



**Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force  
December 9, 2020 | Meeting Notes**

**Welcome:** The meeting began with Co-Chair Love and the Pledge of Allegiance. Co-Chair Love briefly discussed the agenda and talked about the events that took place yesterday. A teenager in the Parramore community lost his life yesterday and we are saddened by this news, which places a higher degree of urgency to complete our work. This is the second meeting of the task force and the four subcommittees have held eight meetings. Jim and I have been impressed by the participation of the subcommittee members. I want to thank you and extend a continuous invitation to community stakeholders for their participation. I want to continue to invite the community to the meetings and thank staff for their commitment. I want to reference that we need to get out of our comfort zone as we have these discussions.

Co-Chair Coffin: I second everything Co-Chair Love said and certainly, what happened yesterday is a reminder of how important this work is and we have the potential to make a substantial difference. I'm encouraged by the level of participation of the task force members in the subcommittees. Co-Chair Coffin took the roll call.

**Roll Call:**

Rachel Allen  
Honorable Ayala  
Patricia Brigham  
Charles Brown  
Lisa Coffey  
Ruth Cedeno  
Mimi Chan  
Bishop Kelvin Cobaris  
Jonathan Cox  
TJ Legacy Cole  
Eric Debose  
Roger Handberg  
Adam Hartnett  
Cory Austin Jackson

Subhash Kateel  
Samantha Love  
Ricky Ly  
Captain Jerome Miller  
Honorable John Mina  
Myesha Murray  
Nancy Oesch  
Javier Andres Pineiro  
Chief Orlando Rolon  
Patrician Rumph  
Ruben Saldana  
Reverend Gabriel Salguero  
Michael Scott  
Miles Mulrain, Jr.

**Approval of Minutes** – Co-Chair Love asked for any changes to the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes from Sheriff Mina and second was received. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment** – Co-Chair Coffin asked Carol Burkett, Staff Liaison to the Task Force if there were any members of the public that have filled out a speaker card for today’s meeting. There was no public comment.

**Presentations:**

**Review Programs to Reduce Gun Violence & Violent Crime** - Antonio Cediél, Ph.D., LIVE FREE Campaign & CEO, First Revolution Consulting.

Co-Chair Love introduced Dr. Antonio Cediél, who reviewed programs to reduce gun violence and violent crime. Dr. Antonio Cediél helps lead the national LIVE FREE Campaign to end urban gun violence and mass incarceration. He has written on these topics for the New York Times, USA Today, and other publications. Through his work, he helps promote proven community-based models for dramatically reducing gun violence in cities throughout the country. Previously, Dr. Cediél spent several years in public education, serving as a teacher, principal, and deputy superintendent in urban schools. During his tenure as a deputy superintendent in the Boston Public Schools, the district was repeatedly identified as one of the top five urban districts in the country based on its progress in eliminating equity gaps and improving overall performance.

Dr. Cediél is also the CEO of First Revolution Consulting, which trains and coaches various educational, corporate, and nonprofit leaders throughout the country. Having taught middle schoolers in Oakland, graduate students at Harvard, and aspiring school leaders at the University of Chicago, his best students were the men at San Quentin State Prison. He holds a B.A. in

religious studies from Brown University, an M.A. in Latin American history from California State University-East Bay, and masters and a doctoral degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Cediell talked about proven strategies for reducing gun violence. There has been many talks nationally after mass shootings about the problem of guns, and gun rights, but we have proven strategies to address urban gun violence. In Orange County, we know gun violence is on the uptick. Based on data so far this year, gun violence is going up, and we also have over 1500 aggravated assaults with firearms last year, which is also up over the last couple of years. When we talk about proven strategies, the essential principle is this - even in the most violent neighborhoods data shows that it is a fraction that's actively involved in gun violence.

