to crime which work because of the focus on local leadership, intensive capacity building, and creating new housing and jobs.

David Kennedy said that policing should have an oath to do no harm, like the Hippocratic oath in medicine. Intrusive policing makes crime worse, whereas (1) informal social control like Ceasefire, (2) a Community Safety Partnership as exists in Los Angeles, and (3) youth outreach workers who produce public safety would strengthen legitimacy and broker reconciliation.

J. Scott Thomson claimed that community oriented policing was the core principle that should govern and organization's culture. Militarization does not make communities safe. You must learn what matters to the community and transition from "hot spots" policing to "hot people." People measure safety by their lack of fear for their neighborhood, and heavy handed enforcement after acts of violence revictimizes a community.

George Turner said when he was sworn in in 2010, there was a rogue narcotics team that killed a 92-year-old woman and a vice unit that stormed a gay club and terrorized people. He moved to a community oriented policing approach and visited every police division in the organization to personally talk about the new model. They have community liaison units, community focus groups, predictive crime analysis, and leadership development for officers. Part I crime is down 22 percent.

Panel Four—Using Community Policing to Restore Trust

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

Reverend Jeff Brown spoke about the role of faith based organizations in mediation and reconciliation. By holding forums in a church, people felt safe to express their anger and frustration with police. These partnerships should be a major component of community oriented policing.

Dwayne Crawford of NOBLE said his organization is very concerned about lack of leadership in police departments. People feel civil rights gains are being lost. He said community oriented policing should be a law, not just a standard, and that police agencies should reflect their community and have training in cultural sensitivity. Also law literacy and enforcement education need to be strengthened.

Justin Hansford testified that the Ferguson case has damaged America's moral standing around the world. We must end the militarization of police, end racial profiling, and have national

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standards on the use of force, and a citizen should have a right to a hearing with an officer who does use force. Think about the rights of citizens as you work to reduce crime.

Cecil Smith said in Sanford, Florida, after the Trayvon Martin case, the mass demonstrations did not become violent. Some reasons for that were a transparent and communicative police force that partnered with faith based and community leaders. Law enforcement tries to get in front of issues before they blow up and allows officers to make recommendations.

Panel Five—Youth and Law Enforcement

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

Delilah Coleman of the Navajo Nation shared her story of being on both sides of the law as a teenager and advised that all youth receive training in public safety from tribal and state police. If a youth is incarcerated, they should have access to their traditional teachings and religious practices.

Jose Gonzales was a foster child and an alumnus of Crossover Youth. He lost his father when young, was jailed for smoking marijuana at nine, and got involved in gangs. He said that police should be more respectful of the people they deal with. If they want respect, they need to give respect. He is now a case manager in a group home.

Jamecia Luckey benefited from the Florida Police Athletic League (PAL). She said the PAL could reach youth at an early age and develop positive relationships with them. The PAL creates a long term commitment to neighborhoods.

Nicholas Peart shared his life story of losing both his parents and raising three younger siblings. He has been stopped by police repeatedly for doing nothing wrong. He has a lifetime of negative experiences with police including search and seizure.

Michael Reynolds shared his experience living in Detroit in poverty and how a police officer got him a hot meal and a coat. This was a positive experience, but later his relationship to police changed. He forgot his ID in high school and was suspended but then stopped by police for not being in school. He and his guardian received expensive tickets. He said in a violent environment, police are supposed to protect and serve, but he lives in fear. They should instead be like the first police officer who volunteered his time and took care of a student.

Audience Participation

During the open comment period, James Copple read a few of the emails and tweets that had been submitted by online viewers. In addition, Executive Director Ronald Davis provided time for people in the audience to speak. Each speaker had two minutes, and comments were made by Anthony Gray. He shared the racial difference of living in Chicago versus Arizona. In Chicago, police targeted him; in Phoenix they are more concerned with Latinos.

Concluding Remarks

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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 reverse alphabetical order, concluding with the co-chairs.

Executive Director Ronald Davis then thanked everyone for attending and noted that testimony would resume on training and education at 9:00 a.m. on February 14 at the Phoenix Conference Center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. MST.

Minutes Certified By Co-Chairs: 4/24/2015