Dr. Ceidel shared data from a couple of cities to include Oakland, California, which has over 400,000 residents and 20,000 criminally justice-involved clients; those at high-risk of being shot are 250-300. Richmond, California, with one of the highest homicide rates in the country, and a city of 100K residents, has about 26 individuals who are responsible for 70% of the violence. Once we understand the numbers, we cannot rely solely on broad strategies to address the problem. Dr. Ceidel presented a map of violence and intervening before it happens. The cornerstone of the work is building relationships with those at the highest risk of a shooting. It involves reaching out to individuals and building relationships that allow you to influence their behavior and lifestyle. To staff this, you need street outreach workers. These are people that are formally incarcerated, and they are the most credible messengers to engage the population. You need to surround the individual with a community of support. The outreach workers create life goals, connect with social services, mentoring systems, and internship opportunities. It is a way of bringing them back into the fold in a humane way that prevents violence. Preventing the shooting from happening is preferable. The key to understanding the program is that the street outreach workers are not there to inform law enforcement or help them close cases. The street outreach workers are sent out to engage individuals to prevent the shootings from happening. This is about relationships, engagement, and prevention. There are various proven several models that adhere to these principles. The programs include Group Violence Intervention Model, sometimes known as Cease Fire, Cure Violence, Advance Peace, and Hospital-Based Violence Intervention program. All of these programs center on identifying a small number of individuals at the highest risk. This is a smattering of results from cities all over the country. If we could reduce shootings and homicides in Orange County by anywhere near these numbers, Boston had a 63% reduction in youth homicides, Oakland had a 49% reduction in injury shootings. How much do people think the cost of shooting is in Orange County? The National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform did studies across the country and figured the actual taxpayer cost. In Orange County, the cost is between \$839K and \$1.6M. This is the city, county, and state tax dollars. Just for Orange County alone, the cost is between \$300K and \$500K. So for the cost of 1-2 shootings, we can fund an entire program. These types of strategies pay for themselves over and over again. This is an intervention strategy that can start to get results within the first year

or two, and it should be an ongoing tool to intervene in terms of violence in the county. This has been tried in cities for over 20 years. This is just one tool in the various resources we use. This should not be a pilot program; this is a community-based strategy that is research-based and effective and should be part of the tools that address gun violence. The program should have a permanent place in the budget to make the community safe.

**Questions:** Based on the unique factors of Orange County, have you taken that into consideration? Dr. Ceidel, we proposed the Advance Peace program to the Board of County Commissioners a couple of months ago. I think it's a good match for our needs and something we can implement pretty quickly.

Co-Chair Coffin - In terms of cost, what are the kinds of things included in the \$800 - \$1.6M, and if the shooting does not take place, do we still have an infrastructure that's eating up that cost? The main costs are incarceration costs, which the state covers a big portion of that cost, the county has pre-trial costs, court costs, prosecution and law enforcement costs, and emergency trauma costs.

Sheriff Mina – thank you for your presentation. I'm in favor of some sort of community intervention program. What metrics are they using to measure success? How does that attribute to the program and not attribute to law enforcement? I know you cited Oakland's Cease-Fire, but I'm sure you saw the New York Times article that cites a rise in homicides across cities in the nation, and they talked about Oakland's 40% increase in homicides this year? Do they still have the program, and why is there homicide rate increasing? In regards to reduction in shootings and homicides, researchers will go into areas looking at treated vs. non-treated. In Miami-Dade, they implemented a similar program this last year; the treated area saw no-rise while the non-treated area saw an increase. Oakland is trying to ramp up their programs. In many cities, homicides go down, and the public comes complacent and the shootings increase again. That's why the program has to be consistent. It has to be a part of the budget and not a soft program where the funding goes away. There are tons of cities that have reductions, and then they back away from it, and the shootings go up again.

Mayor Demings provided a welcome to the Task Force members. Within the last few weeks, all of you have been called to do extraordinary work in your subcommittees. I wanted to announce that we have worked with Dr. Hefang Lin with Orange County Corrections on developing a community crime survey. Hopefully, it will provide feedback from our citizens from their perspective and be presented to this body for information and consideration as you deliberate over recommendations that you will make to myself and the Board of County Commission. Carol Burkett, Deputy Chief of Staff, has been working with the team behind the scene to make this reality. The idea for the survey came from the work of the subcommittees and the desire to reach out to the community. Through the Mayor's leadership, we will have a survey that can be used as a tool for our community to provide feedback. We look forward to working with each task force member to distribute the online survey.

Rev. Gabriel Salguero – Can you tell us who the key stakeholders and who were the most effective stakeholders in that engagement? Community engagement is critical. Critical stakeholders are those impacted by gun violence, not those that are political. We need to work with people directly affected by violence, such as formally incarcerated individuals, clergy, and people comforting the families, and public officials that can fund strategies. The Oakland example was tried once, and it failed because it was implemented as a law enforcement effort. It had a bad name on the street, and it failed. We had to do it again, and we had clergy and community leaders involved and it directly impacted folks leading the efforts. They continue to sit at the table to monitor and shape the strategy.

T.J. Legacy Cole – thank you for the presentation. I wanted to ask about the effectiveness of the program. In 2017, Cease Fire was presented to the Pine Hills community through the Urban League. It was not well received; we had clergy, we held a press conference, and we had all the stakeholders mentioned, and it did not go over well. In 2019, the Florida Democratic Party presented the same Cease Fire program, and it did not go over well and was not well received. The Pine Hills Community Council was appalled by the program because many of the logos had an AR-14 on them. I'm familiar with the Cease Fire Program. I'm from Boston, and I was there when the program was first adopted. In my opinion, this program does not solve the problem; it displaces the crime. In the hot zone areas we are targeting, it will displace the crime, which will reduce the crime in that area. Once the program is finished, then all the members that weren't in those territories come rushing back to get their territory. How do we curtail that to make it a more effective approach? When it comes to intervention in this community, we need to start trying different things rather than looking at the data and putting band-aides on gash wounds.

Dr. Ceidel – that's a good question. The Cease Fire program in Pine Hills was not funded. It had some foundational base funding about \$150K, 1/10 of what it needed, and folks were never trained in the program. I'm talking about ongoing technical assistance. It has to be done well. I would also say that the people I mentioned were not at the table. The other difference is that what I am recommending is Advance Peace vs. Cease Fire program. It shares many of the key principles, but we have to invest in it. If done correctly, it does not displace the violence because it a person-based strategy.

Michael Scott – Cease Fire implemented across the country, can you share with us which model is more comparable for our community. Which models would be more effective and the success of those specific programs. Cease Fire is one specific model, and some people use it interchangeably, which leads to confusion. The four models I shared was Group Violence, Cure Violence, Advance Peace, which is the one I recommended, and the Hospital-based Intervention program. I would recommend Advance Peace out of those. Co-Chair Love asked Dr. Ceidel to send your proposal to Carol so she can send to the group?

Rachel Allen - can you let us know why you are recommending that program for us? Dr. Ceidel – One of the members of the task force, Miles Mulrain shadowed the program, and Sheriff Demings, had a town hall and asked for solutions. Advance Peace was one of the programs that was looked at closely. I think it's a good match, and it's purely community-based. It can work with law enforcement or stand on its own.

**Effective Community Engagement Presentation-** Randy Nelson, Ph.D., Director, Bethune-Cookman University, Center for Law & Social Justice

Co-Chair Jim Coffin introduced Dr. Randy Nelson, who presented on Effective Community Engagement. Dr. Nelson currently serves as the Director of the Bethune-Cookman University Criminal Justice Administration Graduate Program and Center for Law & Social Justice within the College of Liberal Arts. His academic and professional career has focused on developing and evaluating delinquency prevention strategies designed to address the problems negatively impacting disadvantaged communities. Dr. Nelson has an extensive history of working with non-profit faith-and community-based social service organizations to develop and effectively achieve their programmatic and outcome goals.

Through his work, Dr. Nelson has been able to influence various evaluation projects throughout Florida. Dr. Nelson is the founder of the Situational Environmental Circumstances (SEC) Mentoring Model, which was designed to meet the unique educational, social, and emotional needs of high-risk Black males. The 2013 Florida legislature provided funding for the SEC program as a down payment towards changing the trajectory of Black males in Florida.

Dr. Nelson is a nationally-recognized law enforcement training consultant in the areas of community policing and engagement strategies. He has authored more than 50 technical reports and research publications and presented at numerous state and national conferences on effective strategies to engage communities of color, in general, and Black males in particular.

Dr. Nelson – I want to personally thank the Mayor for putting the task force together. This work is needed and necessary. My conversation today is about the community and the people that live and breathe the violence that we are talking about. We all have a role, but their voice is the most powerful. When the Mayor mentioned the survey that was music to my ear. We need to put the survey in their hands. I have had the opportunity to go into communities across the nation. I go to the barber shops, car washes to get to know the people. It's difficult to help people if you don't know the people. On Saturday, we had young people that lived in Parramore, for six hours and we talked about solutions to these problems. The individual working with us that day at the Boys & Girls Club was murdered three days later. The work is necessary; it's not hard work; it's heart work. In eight months, we were able to develop a vaccine. Imagine if we had that same commitment to those dying from violence. The problem is that at some point,

violence is going to touch everyone. Children and not born gang bangers and killers; it's their environment and their conditions. Let's fix that, and then we don't have to talk about Cease Fire.

This mission statement comes from Jacksonville - To serve and protect in partnership with our community. Policing is not something that's done to a community but with a community. For a community to be safe, it takes both law enforcement and the community. Dr. Nelson reviewed the Social Contract Theory – The rights and responsibilities of citizens in society. People agree not to harm the life, liberty, and health, or possession of others. The government enacts laws to protect people. People willingly transfer the rights to enforce their rights to a government. When the government accepts the right to enforce the law, it also accepts the obligation to protect those who give up their rights or personal environment.

Dr. Nelson reviewed the High Standard - you can replace anything with law enforcement, and the statement reads: Law enforcement is one of American's most noble professions. The actions of any law enforcement professional in an instant can impact an individual for life and even a community for generations. Dr. Nelson reviewed a video with the task force. It's possible, at times when I think I'm helping the people and I'm really not. Sometimes we have to stop and step back and listen to the people.

Another issue, Washington Shores and Parramore are a result of years of neglect and we did not get here overnight. This historical irony when you look at call volume and rate of call volume, the data will tell you that the communities that call the police the most are the communities that most distrust police. It's the young people's resiliency that gets them out of these communities. Some kids go back and help, but for some, there's too much trauma. If we look at who's dying on the streets, take away race and look at who's dying, and if we fix it, then we don't have to label it. You have to direct the services where the need is. Police do this with Comstat, and Co-Chair Love did it with zip codes.

Most of the worst, least of the best, Professor Bill Jones coined this phrase. The reason people call the police is because of everything that's up there, not only law enforcement, prevention, DJJ; we've been playing chess for a long time. Let's call this crisis we see in the community COVID. George Floyd happened; people saw a black man killed on national television without any regard, and everyone rolls up. The same commitment needs to be in Pine Hills, Mercy Drive, and Parramore. Dr. Nelson showed a final video, which is a demonstration of policing with a community. We need to get those around us to commit the same commitment we've made with this virus.

Questions: Charles Brown – one of the best presentations I've ever heard. The best predictor of the future is the past. Every decade the community presents its problems. How do we reconnect and sustain some of the programs we had years ago, like Job Core, that address the problems at hand and connects them with where we are going in the future? Connecting from your

perspective means working with things that had work in the past and looking at every advancement. Co-Chair Love – with your work in Orange County is there anything particular that's working that we can piggyback on. Until its collective work, we will always have a task force. Let's make this the last task force. Bishop Cobaris – thank you for your presentation. We have echoed many of the things you have said in the community. Everyone needs to be held accountable, including law enforcement and the community at-large. After the shooting that happened yesterday, I was happy to hear from the Orlando Police Department that the community immediately began to respond and participate to see who took the life of this 15-year old man. I applaud him for the transparency and a level of trust restored, and proactive leadership motivates the community to get involved. In a perfect world, collaboration would exist and bring our resources to the table. If we never get to genuine 100% collaboration, what do we do to make it work? Dr. Nelson – our team trained 250 OPD police officers, we had frank conversations, and they were uncomfortable. Somewhere between comfortable and uncomfortable, there's knowledge and growth. What I say about collaboration, do your part. Whether you're in the pulpit or not, lives are depending on you.

**Task Force Subcommittee Updates:** Co-Chair Love introduced the subcommittees, and indicated they have been hard at work for the last several weeks. There has been a lot of uncomfortable conversations, but I look forward to hear the work product that will come from their conversations.

**Prevention Subcommittee** – Rev. Gabriel Salguero, Co-Chair of the Prevention Subcommittee. The members of the subcommittee are on the slide. We've met twice, and our focus will be children and young people in the high violent crime rate areas in the most impacted zip codes. We have defined it as – responding to causal factors with recommendations around prevention for implementation. We are taking a holistic approach, and that requires a review of what's existing. Part of the review is on casual factors which includes long-term factors such as poverty, housing, trauma, and education. We are looking at not only what exists but the effectiveness. During the Prevention Subcommittee meetings, we have heard from Dr. Nelson as he reviewed the existing prevention programs and services and analyzed and comparison of Orange County's children's programs and services. It has been brought to our attention that nine zip codes account for most juvenile arrests. Our work is data-driven, evidence-based programs and effective outcomes. Our next steps: homeless review services, identify programs that provide effective alternatives to gang recruitment (this includes emerging programs that are effective and hopefully build them to scale); review juvenile arrest data from law enforcement and DJJ; review communications and marketing campaign strategy. One of the challenges we need to overcome is knowledge and awareness of what is already in place. Are we doing a good job, so people have knowledge and access to the programs available? Finally, we are planning a joint meeting with Intervention Subcommittee. On a personal note, my condolences to the loss of the 15-year old young person.

Co-Chair Coffin introduced the Intervention Subcommittee. **Intervention Subcommittee:** Co-Chair Bishop Kelvin Cobaris – thanked the Mayor and Co-Chairs Love and Coffin for their leadership, guidance, and attendance at the subcommittees. Bishop Cobaris read the names of the Intervention Subcommittee members. This group speaks the truth and talks about what we feel. When we look at the word Intervention, it's what stands in between somethings that brings hope or cease to it. A comprehensive plan for our Mayor is very necessary as 15-year old Antwan Roberts, Jr., was gunned down, and his remains were shown on social media. Not only were people there, but they knew who was there and who did it. This young man was attending a Boys & Girls Club meeting looking at solutions that could intervene, but sadly, we were too late.

Our subcommittee has met twice, and her first meeting was to define our focus and foundation to build our committee. Our focus is on juveniles and gun violence. This is central to what is happening now. The subcommittee objectives: We are reviewing existing programs and services in the community. We want to make sure that there will be something that can be implemented now, but as leadership changes, the work will go on, and implementation can continue throughout the county. We are reviewing intervention strategies that deter the possession, carrying, and use of illegal firearms. As we listened to the Cease Fire presentation, this goes along with some things we want to do. I want to have more conversations with Dr. Ceidel. TJ Legacy brought up some significant points on why it didn't work in our community previously. Dr. Ceidel responded with why it didn't work, so if it's something we intend to embrace again, we can correct those different measures and maybe even change the name Cease Fire and begin to address things that we can move forward. We want to identify strategies that will mobilize the community and enhance engagement. As we heard from Dr. Nelson, it's not a law enforcement problem or a Mayor Demings problem; it will take all of us most mobilize and do our part.

We've also had presentations to help guide us to include Dr. Nelson's presentation along with Ms. Chestang's analysis of Orange County Children's Programs and Services. The community-level data framework and the four domains and the findings of the nine zip codes which account for the majority of juvenile arrest and detention, dependency involvement, abuse and neglect reports, low 3rd grade FSA reading scores, low performing schools, teens pregnancies, and infant mortalities. We cannot just look at what law enforcement needs to do but develop a comprehensive plan for what we all need to do collectively. The data-driven decision making, evidence-based programming, and common outcomes to determine effectiveness was also discussed in Dr. Nelson's presentations.

The committee talked about the \$20M Orange County children's services funding and how the funding is dispersed, who funds are dispersed too, the outcomes, and how funds are managed and what areas are impacted. We want to make sure that those that have the funds are meeting the needs and providing the services. We cannot wait for COVID-19 to affect the outcomes needed in the community. Our next steps include a review of juvenile arrest data from law enforcement and DJJ and look at the number of arrests, zip codes and civil citations, and arrests

with gun, and equity and equality of programs and services. We are also reviewing the 2007 and 2016 Crime Task Force reports. Lastly, we are planning a joint meeting with Prevention and Intervention so we can hear from the credible voices of the community.

Co-Chair Love introduced the Enforcement Subcommittee. **Enforcement Subcommittee**, Co-Chair Rumph- the subcommittee has met several times, and in our first meeting, we did a lot of brainstorming and came up with several topics. We talked about different types of programs that law enforcement can work with the community, such as hot spot policing and focused deterrence and problem oriented policing, which focuses on the source of the crime, and mass shooting legislation. We were able to get Sheriff Mina's legislative agenda for 2020. One of his legislative priorities advocated for pawn shops and gun stores to properly secure their firearms.

We are identifying strategies that would mobilize the community and enhance engagement. We looked at what we've done in the past and what is working now. We also looked at law enforcement engagement without enforcement. We reviewed programs such as midnight basketball and how those programs worked in the past, and how we can bring them back. We looked at community town hall meetings and how we can bring enforcement and the community together. We also looked at transitioning from the jail back into the community. Presentations included two speakers - Linda Brooks and Colin Brady from Corrections and Probation and Parole. We learned from Probation and Parole that they work hand in hand with enforcement. We also learned from Corrections about offender programs, and they were most effective when parents or the family is involved. Moving forward we will be meeting with the Prosecution Team. We want to work with them and see how we can work together as a team. We also want to speak with mental health and see how law enforcement can work closely with them. As we talked with Probation and Parole, we want to see if there was a specialized caseload of offenders charged with gun violence.

Co-Chair Coffin introduced the Prosecution Subcommittee. He mentioned that Bishop-Elect McRae is not able to be with us today due to a funeral he is attending. **Prosecution Subcommittee** Co-Chair Patricia Brigham – introduced the members of the subcommittee. The subcommittee's objectives include increasing the effectiveness of gun violence and violent crimes prosecution; identifying strategies to build community trust and confidence; and developing strategies to educate law enforcement and the community on existing safety allowances. We have learned two things – there is a lack of confidence among young people and families towards law enforcement. This needs to be resolved through an intersectional effort. We also discussed that the Task Force is focused on the prosecution, and we tend to talk about prevention and intervention, so we don't have to prosecute. We have been looking at certain laws and the rights of victims to include Marcy's Law that was passed two years ago to protect the rights of victims, and we have also noticed another critical piece that's been missing, and that's education on specific laws such as the Risk Protection Order. This allows law enforcement to petition the court on behalf of a family member if there is a fear that the person

is a threat to the family member. If granted, then the firearm and ammunition can be removed from the home. There's a bill introduced in the legislature that would allow a family member to petition the court. We hope our legislature we pass this bill. We've also looked at the prevalence of domestic violence specifically towards women and how this is overlaid in mapping homicides and domestic violence in Orange County. It must be folded in and cannot be ignored. When we look at the program in High Pointe, the program puts into an alphabetical category the most dangerous offenders and trusts community members would speak with the offender. The High Pointe program is based on how gang violence has been addressed. This would address domestic violence by warning the offender that if you continue to abuse your spouse and threaten your spouse, you will face serious consequences.

What we know that, unfortunately, gun violence is a public health crisis. Many physicians have said this, and we need to look at this not only as a public safety crisis but as a public health crisis. We know that 20% of the people cause 80% of the problems. We have looked at an overview of the prosecution process. In closing, we know that we are limited to what we can do in local communities because the state has preemption in place that keeps local communities from placing restrictions on firearms. This presents us with a huge challenge. I want to thank Mayor Demings and the Co-Chairs Love and Coffin for creating the task force. This gives us a real chance to stand up to the state and demand that we can create our restrictions on firearms. Next steps – compare nationwide data with local data and review best practices showing some successes; we will meet with our law enforcement officials. We will review arrests, prosecutions, and outcomes and engage with representatives from law enforcement to discuss the use of Risk Protection Orders. We want to work with law enforcement to build the trust of the community so that law enforcement is not always seen as the bad guy. We face a tremendous challenges because we don't live in a state that allows us to make ordinances at a local level to decrease easy access to guns. We have to find creative outside of the box solutions and lobby our state legislators to give more power to the grassroots organizations.

**Open Discussion:** Co-Chair Love asked that you bear with us for a few more minutes for open discussion. If you have any comments, please be brief.

Rachel Allen: Why do we have as a goal to increase prosecution of juveniles? Are we saying we are in support of the school to prison pipeline? Are we blaming the children for the failings of this community? Our generations of neglect are being shouldered by these children. Are we okay with this? What if we consider ceasing all arrests of children and directing them to treatment? I move for treatment versus arrest. Children's brains are not fully developed, and they don't have full control of their actions. We know this based on neuroscience. Could we support a radical decision for our children as we move forward with this task force?

T.J. Legacy-Cole: My comments are for the last presenter and what took place today. I understand politics is mastering the meeting before the meeting. There was a lot of filibustering

of information that was presented years ago that could have been better spent hearing from a whole lot of people that took time to be there today and hearing community voices. I do want to address the domestic violence portion. I do believe domestic violence has a part in what we are discussing. I don't want it to be lost that 40% of police officers' families experience domestic violence. As we know, domestic violence has a lot to do with power and control. In our subcommittee, we realize when these hot zone areas are calling law enforcement officers, it's not because they do not want to intervene. It's how the officers are treating the people in the community once they get there. We need to analyze; those numbers are skewed because a lot of the victims of law enforcement officers who commit domestic violence acts are afraid to report it because they feel their voices will not be heard. After all, officers are already engaged in knowing who to silence or suppress. How many of these officers are going into the communities and exhibiting power and control over our youth and then putting charges on them. Now they are in a situation when they are on probation or put in a situation where they violate parole or missing court dates. We have to understand that if we are going to talk about violence and domestic violence, we are just not focusing predominately on African-American areas; we have to focus on the people coming into our area that are exhibiting power and control. I'm sure law enforcement officers would agree. Just last week, an OPD officer was arrested because of a domestic violence dispute between him and his ex-girlfriend. That's something we need to focus on if we are going to look at domestic violence in its totality rather than just the gang violence and the shootings.

Michael Scott: I just want everyone to know that I hear family and I hear a young man, but his name was Antwan Roberts, and he was 15 years old. I would ask the Sheriff and Police Chief just in conversation there are some things we can do without waiting for the recommendations of the task force. Please have conversations with your watch commanders and sergeants. Since we've started this process, I have young men who are still being arrested for minor amounts of marijuana and arrested with or without violence. What that looks like for those who may not know it, you see a young man or adult riding a bicycle, if I was an officer, and I approach them because they do not have a light or reflective device. Instead of educating them or providing them with the device, now I'm having a conversation because you smell like marijuana. Now, I'm having a conversation, and then they resist verbally without violence or resist with violence. If you could talk with your officers and watch commanders, and talk with them because you repeatedly say we are not arresting for minor amounts of marijuana. Still, if you add resisting without or with violence, then they are arrested for that charge. Please have a dialogue with your officers in the field because I've had several kids and moms that have reached out to me on those charges, and they are still going to jail.

Miles Mulrain: One of the things I want to address with the Task Force and the meetings we had with the Intervention Subcommittee and the main Task Force, a lot of the talk we see is about reviewing and reviewing. We are reviewing many of the practices that have been going on, and a lot of them are effective in their manner, but it seems to be taking away from us having a chance

to create and focus on what's missing in the void. The main focus is what law enforcement is doing for community engagement and what is currently in place. Suppose we look at what OPD recently did with Aspire and other mental health partners to respond to calls. We need to follow in our footsteps, not so much building up Orange County or law enforcement's budget to be more engaged but focus on 3rd party and outside entities and making it more organic. When we talk about Cease Fire and other cities and states that have programs like this, the reason why it failed was that it was too focused on law enforcement and was not a community and organic type of movement. So even with this task force and when we talk about innovations that come forward, I would like to see the focus more on how we can empower the community to take some of the slack off law enforcement, be more engaged, and how we can empower the community, so they don't have more calls for service, but they are building their way out. It's always focusing on building up law enforcement, and we are saying that we were responding to the protests when one of the main protest pleas was to defund the police. So if we talk about defunding the police or reallocating the funds and comes to a task force meeting, and the main focus on enforcement is to engage the community, then that's the opposite of what we need. We don't need to only build up law enforcement or build up the traditional; we need to bring other people in the room who aren't in the funding paths and aren't getting the same resources. We need to empower them because those are the groups that will be around after the Task Force is done and elected officials are out of office.

Sheriff Mina: I would like to thank the subcommittees for addressing systemic issues in the community. Cities across the United States are seeing an increase in violence and homicides, which points to systemic issues in our society. One of the subcommittees brought up gun safety legislation. State Representative Goff and State Senator Torres sponsored gun safety legislation last year with my support. They will file the bill again with my support, and we are hoping for the Task Force's support. I would like to give a brief update on task force operations. Many of the retaliatory violence and shootings happened, and OPD, Sheriff's Office, FBI, and FDLE are working hard to curb and deter the violence.

I said earlier, we know we cannot arrest our way out of violence, but we do have some violent actors in our community. We have made over 175 arrests and taken 75 guns off the street. We had seen a significant decrease since when we first met related to shootings and retaliatory gang-related homicides. I would like to thank Roger Handberg for adopting some of these cases federally. Three of the individuals from two of the groups we mentioned at the last meeting committed a very violent carjacking in the community. One received 13 years federal prison time, and one received eight years of federal prison time. I hope their fellow members will see that, and it will be a deterrent. Some of the things we are doing at the Sheriff's Office we are reaching out to other agencies across Florida, in particular, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, who dealt with similar issues with retaliatory violence and shootings about two or three years ago. We are sending commanders up there to meet with them. Interesting crime-fighting and investigative tools that curbed gun violence. We have seized a lot of money in drug forfeiture.

This year, we started the Community Crime Prevention Grant Program, and we are giving away \$100,000 to local programs in the community. Some of the programs may not have always had a seat at the table and received funding from Orange County or the government; the deadline is December 15th. We've had a great response from our local 501c3's in the area. I want to touch on juvenile crime; juvenile arrests have decreased by 40% this year. That's because of the philosophy that many of you have talked about, and we are all for that. The last thing we want to do is arrest kids; that's not why we got into law enforcement. We are starting our Behavioral Response Unit, where we pair a deputy with a mental health clinician to respond to calls for people in a mental health crisis. They are in training right now, and we will start taking calls in the next couple of weeks.

Chief Rolon: I could not be clearer about this, and I think the Sheriff would echo, for our profession we are with open arms embracing any idea that will reduce the potential for us to have to take someone to jail or have to respond to domestic violence repeatedly and youth that would benefit from a program in the community to put them on the right track. We've been doing that internally for a very long time. For me, it's very uplifting to be part of the process because right here is the answer - working collectively with law enforcement and the community. One component that I think is missing from the meeting is the business community and how potentially, I think they can support funding some of the programs and great ideas the members have shared during this process.

Bishop Cobaris: This is a statement to the Co-Chairs. What we heard today is good about hearing the data report from the various subcommittees and the next steps being made. But to Miles point, in the meetings to come, will there be an opportunity when we receive all this information for us as a task force to discuss and ask questions and dive into it as we build these plans. One of my Intervention committee members made a statement that has not been addressed. She talked about, instead of arresting juveniles, we should treat them? Push back that comes from that is how you treat a juvenile that's possibly responsible for murdering another juvenile. Do you send them for treatment, or do you send them to prison? We need to have some discussions as we build intervention, prevention, enforcement, and prosecution recommendations. Some of the things we are saying are the same. We can work together, and our plans can flow together if we have an open dialogue in one of our main task force meetings.

Adam Hartnett: I would like to welcome everyone; this is the community I belong to that we are meeting in today. I would like to share a story and thank you for the extra time you're staying. About two years ago, in my community, 27 men were arrested on drug trafficking charges. About one year later, we saw four violent crimes perpetrated by and against youth and young adults in one summer. The connection was very clear to me as someone who works in this community; those crimes are directly related to the made arrests. Parents, role models, and adults were removed from the community for figuring out a way to take care of their families. When we do that, we are depleting the social, financial, and emotional resources of the community. I come

to this subcommittee understanding the heaviness of the loss of the person from Parramore; I understand the heaviness because these are kids that I work with directly every day who are victims and perpetrators of these violent crimes. So I understand our criminal justice system is creating more harm than good for our communities. We are perpetuating the problem of community violence by removing parents and caregivers from their community for minor offenses. I would like to also echo Rachel's concern that if our objective is to increase prosecutions, we are getting it incredibly incorrect and tragically incorrect; divert to treatment makes so much sense and is supported by research. I also noticed a common thread throughout many of the presentations from the subcommittees, we have to take a look at legislation, not only Orange County legislation or city municipality legislation but also state-level legislation. I continue to recommend that we have a specific conversation or potentially a specific fifth subcommittee so we can make the recommendations apparent, clear, and a priority of the task force.

**Next Steps and Task Force Calendar:** Co-Chair Coffin thanked everyone for their comments and the extra time today. The next meeting of the full Task Force will be on January 15th from 2 pm – 4 pm at the South Econ Park Magic Gym. In your packet, you will find the information repeated as well. If the committee co-chairs or members seek data, please contact Carol Burkett, and she will work with the appropriate agency to get the information for you. Thanked Carol for her assistance. In addition, Co-Chair Coffin, reminded everyone about the website [www.ocfl.net/SafetyTaskForce](http://www.ocfl.net/SafetyTaskForce) and the Citizens Safety Task Force email for questions and comments.

**Closing Remarks:** Co-Chair Love provided closing comments and reminded everyone that we only have two months left. He also thanked staff for their work.

Mayor Demings - I am encouraged by the dialogue that I'm hearing. None of us have all the answers or solutions that we are trying to address. The goal is to end with something that can be implemented in this community that will outlive all of us. Don't be bashful in your commentary; not everyone will agree with you. If you make statements, it does not mean you are right or wrong, but everyone should be heard. This group was not put in place to be steered by the government. It was put in place to have the government help facilitate the conversation. The goal is to take the recommendations and institutionalize them to bring in all segments of our community. I remain optimistic that we can get there. This is something that must last for the long-haul. I know that many of you have been doing this work for a while but don't be deterred by your frustration. These issues are complex, and emotions remain in the fight. It is my commitment is to listen to you and respond appropriately.

Adam Hartnett – indicated that we talked about some serious recommendations during open discussion and we did not have time to respond.

Co-Chair Love requested that the comments and suggestions made during Open Discussion be provided to the task force members. Specifically, he would like for each subcommittee to discuss the suggestions below and receive feedback from the subcommittee members, which can be brought back to the next full task force meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm