

Contact Name	On behalf of org?	If yes, name of organization	County	Would you like to join our email list?	May we contact you about your feedback?	Message Type:	Law Enforcement Hiring and Training	Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability	Criminal Justice Practices and Accountability	Feedback
Wallace Evans	No		Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X			Why is this only a police problem?! I've seen many People,White and Black be rude, belligerent and disrespectful to polite police officers. I have been stopped about 10 times in my life,twice told to put my hands on the dash.I have had police come to my house 3 times for various reasons,asked to see my drivers license while in my house.I was polite and did exactly what they asked me to do. Never had a bad encounter,never arrested. Why? Because I followed their orders. I was upset a couple of times,however I knew they were doing there job. I think if parents will not teach kids how to respect the police,then we need courses in school with officers talking to classes so young adults understand the police are there to help! Ray Cooper! Why will you not stop "peaceful" riots in our state?! Most protesters are peaceful,arrest the the terrorist .That is what they are! Where are you when needed? Why were the criminals not arrested on the spot when tearing down monuments in Raleigh on the spot? TV crews there to tape it so police had to be there also this has got to stop. If your afraid to step in call military these thugs and you cannot call them anything else need to be controlled. Protest stop when they start destroying.
Michael Dockery	No		Gaston	No	Yes	Questions			X	I served as Magistrate in Orange County some years ago. We were authorized to follow the law re: pre-trial release/detention and, at the time, no other county in this state did, and openly ridiculed us for not jailing people as the pre-trial norm. We should require that bail is set according to the law (i.e., only detain if threat to person, risk of flight, etc.) not according to a cash bond chart for Magistrates to follow with no discretion or individual discretion.
Ben Popkin	No		Orange	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	I would like law enforcement officers to be required to have more training on de-escalation, psychology, trauma-informed, mental health, etc. I do not believe the current law enforcement training is sufficient. I think we should require at least an associates degree in criminal justice. I'd like to see social workers and crisis intervention teams in law enforcement. I am completely against the militarization of law enforcement.
Sara Harrington	No		Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	X	In the criminal justice arena, I would like more interventions, trauma informed care, more youth dealt with as juveniles, instead of adults, and social services involved. I hope you will consider repeal of the Felony Murder Rule. It is used mostly against young black men (although it is unfair and unwise whenever used).
Chris Fialko, crimina	No		Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	As for trying to change police culture, Judges must take more responsibility in examining and questioning the affidavits and testimony of police officers. When they get away with lying, it makes them believe their behavior will never be challenged. I believe that the executive branch of our state and our prosecutors need to be stronger in their actions on behalf of court involved people. I think the response to early release from DAC for COVID was tepid and what is still considered adequate precautions for inmates is a far cry from what you would accept for your families. It is a time for clemency and a time to seriously re-evaluate who is prosecuted, for what crimes, and how long the state seeks for people to remain in prison.
Phoebe Dee	No		Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X	I am an attorney, and one important aspect of building justice for people is attorney training. Presently, NC Bar CLE requirements insist upon a 2 day new lawyer CLE for new admittees. They must complete the long, boring, redundant 2 day session that covers the material from the bar exam and MPRE exam. What about requiring anti-racism/ anti oppression training or curriculum during that CLE to lay the framework? Not diversity and inclusion training: Anti Racism training.
Margaret Teich	No		Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X	X	Additionally, I have been representing a client on her parole matter. The parole review board in this state is so opaque. Their process, their criteria. It has been shocking to see so little transparency over why they deny or authorize parole. It feels deeply unfair. The contracts that local police have in our high schools to act as SRO criminalizes everything. Even with the efforts they have been trying to put into place for School Justice. I attended Asheville High back in late 90s and early aughts and we didn't have officers there. Now, I represent juveniles charged at that school, and others, because SROs are seeking to criminalize silly kid behavior. There has got to be a better way.
Ashley Cannon	No		Iredell	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	X	I am a criminal defense attorney in Iredell County and have some concerns about local law enforcement policies. In particular, the Iredell County Sheriff's Office has a policy that none of the law enforcement officers are permitted to wear body-cam, dash-cam, or record ANY interactions with suspects or the community. I work primarily on major felony cases in this county and have questioned several officers under oath about the policy. They are not even permitted to record their interviews with suspects or victims in their investigations and violate this policy if they do so. To my knowledge, this is not a policy based on financial constraints but on the preference of our elected sheriff. It is dangerous for both alleged perpetrators of crime and law enforcement officers themselves. I hope this is something the task force might have time to review. I've experienced racism from both ends an African American Cop with NYPD. Because I grew up on Long Island and my community was mixed; black, white, spanish, etc. When I got to my first command in East Flatbush, some of the black cops stayed in their clicks, and the white cops stayed in theirs. very few were mixed and if I hung around one group for too long, I was always picked on. It was discouraging. So when those same groups are out on the streets, rest assured the community suffered the same fate. I would have so much more to say about the struggles inside and outside the department.
Vernon Siders Jr.	No		Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X		I'm really concerned and kind of scared to see everything that's going on in other states. I'm afraid that it would come to North Carolina and what can you do to reassure me? everybody that stifling me statues is saying that they offend for this reason or that reason but it offends me that they're getting rid of our history don't let this come to North Carolina.
Jerri King	No		Robeson	No	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	X	You have a sheriff in Duplin County publicly saying he will not enforce your guidelines you currently put in place for Covid. Majority of my family lives there and not only is it unprofessional, it's deadly. I have screenshots it you need more info, but it's currently on Sheriff Blake and the Duplin County Sheriff's Department Facebook page. This kind of leadership has to go. Thank you for all that you have done.
Montell	Yes	Citizens of Duplin Cou	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X		

Greetings Governor Cooper and the Honorable Chairpersons and Task Force Members,

It has come to my attention just today that a piece of legislation (Senate Bill 168) passed on Friday (See article below). It is my opinion this is problematic, and since it is on Governor Cooper's desk for signature, regardless of anyone's political persuasion, I am encouraging him to veto this Bill. While I have been a supporter of Governor Cooper, this is not about politics for me. This is about doing what is right for those who need a voice, those we give a voice to as attorneys, and transparency around law enforcement practices, criminal justice practices and accountability. To have such a Bill pass so swiftly and so soon after this task force has come into existence, places the very issues that will come before this committee in question if we do not stop such legislation as SB 168. The time is now, a time when justice is called for, when transformative change is needed more than ever. It speaks to our mission as attorneys, pastors, advocates and anyone with a stake in our North Carolina Community.

https://www.journalnow.com/news/state/public-records-in-death-investigations-would-be-limited-through-legislation-passed-by-north-carolina-general/article_5e612f0e-e097-5453-ba90-92797fbb1d2b.amp.html

I do not practice criminal law, but the basis for this legislation feels very much like what we call "pretext" in the civil law world. This piece of legislation is even more relevant in light of the situation with George Floyd and the release of evidence with regard to his cause of death. It is important that North Carolinians are not faced with another piece of legislation undertaken so soon and swiftly without discussion as to appear to be under cover and in the dark of night.

Mary Pollard, ED of the North Carolina Prison Legal Services, is quoted in the referenced article above, and I believe her comments to be "spot-on." She is well versed and brings a ton of experience and knowledge to the issues this piece of legislation addresses. In light of trying to move the needle forward, in these defining times, SB 168 seems to do just the opposite. Even if the argument as advanced by the NCDHHS is taken as true, the harm it will do outweighs the purported benefit that has not been substantiated by actual incidents of delay.

I ask for and am encouraging Governor Cooper to veto this Bill and not sign it into law. Thank you and be well.

I've asked Jonathan Kappler to forward 3 prior emails that concisely hit many points. One to elaborate on is I believe police need better suited and ongoing training in how to physically effectuate an arrest because I believe that could avoid escalation to weapons. The Rayshard Brooks case jumps out there, but the Ga body slam case shows an officer using a body slam seemingly out of professional wrestling on an innocent man. There are other ways to gain compliance. I think a belted system with professional standards with a suitable ethos and use of force standards needs to be inculcated. I don't believe military combative are the answer and I believe this all needs to be open to civilian review. In fact, I believe the entire law enforcement curriculum needs civilian review. In highlighting physical training, I just want to say expectations should be in line with time spent at the firing range. Handcuffs come out more often than guns. Training in use of force with guns must take into account where stray bullets will go, noting not only was Brooks shot in the back another car with passengers was hit. The massive sick out after the filing of charges there may show how deep the problem goes relative to improper values and judgment in use of force. In fact, I question whether we can have an armed force with lower educational standards than RNs, not to mention continuing education standards. I think state standards are needed because I don't believe every jurisdiction has the will or desire to problem solve. One issue I haven't addressed before and want to mention in passing is the need for trial diversion programs wherever suitable, requiring concerted effort at another level, noting the percentage of Black males who end up losing voting rights due to criminal process, not to mention high US incarceration rates overall. We have a system inequitable on many levels. Police may be the current focus due to brutality, but other systemic issues are also in play. Note that I've worked on police crisis team intervention training in the past. Hopefully my 3 prior emails are also somewhere in the shuffle. The events here in my hometown of Morganton NC have upset me greatly and at this point I have to let my opinions be known! The downtown Confederate statue has cause great controversy and remains painful for many here! I just think it is very important that law enforcement in small communities like mine are well trained on treating everyone with respect and dignity regardless of their color, sexual orientation, disability, or immigration status! There are many cops that do a great job and understand being fair to the citizens however there are still hate in many communities like mine which I hate so very much! Very simply put, Veto SB 168.

Without transparency there is a line of accountability that disappears. Police culture is steeped in a no-snitch favors-system that results in corruption and oversight. There is a lack of training in regards to health and I wouldn't trust most police officers to provide CPR, much less recognize a man with autism having a sensory overload. Be transparent and fix the problem, don't hide it. And how much mental-emotional screening and support is offered to them only makes matters worse. I would like to receive updates and news related to the TREC. I teach classes via OLLI@DUKE related to Criminal & Social Justice and would like to include discussions about the task force on my classes. I want to stay updated.

Jasmine said this is the way for anyone to get on the mailing list - state employees, others working on this included. I would like to keep up to date on your efforts. I would like to know what the task force will do to advocate for wrap around services for students and others who would benefit from counselors within the school system and/or increased mental health resources for our residents, it is indirect but a drain on police resources to have to address that need for example. Thank you, TJ Cawley I am reaching out in behalf, of a convicted NC resident, currently serving a sentence at Maury Correctional. I am seeking information and review of this case, as it potentially relates to an excessive over-sentencing. Thanks for your response.

I am a Black Man who has experienced Racial Profiling on more than one occasion during my 40+ years living the the State of NC. I've learned to never question authority during the encounter and to always be obedient and respectful. My question/concern is more from the perspective of having a tool to report these instances after the fact in a way that would hold the official accountable for racial profiling creating a track record that would affect their personnel record in terms of promotions, raises, and even renewal of their employment on year to year basis.

Second....I hope that the Task Force will be looking at Public Schools and the biases that exist in terms of Expulsion and when law enforcement is asked to intervene. Statistics show that there is a huge skew in the number of minorities that have these tools used against them and then the life long affects it has on the children who become victims of this type of discipline.

Thank You for your service.....You are truly doing God's work here!!!

Bartina L Edwards	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
John Owen	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Larry Allen Creasma	No	Burke	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X
Jessica Mitchell	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Mark Hall	No	Johnston	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X
Nazneen Ahmed	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions		X
Jenni Owen	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Questions		X
TJ Cawley	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	
Sidra Hanna	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X
Skip Williams	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	

									<p>Will the task force be able to make suggestions/recommendations to:</p> <p>Have state legislature support better policing methods/best practices by funding the CALEA accreditation of any NC municipal police force which wishes to pursue the accreditation?</p> <p>Permit those with felony convictions who have served their sentence to vote?</p> <p>Work collaboratively with National League of Cities REAL Initiative (https://www.nlc.org/program-initiative/race-equity-and-leadership-real)?</p> <p>Promote and educate as many people as possible through various social media and other communications channels about their own implicit biases through quick and easy tools and apps? such as https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectest.html</p> <p>Suggest/Compel all law enforcement organizations to enact "Duty to Intervene" and "Duty to Report" when colleagues are acting outside of stated organizational policies?</p> <p>Thank you all for your efforts and best wishes for the success of your group, Please let us elected officials know how we can support your work.</p> <p>Best, TJ Cawley Morrisville, NC N/A</p> <p>I am a woman of color was hit by a caucasian attorney Travis Morton in the Granville clerk's office. I made a report pf assault to Granville county sheriff's off. I filed with magistrate. I arrived to hearing , waited many hours but case not called, and learned the district attorney had dismissed it without speaking to me. He said clerk said nothing happened but clerk Yancey Washington was not in his office when I was hit by Travis plus I had 2 witnesses, Retired Judge Pattie Harrison was in court and she checked on it and said case was wrongly dismissed on a day when no court of this type was not held. She suggested I report all involved to NC State Bar but nothing changed. This same attorney then filed a false eviction against me saying another Caucasian attorney Robert Monroe has an oral lease on my parent's home. We owned it with zero mortgage. This eviction- summary enactment was a lie. I had lived in home 13 years and was not served. This was fraud. These 2 attorneys with a deputy with gun forced me out. They took all my property and my Mom 's property. Monroe illegally sold home via obtaining property by false pretense, District Attorney Waters refused to proceed to process Attorney Monroe. I am not accepting if this apparent racial injustice. Why can Caucasian attorneys get way with crimes?</p> <p>My Mom , Mrs. Evelyn Bass, was temporarily living in a 55 plus apartment in Brief Creek Raleigh NC. Mom was placed in a guardianship but had no dye process, not served not in court in Wake county. When her 2 daughters resigned as guardians, Clerk Jennifer Knox, granddaughter of US Senator Jesse Velma appointed without due process Wake County Human Services as guardian of person and caucasian attorney Robert Monroe as guardian of estate. This was monetarily protective services case. It was revenge from clerk Knox when I reported her in a grievance to district judge Rader. Mom retained rights to vote, choose living arrangements, but Wake county illegally forced Mom out of her apartment, then attorney Robert Monroe took all her property and my property in apartment. I called Raleigh police. They were dismissive and my Mom was missing 3 years. I reported the conversion of our property by Monroe but even now, Raleigh Detective gas not followed up.</p> <p>A missing Black 95 year old woman who was kidnapped, all property taken in an adult guardianship scam fraud but no help from police, There is not equal protection under the law in Wake county, I have others in our advocacy group of these same crimes against minority elderly and their families being ripped from homes, all property taken, even my Mom 's home, 10 acre farm, commercial property in Creedmoor NC taken but law enforcement has not stopped these crimes against us.</p> <p>I request an investigation. Our rights were violated. Mom is a captive at Pinecrest Gardens assisted living in Lillington NC This attorney Monroe sells such ill gotten property to some Raleigh police and they refuse to investigate him. My Mom and I require justice and restitution. Many minorities are in this scam but no justice from police. These are cases of kidnapping, deprivation of rights, voting rights stolen, discrimination, all property stolen in Raleigh,North Carolina.</p>
TJ Cawley Tiffany theanacho	No Yes	Wake Buncombe	Yes Yes	Yes No	Questions Policies and Resources	X		X	
Vickie Bass	Yes	Concerned Citizens of Granville	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X		X	
Vickie Bass for Mrs E	Yes	Concerned Citizens of Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X		X	
Vickie Bass	Yes	Concerned Citizens of Granville	Yes	Yes	Questions	X		X	
Cierra Motley Flint Benson	No No	Guilford Johnston	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Experiences Experiences	X	X	X	
Ruth Parker-Bellamy	No	Nash	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X	X	
Jamie Lau	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	
								<p>Thank you.</p> <p>Vickie Bass, MSPH, MPA (919) 480-5514 Holding Prosecution and Law enforcement accountable for with holding evidence falsifying documents offering guilty pleas without fully investigating the case causing plenty of wrongful convictions just signing up for email updates I'm concerned about strategies used to motivate inclusion of residents in various communities with awareness, decision making, and accountability to bring about unity and respect on all levels.</p> <p>Racial equity and the elimination of systemic racism cannot be achieved without a willingness to look back at the impact of racism on the existing prison population. Without looking backward, the distrust of law enforcement and the CJS will continue. While all of the things listed below may are not necessarily backwards looking, I hope they will be considered by the task force to increase fairness in our criminal justice system.</p> <p>(1) Create a public integrity division with authority to prosecute and investigate misconduct by state actors, including local government actors, DA's, law enforcement officers and correctional officers. Prosecutorial authority can reside here and overlap with the jurisdiction of local DAs.</p> <p>(2) Revise general statute to give A.G.'s Office explicit authority to move in trial court for a dismissal if prosecutorial or law enforcement misconduct is discovered during appellate or post-conviction proceedings.</p> <p>(3) A review of incarcerated population, sentencing lengths, and modification of sentences where they appear grossly disproportionate to what would be received under the sentencing structure today.</p> <p>(4) A change to the general statute to create a presumption that eligible offenders receive parole after 25 years (or some number of years based on the type of crime) unless they have violent infractions while incarcerated. The parole process is arbitrary, so this would make parole the default and remove discretion.</p> <p>Finally, life without parole sentences and the death penalty should be eliminated. It would make prisons safer if all offenders had hope, and it would also reduce the harm caused by wrongful convictions if every offender had the opportunity to reenter society. I think everyone should have a chance to rehabilitate themselves while incarcerated.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jamie Lau</p>	

Rosemarie Calvoni	Yes	Stop the School to Pris Union	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
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I created a Petition to Stop the School to Prison Pipeline. I have studied this area for the past 2 years and have seen what goes on first hand. It needs to be refined. Too many children are charged for behaviors that are manifestations of their disabilities. Children of color are 3 times more likely to be charged than their white peers. Behaviors should be handled by school administrators, not police. The police should be protecting the school, not policing our students.

Elizabeth Crudup	No	Harnett	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X	X
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I made comment on all 3 areas on the zoom meeting comment section, did anyone take a look? Very few people know this form even exists. Also, inmates who gave affidavits about the deplorable declining conditions in prison during the pandemic are now being retaliated against by the state. Shannon Nyamodi 1421494, has been threatened with torture if he or I speak out about the worsening conditions in the prison. His name was removed from the innocence inquiry commission caseload. They also shipped in an inmate who has bashed Shannon's head in with a brick in the past. The Prison Warden Stephen Jacobs and his assistant Mary Locklear are of particular concern. Can members of this task force in their individual or collective roles intervene and save Shannon's life? #FreeShannonNyamodi
 When a wrongfully incarcerated person is denied their fight to regain their freedom and then threatened with torture for speaking the truth, should we not do everything in our power to help save their lives? Shannon Nyamodi would make an EXCELLENT addition to this task force. None of you have been processed through the system so all you have is X-ray vision. And the data will not have stakeholders in the system telling of how underhanded they can be. Shannon, extremely intelligent and articulate, can provide laparoscopic precision as to where the system fails. I snare the following with my local mayor, city council members and police dept. write written for local consideration I think there may be some points that the task force may consider at a state level.

Anguish to Action

I can no longer just use social media to express my sadness, grief, and frustration. I can no longer sit in silence. It's time for "real change". The system does not work, it really has never worked in this country for black people - Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, Black Migration, Southern Redemption, Jim Crow, Civil Rights...all periods in history that never really gave equality to African Americans. It's time for change, and we must start in our own communities.

Pursuit for Justice and Equality:

What can be done to show that Greensboro is a community that believes in equal rights for all? How can we show that we walk the walk and not just utter moral platitudes to calm our city in attempts to "get back to normal"? How do we start the process of facing down inequity and injustice in our community? There are many actions that need to be taken, and I will not deny some progress has been made but it is now time for more "radical change". Our community must tackle the big issues relating to equality - Housing; Health Care (medical and mental health care); Education; Criminal Justice, and Safety.
 Today I want to focus my thoughts on safety and "Police Reform".

Police Reform:

My ideal - Greensboro is a City that is Safe & Just. We need reforms that create safer policing and increased trust between communities and law enforcement. Not merely a set of written policies and reforms, we need a cultural change within the police department. We need to make community policing come alive in Greensboro. Community policing combines a focus on intervention and prevention through problem solving and building collaborative partnerships between law enforcement officers and the community. Community policing "must" be the core principle that lies at the foundation of the police department's culture. Not just a program or project that only involves a group of officers but a cultural shift that permeates throughout the department.

Community Based Policing:

I am sure there are many ways to approach changing policing to a community based focus. Therefore I don't want to suggest that my ideas are the best or even the right ones for Greensboro, but we need changes that are more radical than what we have done in the past and we need to shift the thinking about policing in our communities.
 First, I think we need to rethink who are our first responders in nonviolent situations. In Greensboro, police are being called and dispatched to various types of nonviolent situations. In many instances these calls can and should be handled by community trained professionals. For Subject matter expert

Paula Pierce	No	Guilford	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
James R. Brunet	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		X

I hope the Task Force will look at the ACLU's 2020 report "A Tale of Two Countries: Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform": <https://www.aclu.org/report/tale-two-countries-racially-targeted-arrests-era-marijuana-reform> particularly the interactive graphics on North Carolina: <https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC1> also would encourage you to talk with Virginia's Attorney Mark R. Herring who strongly supports reform of cannabis, and held a Cannabis Summit in 2019: <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/1588-december-11-2019-herring-hosting-virginia-cannabis-summit> Herring has called for for immediate decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana, action to address past convictions, and a move towards legal and regulated adult use.

"I don't believe that Virginia's current approach of criminalizing cannabis is working," Attorney General Herring said in opening remarks kicking off the summit. "It is needlessly creating criminals and burdening Virginians with convictions. The human and social costs are enormous, in addition to the millions of dollars it costs Virginia taxpayers. And the negative consequences of the current approach fall disproportionately on African Americans and people of color. It's clear to me that the time for cannabis reform has come. Justice demands it. Virginians are demanding it. And I'm going to help make sure we get this right." Although North Carolina "decriminalized" possession in 1977, the fines and fees associated with enforcement are an incentive for law enforcement to continue charging people with petty possession. The ACLU recommends: For Federal, State, and Local Governments:

Legalize marijuana use and possession • Do not replace marijuana prohibition with a system of fines, fees, and arrests • Grant clemency to or resentence anyone incarcerated on a marijuana conviction and expunge all marijuana convictions • Eliminate collateral consequences that result from marijuana arrests or convictions • Ensure new legal markets benefit and are accessible to communities most harmed by the War on Drugs • Ensure marijuana possession and other low-level offense arrests are not included in performance measures for federal funding

For Law Enforcement Agencies:

End the enforcement of marijuana possession and distribution • End racial profiling by police • Eliminate consent searches • End the practice of using raw numbers of stops, citations, summons, and arrests as a metric to measure productivity and efficacy • Develop systems for the routine collection of accurate data on a range of police practices • Invest in nonpunitive programs and community-based services and divest from law enforcement • Develop, secure, and implement strong, independent, and effective oversight mechanisms for local law enforcement Note that while reforming marijuana laws will not solve the entirety of the problem, it can be a significant part of the solution.

Ann Twitty Caughra	Yes	NC NORML (I am the T Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
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Katrina Ramquist W	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Katrina Ramquist W	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X
Kate Griffin	No	New Hanover		Yes	Experiences		X
Gerry Bernstein	No	Chatham	Yes	Yes	Questions		X
Teresa Lattanzi	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	
Shirley Hill	No	Johnston	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X
Wayne	No	New Hanover	No	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	
Dr. William Price	No	Durham	No	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	
David Maynard	No	Durham	Yes	No	Policies and Resources	X	
Barbara Dancy	No	Watauga	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	
Jackie D Pendergras	No	Cherokee	No	Yes	Policies and Resources		X
Joshua McClinton	Yes	Craven	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X
David Tarpley	No	Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X
Molly Roush	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	

Dear Esteemed Task Force,

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely.

<https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC>

The prohibition of cannabis is giving the police cause for more invasion and less protecting and safety. There is nothing inherently dangerous about the possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use declines, alcohol use declines, as do alcohol-involved car crashes. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you.

I was in the unfortunate position of having been searched, without consent, on suspicion of "smell" of cannabis. It is unconscionable that people are subject to such invasion of privacy and personal space and personal choice. Cannabis is much safer, with fewer negative health impacts, and less violent behavior than alcohol. There is so much sound research on the waste we create with criminalization of cannabis, lives destroyed, and cut short due (Keith Lamont Scott) to this prohibition that was built on racism at its inception. The Drug War is not only a war on Black people, but is a war on those without money or resources and kicks off an endless spiral of criminal involvement, poverty, lost job opportunities, and more poverty, for which there is no escape. I would like to direct you to a compilation of curated, thoroughly-vetted, peer-reviewed studies that demonstrate safety and revenue would increase by legalization of cannabis. <https://www.ncnonrml.org/research-crime/> Thank you!

The group in Wilmington which is attempting to abolish the Bail system has made wonderful progress in informing citizens of the horrible Bail places on especially Black Citizens. I don't have to tell you that if you are in jail you can't work to make money to pay your bail. We are members of an elite club as one country in the group of 2!!!! Other countries don't punish people in the cruel way we do before they are convicted. I'm not going on about something that the two of you wonderful people know all about.

Kate

I'm not sure what this calls for.

I have the most respect for our law officers and they do not deserve the treatment they are getting.

I don't understand how there is racial injustice. If a black does the crime then the black should be arrested. I have a lot of black friends and they don't see the problem. I don't like that everyone is taking away what we the whites want and like to appease the blacks. Maybe police need more training but taking down statues and caving in demands does not solve the problem. To me it just caused more division. Please go to our schools and teach our young children how to respond when pulled over on our roads, or approached by law officers. Educate the soon to be drivers. IT WILL SAVE LIVES.

Your own aid overseeing the response to the opioid epidemic buys into the falsehood that buprenorphine is just another narcotic that causes addiction. If you want some social justice done, start by throwing in jail the insurance executives who allow to deny prescriptions for this safe, lifesaving drug. When prescriptions are denied, it's the minorities who cannot reach into their back pocket to pay for treatment.

I mainly want to know what you are proposing and how you are going to try to derail the law enforcement in this state so you can make the know nothing governor of the state look good to the National Democratic Party and the socialists in Washington want each of you to do So you can be called a good follower of their radical ideas.

There's no profession that doesn't have a bad apple or two, but that doesn't mean everyone is bad. Same with law enforcement and every since President Obama took a stand against law enforcement, it's been more difficult to hire good people. When we see these videos, there's no audio and lots of times it looks like the perpetrator is talking back and in some cases they're even trying to get away (resist) but it still seems to be law enforcement's fault if they have to use force to stop them from fleeing. It boils down to there being no respect for authority from parents to the President. Football players who make big money demonstrate disrespect when they kneel for the anthem when they should be setting an example of how being respectful is the appropriate way to behave. So many kids don't have good examples at home to teach them respect since their fathers didn't respect their mothers enough to stay around when they found out the woman was pregnant after they had their "fun." What happened to George Floyd was unfortunate and not deserved but that's not often the case. The guy in Atlanta seemed to be cooperating at first, then ran away and even though he was fleeing, the white policemen still got fired so what message does that send - don't attempt to arrest offenders if they're not caucasian because you can get fired? So now it seems looters and rioters are getting away with anything and everything including murder. Our nation has turned its back on God and has legalized the sins of murder (abortion) and the sexual sin of homosexuality, which God calls an abomination. It started when prayer was removed from schools. Sin is the root of all our problems. School teachers want raises but there's no money because there's so much disrespect they have to pay a teacher's aide to help keep peace in the classroom of about 20 students. When I was in school, we had one teacher for 30 students and no teachers aide and no problem with violence. Teachers were allowed to discipline and we knew if we were disciplined at school, we would get it again at home. Now if a child complains about something that happened at school, then the parents go to the school and blame the teacher. There's always two sides to every story and when my kids came home with a complaint, I went to the school but to find out the other side of the story. I didn't jump to the conclusion that my child was always in the right and the teacher, or the other child that may have been involved was in the wrong. Faith in God and respect for others would go a long way in injustice of all kinds. Taking sides with those who are disrespectful and do not follow orders is not the way to go no matter the color of their skin. I am not racist, I grew up in the south but my first encounter with black violence was in Baltimore Maryland when a white elderly woman was walking down a sidewalk on crutches and a young black man came up behind her with a milk jug and used it to knock a crutch out from under her. My conclusion was that racism was more a problem in the north than in the south. I was a senior in high school when schools were integrated and we had no problems. My great grandfather fought for the union and was killed by confederates in Tennessee. All slaves weren't mistreated, some were treated like family and there's nobody alive today that participated in slavery.

I reported a murder a few years ago that occurred in Etowah.

The woman who was convicted was wrongfully accused and subsequently died in prison when in fact, it should have been James Gash convicted of the murder.

As a man of color I faced racial bias in Craven County court. My children have been illegally taken from my custody despite the fact that I was awarded sole custody. I live in Hawaii, where my kids and I are from. I let my kids visit my ex wife in NC and she uses the racist court to get fraudulent orders against me to prevent me from being able to have contact with my kids. The local police have refused to conduct welfare checks and continue to deny my parental rights. This is blatant custodial interference that has been occurring for two years.

Sounds like the media and news keeps stirring up racism. We just had a black president for eight years and I don't see that much racism around Asheville North Carolina or Buncombe County

I don't understand what I'm offering feedback on. I do believe that law enforcement hiring practices must be more restrictive and training must be more rigid to include sensitivity and racial equity seminars. Ongoing sensitivity training must be part of employment standards and reviews. Body cameras and in-car audio tapes should be mandatory and reviewed regularly.

EMERSON VELER	No	Scotland	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		
Roy Taylor	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences X	X	X	
Stanley H Levine	No	Chatham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	
Wendy Miller	No	Cabarrus	Yes	No	Experiences		X	
Sarah Taylor	No	Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X	X
Linda Barber	No	Moore	Yes	Yes	Experiences X			
Ronald Keeney	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences X	X	X	X
Michael Williams	No	Forsyth	No	Yes	Experiences		X	
Esther Murphy	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Experiences X	X		X
Conni Rieske	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
Elretha Perkins	Yes	Perkins Professional D	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X
Cheryl Davis	No	Rockingham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	
Efram Pierce	No	Guilford	No	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	
Joshua Smith	No	Mecklenburg	No	Yes	Policies and Resources			X

1. Model portion of situational training after real events which were not handled well.
2. New officers required to wear body cams with live feeds, if economically feasible, for a probationary period. If not live feeds, assign an auditor to review live feeds go out in field and request device for review if not a live feed. The threat of review may be enough. If a new officer. Determine procedures to "spot" review. Questionable acts referred to HR committee or citizens' committee for review. Terminate if behavior is deemed unacceptable.
3. All officers required to wear body cams.
I have been in law enforcement 40 years, 26 of this as a Chief of Police. I am also a NC law enforcement instructor and a Police Practices Expert in Federal Court.
In addition, I am writing the final 2 chapters of my Ph.D dissertation on crisis intervention.
I believe I could offer a lot of relevant information and experience to the task force.
Best regards
I am a member of a group called Braver Angels of the Triangle. We try to resolve issues by fostering discussions between both sides and look for common ground. We recently has a discussion on "Defunding the Police". We had participants with many viewpoints! I can share my perspective and a summary of the discussions if you are interested.
My stepson was a habitual criminal using and selling drugs on a small basis. When he was paroled, the only thing the parole officer seemed to be interested in was getting the money my stepson had to pay him each time he visited. If that doesn't make any sense to me. My husband was supporting him financially, and it wasn't a problem to pay, but what's the point of that? For people on parole who have no financial resources this would present obviously, a serious problem. And I see no point, none at all.
As a social worker in Baltimore and a community organizer in a low-income part of town I saw and heard how the police treat people of color. They are not kind to them and go into a situation assuming they are all criminals. I believe this is mostly due to our media and for the past decade, the media treat people of color as criminals. When white people do the same thing the media calls them 'Very nice people'. This is what those in power do, they have been doing it from the beginning of our country, they divide us by our differences so we don't rise up and over throw them.
Training of diversity and culture of the residents being served should be a more intense part of the training. Working with the residents and being proactive in building relationships should be a high priority. I appreciate all you have done for the children of illegal aliens born in USA. As a school teacher it is heartbreaking to see children afraid of coming to school because of their families situation. My experience has been that many of illegals have a work ethic and family values that are admirable. There are always a few "bad apples" and these folks should be dealt with quickly. Thank you for serving the people of North Carolina.

I am a 77 y/o, White grandfather of six mixed-race grandchildren and the great grandfather of seven mixed-race children, both African-American and Hispanic (Mexican and Honduran). Since having these grandchildren and great grandchildren, I have become aware of my own racism and how hidden our systemic racism and white privilege are in our culture. I am learning from their experiences and their friends' experiences. What I have learned is that our local police forces (Cary and Raleigh) are not without guilt in the matter. My first grandson, whose father was a Kenyan student at NCSU has probably experienced the most systemic racism of all my "kids." He gets stopped by the police at least monthly, the record being 13 times in one month, for "driving while black." He even had a police "sting operation" perpetrated against him. I think he would be willing to share this experience if he can be assured that there will be no repercussions. Confidence in the police runs pretty thin in this family, you see. It cost us \$10,000 to hire a good attorney to clear him of this police assault on his character, and then only because the "drug" they had planted on him was an inert, white powder, not a drug at all. The prosecuting attorney argued that because or "intent" he still should be held to account. Really? I figured that this was the Raleigh Police's way to keep their arrest numbers in line with their bosses' expectations without risking a potentially dangerous, actual, criminal confrontation. I am also a retired pediatrician who used to work with Raleigh Police and Wake County judges (E.G., George Basin, may he rest in peace, and Mike Payne) to bring resolution to cases of child abuse that turned up at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh where I was doing volunteer pediatric attending with UNC med students. From my first-hand experiences with Raleigh Police, I had very positive feelings. I guess you have to be black to see the other side of policing polly! If I can help, I will. I think other family members would, too. As a mixed race family, we have seen racism from three sides - white, black and brown. We think it is time for all Americans to have a fair chance at "the American dream," like I did.

19 fatal police shootings this year in NC. 16 white victims, 3 black victims. Over the last five years, basically 2.5 to 1 ratio, white to black killed by officers. In 2019, 1 black American per every 3.1 million black Americans were shot and killed by police. On the other hand, in 2019, 1 officer per every 14,300 were killed in the line of duty. Whose life matters? These numbers despite the fact that the majority of our time is spent investigating crimes with black victims and black offenders. I would say not only do black lives matter to law enforcement, but they are valued more to law enforcement than those protesting in the streets yelling "defund the police." We work for these victims tirelessly while their communities continue to be ravaged by crime. At the same, time politicians and their friends in the media continue to say the police is the problem and call our profession "systemically racist." That is wrong and there isn't an ounce of data, no matter how you want to spin it supports such a inaccurate description of law enforcement, especially in NC. Keep up the war on police and see how it turns out. Its only going to highlight even more that we aren't the problem and never have been.

I'm a bit of a chameleon, I can "fit in" anywhere. I know, from personal, direct, lifelong experience that white supremacist racists recruit for every level in our 3rd branch of government - from law enforcement cadets to sheriffs, judges, and certainly DAs, jurists, and grand jury. The entire system is rotten with evil, violent hatred. The KKK and their terrorist ilk is thriving at every level in North Carolina. I hate that a relatively small group of bullies has managed to turn our justice system into an ineffective joke. These thugs and bullies have caused costly damage to 'things' as well as injuries to innocent bystanders. Not to mention how they are totally dismissing any type of police action against them, formerly known as law and order. And I feel it's unconscionable for the governor to outright refuse to hold them accountable. Those of us who believe in justice and the American way are outraged. I don't expect the silent majority to remain silent much longer.
I am a business owner and I have been since 1982. I never thought that I would have to hire a lawyer and spend money to defend my business because of the racism of individuals that were suppose to come in and help me. I have dedicated my life to the well-being of the children in this county and I have been treated just like George Floyd but at a different level and experience. Racism is real and I will fight for my rights. I am a professional and I have never experienced racism like I have over the last 2 years.
I've been in the car with my husband when we were followed and stopped by law enforcement just because he was driving a nice car. Please end the cannabis prohibition here. Hemp is legal and so is CBD. Make the whole cannabis plant legal to create new businesses and jobs. End the jail sentences. Use the profits for mental health facilities and for teachers and schools. Pave the roads.. Build sidewalks..invest in the community with the legal cannabis profits.
Dear Esteemed Task Force,

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider.

First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely (<https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC>)

There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline.

Thank you.

Douglas Loflin	No		Montgomery	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X		<p>In my experience I feel that police use marijuana as an excuse to unfairly police the minority groups. Most of my black friends have experienced police being hostile towards them if suspected to have marijuana. If you want to truly show support for the people give them back the freedom to use marijuana legally and responsibly. This would eradicate the underground market for marijuana and eliminate the gang activity. Plus it'll get the state government much needed tax dollars.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely.</p> <p>https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC</p> <p>The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and less to "protect and serve" all of us.</p> <p>Secondly, there is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you. Marijuana should be legalized and all people locked up for possession immediately released. Very wrong to feed poor people into a system to keep jails filled.</p> <p>North Carolina's Cannabis laws are outdated and out of step with the majority of voters in the state. I know many individuals who would benefit from a medical Marijuana program. Enacting such a program would reduce the rate of opioid use, as seen in other states with medical Marijuana programs. North Carolina needs to join the rest of the states that have enacted some sort of legal, compassionate laws that allow people to access a safer alternative form of medicine.</p> <p><i>ALSO HAS RESEARCH TARGETING PEOPLE IN COLOR FOR CANNABIS CONSUMPTION WITH THE LONG REPUTABLE, EVIDENCE-BASED-SCIENTIFIC POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOUND THAT REDUCING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR MARIJUANA OFFENSES IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED PROBABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG MALES, AND AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 4.5 PERCENT IN WEEKLY EARNINGS.</i></p> <p>The liberty to use marijuana was halted with the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937.³ The American Medical Association opposed restricting access to marijuana. Dr. William C Woodard testified that the Act would deprive US citizens benefits of a drug of substantial value.⁴ He countered the claims that marijuana resulted in addiction, violence, and overdoses. "The burden of this bill is placed heavily on the doctors and pharmacists of this country."</p> <p>The American pharmacopoeia listed marijuana as a useful drug for the treatment of numerous afflictions such as neuralgia, tetanus, typhus, cholera, rabies, anthrax, leprosy, tonsillitis, dysentery, insanity, and excessive menstrual and uterine bleedings.⁵ As far back 2459-2203 BCE archeologists found evidence of</p> <p>Contrary to Myths - Legalization Actually Reduces Criminal Activity</p> <p>The Economic Journal reported legalizing medical marijuana in states bordering Mexico led to significant reductions in homicides and aggravated assaults. Apparently the demand for marijuana smuggled illicitly marijuana used for medicinal purposes.</p> <p>A study funded by the National Institute of Health found that over a 6-year period that "states with medical cannabis laws had a 24.8% lower opioid overdose mortality rate. Each subsequent year further reduced opioid overdoses of 20% in the 1st year down to 33% in the 6th. Secondary analyses found similar results.</p> <p>Cannabis is often used by law enforcement as an excuse to arrest and imprison especially. The addiction rate for tobacco is 32%, alcohol (15%) while cannabis is 9%.</p> <p>Three years after recreational marijuana legalization in Washington and Colorado, vehicle crash fatality rates were not statistically different from those in similar states without recreational marijuana legalization.</p>
Julie W Albert	No		Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	
Leon Fortner	No		Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
Timothy Lyda	No		Henderson	No	No	Experiences	X		X
Adam	No		Caldwell	Yes	Yes	Questions	X		X
Ms Janis Ramquist	No		Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		X
Kathy Greggs	Yes	Fayetteville PACT	Cumberland	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		X
Larry Barnhill	No		Wake	No	Yes	Experiences			X

Hello,

I would like to participate in a forum to show an CRB with Independent Oversight Board for the cities and municipalities in NC. Having a Civilian Police Oversight Advisory for each CRB in the NC can give transparency and develop community equality and end racial disparities.

Josh you made the statement "our criminal justice system that systemically harm Black people." I am not aware of how our criminal justice system is biased against black people. Are there specifics? The isolated cases of abuse that have received so much attention on TV does not mean the system is broken. Are there any laws that single out black people for not being treated fairly? If so, these laws need to be reviewed. The black people I know have good jobs, nice homes, drive expensive cars, etc. Maybe they are exceptions, but I think it is because they have applied themselves and raised their standard of living by hard work and not depended on handouts. Sometimes minorities are given advantages that others do not have. For instance, the company where I worked before retiring would often bid on state contracts which stated that minority owned business would get first choice. I feel the justice system should treat all people the same, regardless of skin color.

North Carolina
 NORML (National
 Organization for the
 Reform of Marijuana
 Laws)
 NC NORML is a
 nonprofit cannabis
 consumer advocacy
 organization whose
 mission is to educate,
 empower, and
 activate North
 Carolinians and
 elected officials to
 honor the individual
 liberty of adult
 consumers to
 responsibly use
 and/or grow
 cannabis for medical
 or personal purposes.
 Find out more at
www.NCNORML.org

Katrina Ramquist W Yes Orange Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X X

Dear Esteemed Task Force,
 As a cannabis consumer advocacy organization, NC Norml has witnessed, for decades, the disparate enforcement of marijuana laws for Black, Brown, white, poor or wealthy North Carolinians. Although the rate of use for cannabis is equal across races, in North Carolina, overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession although the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely (ACLU, 2020).
 Cannabis was legal until about 80 years ago and after Alcohol Prohibition was repealed, law enforcement agencies focused on a new substance to criminalize. Cannabis was renamed to marijuana (implying Mexican) and Congress was pressured to make this medical substance illegal. Over the objections of the American Medical Association, they accomplished their goal. Brown and Black people continued to be targeted by law enforcement using cannabis as the excuse.
 The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive in court costs and arrest rates to violate our rights in ways that have nothing to do with protecting and serving communities. Studies demonstrate that when states legalize cannabis, driving under the influence of alcohol actually decreases.
 There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. Many states following legalization experienced declines in opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes. Youth access and use of cannabis also declines. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction and financial penalties for use and possession of plant material. According to Federal Bureau of Investigation records almost 50,000 North Carolinians were arrested for possession (not sales) of marijuana between 2014 and 2016 and those families faced major upheaval and financial hardship. Cannabis should be decriminalized. The Mayo Clinic reports that addiction rates to legal drugs Nicotine (32%) and alcohol (15%) are higher than marijuana (9%).
 Not to be overlooked, legalization of cannabis can potentially save lives. Between 1999-2016 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid overdose. Importantly, medical cannabis, a common practice a hundred years ago, has been substantiated by medical research in the last two decades.

North Carolina residents are vulnerable to arrest and criminal prosecution that residents in 33 states and the District of Columbia aren't. Decreasing penalties for marijuana possession has positive impacts on people's ability to become self-sufficient by improving their labor market opportunities.

A 2017 Elon University poll found that 80% of North Carolina voters support legislation that would legalize the medical use of marijuana and 45% approve of legalizing adult use. The whole policy of criminalizing cannabis should be re-evaluated.

The Rand Corporation research concluded that cannabis is not a gateway drug. Instead it is clear in the assessment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program data that criminalizing cannabis is actually a gateway to prison.

Hello!

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In my home County (Alamance) a black person is 4.7 times more likely to be arrested! Source:

<https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC>

The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and less to "protect and serve" all of us.

There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you.

North Carolina has a long history of racism to overcome. I think social outreach programs for poor neighborhoods would be a good start. The laws governing possession of marijuana were established by the Nixon administration as a way to stop the momentum of the black communities as they protested inequality, as well as attack the "Hippie" movement. These laws were not backed up by any viable data and several reports advised against the ban on marijuana. It is way past time for NC to move forward to legalize medical marijuana and move toward legal adult use. The interactions created by these unfair laws have created a hostile relationship between law enforcement and the communities of color. By eliminating this barrier and enabling more social interaction between law enforcement and the communities of color you can begin to build a trust. History is a tough barrier to overcome but I do feel that people are ready for a more cohesive relationship with police and would like to see the efforts of enforcement to be focused on the hard drugs such as heroin, meth and cocaine.
 Impoverished communities are often high crime areas. In an effort to survive people will turn a blind eye to small crimes such as selling single cigarettes or marijuana. This is how people offset their income and not lose social benefits. Unfortunately this leads young people toward a life of conflict with the local police. Legalizing marijuana will not solve all these issues but it will enable medical use, which may benefit people like me, who are looking for alternatives to a life long opiate habit and it will allow police to approach people of color with one less area of contention.

Our communities of color deserve a hand up and they need to feel safe with the officers who are sworn to protect them. I am sure there are plenty of good people in law enforcement today that have ideas of things that can be done better to help build a relationship with the communities of color. I suggest you listen closely to the officers who patrol our streets.

I hope this input is helpful.
 I'm contacting this task force as I believe strongly there is a clear disparity in the policing and enforcement of drug policy in my community - the black community. According to ACLU statistics (<https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC>), African Americans are 3.3x time more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession despite other statistics demonstrating both races use marijuana at the same rate. We can solve this problem as a whole by addressing the problem of marijuana legalization in our state.

As a constituent of yours, I am very passionate about the harm keeping marijuana illegal does to our community as it pushes minorities in prison over harmless offences. I want to vote for you Governor Roy Cooper, and I hope you can push our legislators to make marijuana legal for medical users and recreational users as polling of your constituency in NC shows the voters are on your side if you do (<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article148100559.html>).

Thomas Barna No Onslow Yes Yes Policies and Resources X

Kenneth Goodwin No Cumberland Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X

Thank you very much for reading this, and I hope you can bring the change we would like to see.

Chad Buschbach Lydia	No No	Wake Hoke	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Policies and Resources Policies and Resources X	X	X X
Steven Laney	No	Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Ed Glas	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X
Carrie Strickland	No	Pasquotank	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X
Reginald Sweat	No	Catawba	Yes	No	Policies and Resources X	X	X

Dear Esteemed Task Force,

"I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely.

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Legalize marijuana

Thank you for hearing me. We all know cannabis prohibition was made to use the fear of African Americans and Mexicans against the people of America, but why, Anslinger wanted a job and was given big money to stomp out any competition for petroleum and nylon companies in America going back to two main companies pumping money into Anslinger pocket to end the companies competition. That is so wrong the way it was set up and we still follow this Refer Madness scared to death because what we were made to believe. Cannabis has been used safely since the beginning of time now we here in America started the prohibition of cannabis and made it racial to gain more traction. Today it's the single most used law to take rights away from Americans, all of us with these words, I smell marijuana, it doesn't matter if they do or not and if your being profiled, the police are going to tear your car up trying to find a joint, especially if you are African American but I think it applies to more than that. If you are in the lower income or mid income it absolutely effects you. Most patients needing cannabis as a better alternative then opioids can not afford to move to a medical or cannabis legal state and why, NC is the best state in the country except one law destroying all America and worse right here in N.C. end Cannabis Prohibition, No more research is needed That's bs and we all know it. The law is racially set up and has caused enough damage, we all know that. We set up government by the people for the people and to that is not being done. No one in N.C. is listening to the people, we are the say so, we govern you. We the people have as a majority said for decades now we want cannabis prohibition abolished. We need medical cannabis we need legalization and we need the right to use what we choose for medicine especially if it's better, safer, I love N.C. but I'm tired of waiting 25 years for something that should of never been legalized in the first place and that's what we need to look at, acknowledge and change. Thank You, Free the Plant stop the prohibition and corruption
Thank you for taking my feedback!

A huge problem that disproportionately affects our black community is the criminalization of drugs. We should take the money we are spending to incarcerate people who have committed drug offences, and instead use it for treatment and job development programs for inner city and poor rural communities.

Ed.

Dear Task Force,

Thank you for the opportunity given to the public for input into this important topic. I would like to offer for consideration the opportunity to consider the war on drugs and the disproportionate impact on people of color. This war came into full swing during the Nixon administration against communities targeted by his administration for political purposes and has sustained ever since. The impact decades later is still felt in these communities.

John Ehrlichman, a key Nixon Advisor has stated, "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and the blacks with heroin and then criminalizing them both heavily we could disrupt those communities." "We could arrest their leaders raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs?" Of course we did."

You are being given the opportunity to correct these injustices here in North Carolina. An excellent place to start is to end the needless war against a plant that God placed on this earth for access by his people for their needs. Please join the countless states in our great union that has removed cannabis prohibition from the enforceable crimes by law enforcement. By doing so the communities of color that are so disproportionately impacted by leading source of conflict with local Law Enforcement will be far less prevalent.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie Strickland

"Dear Esteemed Task Force,

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The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and less to "protect and serve" all of us.

There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you."

Name	Response	County	Q1	Q2	Topic	Q3	Q4	Comments
Steven Ramech	No	Macon	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	<p>To whom it may concern;</p> <p>"I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as cause for interaction between the police and North Carolinians. Despite similar rates of cannabis use, Black North Carolinians are far more likely to be arrested and charged with cannabis crimes. Overall, a Black person is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely; and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely; Macon = 41.2 times more likely. https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC</p> <p>The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater temptation to violate our rights and less ability to "protect and serve" all of us. There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline. At this moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you."</p> <p>Law Enforcement Hiring and Training: Quotas should not be part of any requirements/guidelines put on our law enforcement agencies. I want only the best qualified serving as law enforcement officers, so race should have not bearing on the hiring decision.</p>
William Borden Charlotte Wirth	No No	Wake Iredell	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Policies and Resources X Experiences	X	X	<p>Criminal Justice Practices and Accountability -- actually all areas: Racism takes many forms and this task force should not focus solely on the black community/race. Every effort at all levels of law enforcement from support personnel, enforcement officers up through the courts should be made to ensure all laws are enforced in an equitable manner regardless of a person's color, race, or ability to pay for top legal counsel. Unfortunately, this does not happen.</p> <p>I am especially concerned that bad actors -- even when dismissed from one police department -- are seldom barred from serving on a police force elsewhere. Police personnel records showing mistreatment of civilians must therefore become part of that officer's permanent employment record, so a simple background check will show such incidents.</p> <p>Also, the current "blue wall" culture that turns a blind eye when other officers fail to intervene must be STRONGLY challenged; inaction when intervention is appropriate must also be a criminal offense.</p> <p>Please legalize cannabis--medical or otherwise. North Carolina is behind the times and the science on this issue. Cannabis laws are racist and unconstitutional.</p> <p>I am writing concerning the unjust imprisonment of Ronnie Long. The foundation of our democracy in opinion depends on fairness and proper administration of our laws. Ronnie Long was not fairly tried or convicted and should be immediately released.</p> <p>I coordinate reentry services for The Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham (RCND). We work in partnership with the Durham County Local Reentry Council (LRC) and the City of Durham Welcome Home project (WH).</p>
Holly Adkisson	No	Mecklenburg	No	Yes	Questions	X	X	<p>We have an issue with DPS not providing notification of the release of incarcerated individuals. While this is especially noticeable during COVID, it has been an ongoing problem over the decade I have been involved in reentry work. We (generally our LRC Coordinator or LRC staff) have called institutions and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -calls are not returned, or -a case manager for the particular inmate cannot be identified, or -a case manager can be identified but is unable or unwilling to release information. <p>As an example, this week we have reached out to an institution for an individual coming home next week who is on the state sex offender registry. We just needed to know if he would be homeless at release so we could ensure we had housing available. The case manager would not provide that information, even after our LRC Coordinator identified himself and pointed the case manager to the url for the Durham LRC (https://www.dconcgov/government/departments-a-e/durham-local-reentry-council)</p>
Brady Hull	No	Burke	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	
Volanda Merrill	No	Mecklenburg	No	Yes	Experiences		X	
Drew Doll	Yes	The Religious Coalition Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X	<p>It is imperative that we have notification of the release of individuals returning to the community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>I am signing up to receive updates on the NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.</p> <p>I believe that the work described to be addressed by the task force to be of extreme importance, and I am invested in hearing about how the task force plans to meet with the impacted communities, as well as organizations that have already had a focus on these issues, like NC-CRED (http://ncracialjustice.org/nc-cred-statement-on-gov-coopers-task-force-for-racial-equity/). I believe that the voices of Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other impacted groups are of the utmost importance and the Task Force will not be effective without them.</p> <p>I am also highly interested in hearing about the task force exploring options such as defunding the police and rerouting those funds into POC communities, as well as alternative organizations that deal with crises the police are not equipped to assist with. These would include housing options, social workers, and rehabilitation programs. I believe preventative measures have the capacity to do much more to reduce crime than reactive ones.</p> <p>I believe defunding to be the best option, but if the above options are found to be not currently plausible, I would like to hear the 8Can'tWait (https://8cantwait.org/) policies enacted. I have seen that Raleigh uses 5 of the 8 policies, which is a good start, but would be much better if it adopted the other three - Banning chokeholds and strangleholds, Requiring de-escalation, and Ban shooting at moving vehicles.</p> <p>I am hoping to hear how the criminal justice system addresses racial discrimination in courts and in sentencing, and I want to hear about efforts to re-open and investigate cases where people may have been imprisoned unfairly based on racial discrimination. I want every member of the justice system to be screened for bias in arrests and sentencing, and I want those found to unfairly discriminate on the basis of race held accountable.</p>
Sage	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X	<p>These are my hopes from the task force, and although I'm unsure on the effectiveness of task forces in general to truly assist in meaningful ways, I hope its members can prove me wrong. Meaningful change needs to happen NOW, and too often in this country, we are quick to slap a band-aid on a head wound and call it fixed. I want to see my local government step up to the plate and create solutions built from a place of compassion and genuine desire to do and be better, for the sake of EVERYONE in its community.</p> <p>I just left some feedback detailing what I am hoping will come of the NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, and I wanted to add one more aspect that I would like to see discussed.</p> <p>I want to see serious discussion regarding the private prison system in our state. My view is that private prisons should be abolished, because they drive unnecessary arrest and incarceration, which overwhelmingly affects Black and other POC groups. Private prisons rely on people being incarcerated, because they profit from keeping cells full. I want the government of my state to stop helping corporations profit from the unjust imprisonment of human beings.</p>
Sage	No	Wake		Yes	Questions	X	X	<p>I am invested in hearing how the task force approaches and corrects this inhumane system for the benefit of all.</p>

										<p>Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods) is grateful for the formation of this task force by Governor Cooper. We also recognize that the members of this task force are exceptionally qualified and their willingness to serve indicates their passion for racial equity reform in North Carolina's Criminal Justice system.</p> <p>Our organization is built on listening to the stories of our community and organizing around actions that will bring the change that those people demand. We created a Criminal Justice Reform Action Team around the 2018 election cycle because we had and still have many racially biased criminal justice processes and practices.</p> <p>We believe Durham has one of the most comprehensive re-entry networks in the State for our citizens returning from incarceration. Too often though, we hear the stories of releasees being dropped off in random areas of the City without a home plan or a link to our re-entry services. With only a few days of medications, minimal money to spend, no food or clothing security, and unidentified transitional housing these citizens have returned to a life of homelessness and desperation. A process that requires and ensures a connection between DPS and the local re-entry networks seems to be a simple correction to existing practices that only enables recidivism. We also hear from people from our neighboring communities around the State who have little or no re-entry services and therefore must figure out how to survive on their own with little chance of securing jobs within the first couple of months of return. Breaking the cycle of incarceration requires an organization of a network of services dedicated to this need with a strong, required link to DPS release process.</p> <p>Another gap in support of our returning citizens is the lack of mental health evaluations and services. We know from our returning citizens that they have often undergone evaluations within DPS but those evaluations often do not return with the formerly incarcerated person. Their home plan does not require nor support necessary ongoing mental health services. The normal difficulty in successfully transitioning out of incarceration is multiplied many times without proper mental health diagnosis and treatment.</p> <p>In support of the two issues described above, we are asking you to recommend that DPS have a policy of notification of returnees to their local re-entry council. It should be a process that can be monitored for compliance in each DPS facility. This notification at minimum should identify the releasee, provide a well in advance notice of a home plan, and identify any special needs, such as mental illness or physical disability that need continued treatment or accommodation.</p> <p>As an organization Durham CAN is aware of many other criminal justice issues that most adversely affect people of color. The re-imagining of policing is of great importance to our community from restraint practices, serving of warrant practices, and the need for a stronger mental health plan for dealing with conflict incidents. So as your task force moves forward, we will be doing the same. Listening, researching, summarizing our findings, and proposing or endorsing needed actions through this feedback mechanism.</p> <p>Thanks for your critical work on this initiative.</p> <p>I write to express my hopes that this task force examine the current processes dictating the imposition of court costs, fines, and fees against justice-involved individuals and how those processes exacerbate existing sources of inequality in the criminal justice system. In recent years, the North Carolina General Assembly has enacted legislation to increase these court costs, fines, and fees, while simultaneously discouraging trial court judges from issuing fee waivers for an individual's inability to pay. The imposition of these court costs, fines, and fees inequitably penalizes individuals from marginalized communities. Unpaid criminal justice debt can often result in the suspension of one's driver's license. Such a suspension can subsequently complicate an individual's capacity to find or retain employment. In this sense, criminal justice debt emanating from these exorbitant court costs, fines, and fees invariably traps justice-involved individuals in a cycle of post-conviction supervision and economic hardship. Ultimately, these struggles prevent many justice-involved individuals from successfully re-entering society and, consequently, raises the risk of recidivism. This task force must address the inequitable burden caused by the imposition of court costs, fines, and fees and this task force must also review the draconian policies used to enforce criminal justice debt collection. Thanks to all members of the task force for their work and their openness to needed criminal justice reform.</p> <p>Josh,</p> <p>You and your office are inept. After jumping through all the hoops on your website to report Law Enforcement Misconduct, I received no response.</p> <p>Then, after begging Gail or Angelica to put me in contact with someone who would respond, spending lengthy times on hold, leaving numerous voicemail messages with Serena Jones and Diane Konopka, having to repeat myself every time I called and getting nowhere, I finally gave up.</p> <p>I told Diane that I would tell my story to others to see to it that you are not re-elected on November 3, 2020.</p> <p>So, stop sending me these emails.</p> <p>Andrew I'm signing up to be on the email list. Law Enforcement Accountability Hope that the task force acts with urgency to take advantage of this opportunity for transformation</p> <p>Police have a history of abuse of power and lack of accountability since its inception. Police power and ability to murder civilians has only increased since the "war on drugs" and "war on poverty", which disproportionately negatively affected Black citizens and people of color. Poor citizens are also over-represented in negative encounters with police. Police officers routinely beat, batter, and murder civilians and always have. Any other civilian who acted in these ways would be jailed for life. Police are also ineffective at creating "justice" for anyone and certainly do not prevent any crime the majority of the time. I live in Charlotte, NC and there have been nearly daily murders for the past two weeks. Police have been present and have not de-escalated any situations prior to these senseless deaths. Reform is too late, the system is too broken. There needs to be a divestment from the police and investment in community youth programs, mental health and substance use treatment, social workers, community watch programs, and de-escalation community teams. Lastly, we need to decriminalize poverty and shift the narrative of substance use from criminals to folks who need help and give them access to treatment. I voted for you, governor Cooper, and hope that you will support communities in need with the power I have entrusted you with.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Noah Granade</p> <p>Last Wednesday Child Protective Services arrived at my home in an attempt to silence me about the injustices we've experienced. 2 individuals claim they got a report that wasn't about me and there was nothing wrong that I did. They claimed they had 24 hours to check the well-being of my son. They showed up at the 23rd hour with law enforcement. Once they were in I was informed I would need to be supervised with my son, have him go to a family member's house or he would be placed in foster care. There was no order. No petition. No warrant. We still haven't received a resolution. As you can see we've been subjected to a string of these acts of retaliation and no one is being held accountable yet. Even the courts are not following the rule of law. The law is there but it is not being implemented.</p> <p>How do you get justice? Who can handle this situation? Thank you for the invitation.</p>
Jim Petrea	Yes	Durham CAN (Congreş Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X			
Andrew Havens	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Questions		X			
Andrew McClary	No	Rowan	No	No	Experiences		X			
Meisha Evans	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X		
Paris T Miller	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X		
Anna Richards	Yes	Chspel Hill - Carrboro Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		X		
Noah Granade	No	Mecklenburg	No	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X		
Katrina Hayes	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions			X		
Kanika Brown	Yes	Morningside and Reyn Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X		

Donald Matthews	No	Randolph	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X			Good afternoon, It would seem that local sheriffs are above the law and have no one to be accountable too. I find this disheartening. I have submitted a complaint about our sheriff and I am being told that there is nothing that can be done about the complaint. That is to much power for anyone to have. That is not how a democratic society works. But maybe this is a police state. When we elected a democratic governor and atty. general I thought things would be better: i was wrong. So it does not really matter republican or democratic its all the same.
John Weil Guy R Smith	No No	Randolph Wake	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Policies and Resources X Policies and Resources X	X X	X X		The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice sounds like an amazing group, and I was interested in learning more, and possibly volunteering to assist if there are any opportunities. My background working on Project Safe Neighborhoods / violent crime reduction initiatives over the course of the past eleven years, specifically with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, community resource providers, and community leaders / partners has allowed for some unique and valuable experiences with this most important work. Interested in ongoing info about the Task Force Iurnam spent YEARS discussing racial PProfiling but would ONLY "discuss" racial PProfiling at TRAFFIC.STOPS mostly a mile away from city hall and racial PProfiling has been denied despite the police chief saying they stop & search Young Black males [LIKE TONY SCOTT] because (QUOTE) "THAT's who commits the crime: young Black males" if that ain't racial PProfiling, what is? and 90% of drivers searches in Duram are Black AND TEENAGERS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK. PEDESTRIANS [LIKE TONY SCOTT] AREN'T COUNTED BECAUSE THEY DON'T COUNT AND POLICE CHIEFS (PLURAL) HAVE SAID "WE DON'T HAFTA DOCUMENT PEDESTRIAN STOPS UNLESS WE FIND [& REPORT] CONTRABAND IS FOUND, SO STOP-&-SEARCH RACIAL HARASSMENT EFFECTIVENESS CANNOT BE EVALUATED BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY INNOCENT KIDS ARE SLAMMED ON THEIR FACES, HANDCUFFED, KICKED SEARCHED & RELEASED BECAUSE CATCH-&-RELEASE FISHING EXPEDITIONS ARE UNDOCUMENTED. AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY COPS TAKE DRUGS OR GUNS FOR PERSONAL USE OR SALE (OR TRADE) Apologies if this has been addressed in a previous meeting: will task force efforts result in compilation/publication of prosecution/conviction and sentencing recommendations by race and gender?? If this data is already accessible, may I receive instructions on how to retrieve??
Chris Tiffany	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X		I am both pleased and hopeful that these Criminal Justice Reform Recommendations are being looked at. Equity for all is long overdue across the country and of course to see us as a state addressing the issues makes me proud to call myself a North Carolinian. The many battles we have remaining in our journey to equality are too many to count. Ensuring the safety of every citizen is simply the right thing to do. We must be the best human beings we can be to all human beings and that starts here and now by ensuring that our law enforcement are trained properly, held accountable, and empowered to always do what is right to and for their fellow citizens.
Briana Brewington	No	Bladen	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X		As an attorney who has represented a number of individuals, all people of color, in connection with property (cash) seized by law enforcement, which is then spirited away to federal actors for forfeiture under federal civil forfeiture laws, I am dismayed that our elected official have done nothing to curb this practice. Our state constitution provides forfeitures are to be used for the maintenance of our public schools. Therefore, law enforcement officers quickly transfer seized funds to the feds for federal civil forfeiture as successful forfeitures result in upwards of 80% of seized funds being returned to the law enforcement agency who originally seized the funds/asset. This practice has garnered nationwide media attention and the abuses have been well documented by the ACLU as well as the Institute for Justice (of which I am affiliated for purposes of this practice), and even the John Locke Foundation. NC has its own version of asset forfeiture (codified at Chapter 75D of our general statutes-NC RICO Act), so if law enforcement had a true non-pecuniary, good faith interest in pursuing civil asset cases, it could, and should, do this through state law. However, if successful, the forfeiture would be forwarded to the local school board where the seizure occurred. There is therefore no incentive for law enforcement to proceed under NC law. Furthermore, this practice, as with racial profiling in policing generally, results in people of color being disproportionately affected by this practice. And because people of color are usually less likely to have access to the funds necessary to hire an attorney for help with an expensive matter such as this, most forfeitures are approved by default in the federal arena. There is a lot more to this practice that I don't have time or space to discuss in this message, so I would greatly appreciate a follow-up regarding this matter from the task force or any other government agency regarding this procedure. Thank you. I think making the ability to pay a fine is wrong. If you can't do the time don't do the crime. If you don't do things wrong you don't pay fines. You are starting a race war whites treated one way blacks treated another all people should be treated the same!!!
Erin Johnson	No	Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X		
Maria Perry	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X		
Todd lee	No	Brunswick	No	Yes	Policies and Resources		X		

I watched the city council vote on the budget and the task force is a stall tactic. The task force will study the situation and a year from now no action will have taken place. The task force will make recommendations but the 10% of the budget will not be appropriated toward improving black and brown skin conditions. I'm not calling on defunding the police but a portion of the budget should go to improving the living conditions and the health of black and brown people in this city and county. I believe that the revenue to pay for this transformation should come from combining the city and the county governments. It would eliminate duplication and create efficiency. No doubt there is savings and revenue that can be gained from combining the two governments. Automation could provide much needed efficiency and unbiased law enforcement. Have the state issue 2 license plates front and back. Use cameras to capture front view of who is behind the wheel and rear view of tag. Fine the owner of the vehicle unless it is stolen for speeding etc. This is unbiased policing. People have to see unbiased actions to believe that any actions taken by individuals are unbiased as well.

I've always been an advocate for transition training when leaving active duty. I'm former military and to date there is no real transition training. Nothing to take 6 years of brutal action against an adversary. I also believe in public safety training. What do the two have in common? You see at base job fairs that law enforcement is one of the prime booths set up to offer a job to a military person. You have some military personnel that are just looking for a job, you have some with real PTSD issues, you have some that are still battlefield ready. You can't take someone from a military situation that's been trained to be a survivor (no offense to any military or ex-military) even if means shooting first and asking questions later and turn them into a community law enforcement officer in six weeks. There is no psych exam or training that makes that type of leap. This is where many law enforcement recruits are coming from and they have never received any de-militarization training exiting the military or going on the police force. Public safety is an art not a hammer. The police could not control a real uprising anyway. They need the cooperation of the people. People must have a sense of lawfulness is fair because if the police just shoot em up you will see just what you are seeing.

Every law enforcement officer must have a body camera and turn it on at beginning of a call. No exceptions again it is so important that people see that law enforcement is on their side. You are not going to build faith and eliminate racial disparities if transparency doesn't exist.

I was appalled when everyone wanted to let Nixon go. It was for the betterment of the country. Ballot fraud is a felony and McRae Dowless looks like he will receive a slap on the hand and community service. Just another white collar crime committed by someone white but will not receive the weight of the law. There needs to be a database readily available to judges to see the crimes and sentences given by other judges. There should be some equity to sentencing across the state and country. You may believe that black and brown people don't pay attention but every beauty parlor and every barber shop has a tv and they discuss these events everyday. Rury-seven years after the landmark *Brady v. Maryland* ruling, law enforcement and prosecutors in Durham have no written policies on releasing constitutionally required exculpatory evidence to accused persons.

The problem starts with secrecy over police records. Police claim that their use-of-force reports and Internal Affairs (IA) records are confidential personnel records, not public records. This same legal argument that hides important records from the public and press also leads progressive prosecutors to violate the Constitution.

"[T]he individual prosecutor has a duty to learn of any favorable evidence known to the others acting on the government's behalf in the case, including the police." *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514 U.S. 419, 437-438 (1995). This is called Brady material after the historic 1963 Supreme Court ruling.

Though prosecutors have a constitutional mandated duty to know what's in police files, Internal Affairs and use-of-force files are secret even from them.

In Durham, the police department and sheriff have no specific written policy requiring compliance with Constitutional requirements of passing on exculpatory and mitigating evidence to the prosecutor. The same lack of written policies existed in Durham when white, law and order conservatives headed up these agencies.

Likewise, the Durham District Attorney has no formal written policy on Brady material or obtaining use-of-force and IA records in order to release them to counsel for accused persons when constitutionally required.

Why is that? The police and the sheriff contend that use-of-force and disciplinary records are confidential. In other words, the elected District Attorney has to get a court order for release of these records, that is, if she even knows they exist so she can ask a judge for them.

There is no regular procedure or policy to inform the DA of force reports or IA complaints, investigations and findings involving officers, deputies or detention officers.

How do we fix this so that prosecutors can police the police (if they choose to do so), and release exculpatory evidence so that our criminal justice system is a little less biased, unfair and systemically unconstitutional?

The city manager and sheriff should declare these vital records to be released as a matter of course to the DA and the public in order to ensure public integrity, this being essential to maintaining public confidence in the administration of services. For city employees, the statute is NCGS 160A-168(b)(11).

I have worked in the criminal justice system almost all of my adult life. I have been a victim advocate for over 20 years. I have worked in the system long enough and have enough life experience to know that nothing is perfect. Everything can and should be improved and studied. We have an imperfect system because we are humans. Humans are imperfect. There is good and bad in anything. I do believe that law enforcement needs more support and screening when hiring or more training at the front than just BLET. However, there are an overwhelming amount of good officers who put their lives on the line everyday and still have to have extra jobs to make ends meet. On the flip side, there are people that should not be officers as they are probably not so good people from the onset or are not truly suited to the job. They need to be rooted out.

Also, I feel that if sentencing and sentences are being looked at, it needs to be a very nonpartisan, serious view. When I first started my career, people were very distrustful of the court system. O you say he/she is getting 30 years but he/she will be out in 10. O...they are just going to get probation. Over time, with fair sentencing, we could assure victims that these defendants were going to do at least the minimum. There was/is a clear chart to show what happens when someone is sentenced. Does this need revision? Maybe. However, just blindly handing out parole or limiting the amount of time someone will get...especially for violent crimes or habitual crimes is a farce. A farce not only for the court system but to the public as well. We will lose the trust of our victims and the public. I know the state of the country now and know what a hot button issue it is. I know there is a temptation for whatever motivation to roll with the tide and do the popular thing. This must not happen. I cannot count the number of murderers, rapists, child molesters, etc that I have dealt with over my career. The broken lives that their crimes left...not only for the victims but for the defendant's families. There are no winners. I truly feel for those that have remorse and their families. They are still someone's son, daughter, mother, father. However, there has to be consequences for our actions.

In conclusion, review...study...ask questions. However, do not do what is easy and popular. Please consider the victims and your public. Think of families whose loved ones have been taken...think of the children who have been victimized. Where are their assurances and rights? Someone needs to speak for them and stand up for them. Are there wrongdoings and miscarriages of justice? To be sure in a system as large as ours. Is it imperfect? Of course. However, I believe in the system. I still believe in justice. I believe it can be advanced and polished...but you do not do that by taking an easy route.

Wayland Burton	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
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M. Alexander Charns	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
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amy hedgpath	No	Duplin	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
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Wayland Burton	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X
William Bunting	No	Meckenburg	Yes	No	Questions	X
Black Incubus	Yes	Black Community Unit Guilford	No	No	Policies and Resources X	
Kaysha Griffin	No	Pasquotank	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X
Tonya Jones	No	Franklin	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X
Johnny and Elaine TI	No	Anson	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X

Durham and State needs another HOPE VI grant or a situation similar to it: redevelop public housing buildings, facilitate resident self-sufficiency and empowerment, and form productive public-private partnerships necessary to pursue comprehensive redevelopment. The HOPE VI program started in response to recommendations from a congressional task force, whose 1992 report identified the prevalence of severely distressed public housing in many American cities and encouraged HUD to "look not only at the condition of housing...economic opportunities, and...infrastructure, but also at the needs of families involved, the strength of neighborhood organizations, the impact of crime, the availability of family support services, and recreational opportunities and the quality of education."

No one should live like this: Cornwallis Road apartments in Durham or the McDougal apartment complex. I'm sixty-six years old and these apartment complexes have been the same for longer than I have been living. Look at how housing for and development of a city or county changes in that time period. When a downtown is redeveloped and projects sit looking as they do then people look at that realize that they are meaningless. Every city with project housing should sat aside 10% of their annual budget toward modernization of the project housing community at least every five years.

I agree that kids learn better when in school. Their social interactions is a learning experience in itself. What bewilders me is where was the Pediatricians while the school to prison pipeline has been going on for so many young black kids. It seems the Pediatricians were silent as these young kids were being expelled by the dozens or being locked up by the school police. Why were they not voicing for immediate counseling rather than expelling a kid and telling them they can't return until they receive counseling. In most cases the kids parents were to poor, had no insurance, knew not how to get counseling. No policy should be established without a remedy and the remedy shall be available to all from the most poverty stricken to the most affluent immediately.

Just commenting to join the email list.
No demographic should be 5% +/- of their representation in any particular community. Greensboro police has disproportionate numbers of whites and white males. This is true all across the state. End inequality and address racism through hiring.

As a mother of a child with special needs, it is imperative that our local law enforcement is prepared to recognize and provide first aid, in the event that they are called to assist.

I would ask that a program or procedure is introduced to enable those individuals that have received excessive prison sentences are able to request a review at regular intervals to allow for the possibility to return to their homes, and to the workforce.

America have lost some very amazing wonderful people because of this Racial War that should have been over years ago. It's not to late and Now is the time for Racial Equality in the justice system because America don't need to become a WARZONE because of the color of our Skin God Bless America and we need to keep it this way. So judge people for who they are and not because the color of someone skin color. As grandparents of a young victim affected in a big way by a pedifile, I am asking the laws remain in place for him And others to serve their full Court Ordered Sentence. Justice should be served whether they have "good" behavior or not. Race does not matter—a criminal is a criminal! In our case he plead guilty and therefore no question about the inequity of the law being applied. Thank you This is a follow-up to my previous message where I shared a piece I wroted directed to the police and local officials in Greensboro. The following are actions and ideas for consideration by the state task force:

1. Provide resouces/incentives to local communities to hire trained professionals (social workers, mental health professional, substance professionals etc) to respond to "non-violent" 911 calls.
2. Rethink and train operators when police officers should be dispatched in non-violent situations. Think about it - A life would have been saved if a two truck instead of the police had been dispatched to the Wendy's in Atlanta.
3. Incentivize police departments and cities that effectively shift toward true community policing. Here are some actions I have suggested, but the state should establish some measurable guidelines:

☞> Assign officers to geographic areas on a consistent basis so they have an opportunity to get to know the people they serve in their geographic area.

☞> Establish a residency incentive program so police officers can live in or within close proximity of the geographic area they serve (this may boost minority recruitment efforts).

☞> Officers should work with their communities to develop a service model process to focus on root causes of crimes in their geographic area (not all communities are the same so one model will not fit all).

☞> Community policing combines a focus on intervention and prevention, so community officers must build collaborative partnerships with community schools, service agencies, churches, and stakeholders to engage in effective problem solving.

☞> Shifting to a culture of community based policing has shown to reduce crime by building trust and improving relationships with greater community engagement and cooperation.

In 2017, my 9 year old daughter disclosed to us that her grandfather had sexually assaulted her. After a thorough investigation, Sidney Gary Helms was charged with over 90 felonies dating back to the 80s where he had provided a written confession admitting to assaulting his own daughters. Though no reflection of the criminal justice system, those charges and confession were never pushed and he got an undeserved second chance only to do it again with my daughter. In 2018, Mr. Helms pled guilty to the crimes against my daughter and in consideration the remaining charges were dropped. This deal was accepted only after after he agreed to serve just over 10 years so I could get my daughter out of the area and if he lived, he would be 80 years old and hopefully would not be a physical threat to others.

On behalf of a little girl who didn't deserve his actions, I am asking you not consider any actions that would potentially reduce the sentence of any convicted felon. In jury trials, the burden of proof falls on the prosecutor to convict beyond a reasonable doubt. In our case, he pled guilty so there was no element of questioning his guilt. To think of the impact of a potential trial and having his sentence reduced or after a guilty plea of having it reduced is beyond sickening and is of grave concern.

While the efforts of your task force are admirable, please do not entertain or recommend any action that could minimize the punishment of those convicted of serious crimes. Society needs to be protected while the condemned pays for their crimes regardless of the color of their skin or in our case, when a family member violates the innocent.

On behalf of all juvenile victims of NC,

Jonathan Thomas	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X
Audra Killingsworth	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions	X

Jonathan Thomas
Can you require police accountability boards for all entities that have a police force and give them legal authority to see personnel files and enforce their findings?
Can you start a policy that requires all excessive force and poor behavior from police to be reported?

in following this task force and its apparent goal to equalize racial inequality in the justice system, I am extremely concerned about the objective to reinstate parole options for criminal sentences. Reinstating parole only forces victims to live in fear of never knowing how long they will remain safe after they have bravely fought to have their offender placed behind bars. I know this very well because I live this fear daily.

You see, my daughter was molested by my family member. She was 6-8 years old at the time and BRAVELY came forward to tell me what was happening so I could protect her from further events. After coming forward and me pressing charges, I was made aware he had done this to numerous other young women and children his whole life. Charges were pressed and carried forward to ensure they all stayed protected. To keep my daughter and the other women and children from having to face him and be placed on a stand to testify, we all accepted a plea deal (he confessed to ALL of his actions from 30+ years back with each victim). My daughter, and I, stood in a courtroom with these other women to ensure this monster never hurt them again. The bravery and fear of each victim brought the entire courtroom to tears and the reporters had to leave due to emotionally being overwhelmed after hearing of his horrible crimes against these women and children. Knowing he has a minimal sentence that can not be shortened gives us great hope of a safe life knowing he can't harm us any longer. I couldn't imagine having to look her in her eyes and tell her that a new law allows him to get out early and see the fear she would have to live through and emotional instability. If I had to live not knowing day to day if he could get out at any time - our lives would be ruined and we would live in constant fear. To think any Task Force could institute a loophole allowing him to get out sooner than the plea deal these women and children accepted as justice to protect them is appalling.

By looking at creating Racial Inequality and using the options for Parole as a part of this solution is extremely harmful to the victims and leave lasting scars to show them that their bravery meant nothing and neither does our judicial system to protect them. I understand the objective of this Taskforce and I understand the underlying goal, but please understand when you create laws to balance racial inequality, you also open loop holes for hard criminals (which are not of Racial Inequality) to only see a way out to hurt others or seek revenge for placing them there in the first place. Victims deserve the right to know that when the Judge makes a sentence and states minimal and maximum sentences, that they do not have to worry about it being shortened because a criminal can be nice in prison and wash dishes and help around the prison yard. They deserve to know their voice and bravery meant something and they can live life happy and not as a fearful victim always guessing when their offenders will be out again based on good behavior, parole or pardons. My daughter has already had her innocence taken from her by a monster, she doesn't deserve to lose the rest of her life and emotional stability constantly worrying if he will be released early because he has learned to "work the system" on good behavior. He wouldn't be there if his behavior didn't justify his sentencing.

I plead with you to not create loop holes and reverse the stability of our judicial system by reinstating parole and "good behavior" sentence decreases for criminals. Victims and families of victims deserve the stability and security and our judicial system needs to be able to give solid answers and expectations without a life a fear to these victims on shortened sentence timeframes. Expungement laws on dwt/dwi. Once a person is charged, they should not have to pay the rest of their life with this type record which causes them to not be able to get a decent home or job. They are discriminated against especially if you are of color. You have changed your life for the better but your background check will not allow for you to move forward in a positive way. I think the law should be changed so it can be expunged/removed from your record after a given time of the previous 5 year limit there was before the change. People of color have it so bad anyway this should not be an added burden when they are trying to better their lives

Lumberton C.I.
 211 positive for COVID19.
 2 are going to die.
 16 are hospitalized critical.
 Human rights violations galore.
 Shouldn't someone with the power and authority be racing for that freedom buzzer and stopping this Holocaust? Vacate their sentences and send the inmates home. The system is broken.

The Starting Seven.

The issue of innocent incarcerated is a common place tragedy in North Carolina. Lawyers are of no use when the actual court system is broken. Adding the new impunities of torture and death by COVID19.

Justice Earls, you said in your acceptance speech " we know what is needed to achieve racial equity, now is the time to put that knowledge to work"

Attorney general Stein, you have recognized that there are many situations where you should have made a stand to stop injustices and you did not. You are engaged here for, like you said "strategies to bring about real change in the criminal justice system. For way too long. Black people have not been treated equitably in the United States. We have to fix that"

To each member of the task force, I implore you, do not stand in the face of this holocaust like the police men who watched George Floyd's murder and did nothing to stop it. The executive order that is your mandate, permits you to stop and at anytime take a vote.

I ask for the lives of all prisoners and especially:

01421494 Shannon Nyamodi
 0168048 Steve Harper
 0247905 Ronnie Long
 1373871 Guthrie W Sharkey

Brandi Queen	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X
Doris Davis	No	Wayne	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X
Elizabeth Crudup	No	Harnett	Yes	Yes	Questions	X

									How broken is the system. Why you must act immediately
									So you have been innocent incarcerated. No money for a lawyer. But your case is taken up by the state controlled innocence inquiry commission. They work on it for 2 years and then COVID19 becomes a pandemic. You submit a statement along with others, suing the state to put stronger protections for the inmates and save lives.
									Shannon Nyamodi's statement
									The innocence inquiry commission kicks you off their case load in retaliation.
									Prison becomes a death camp
									https://drive.google.com/file/d/19[XewVdxy3LVmFrlis-41-czuj4_Fv5/view?usp=sharing
									https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XlJR9ZqLk_zfNUcQCpgMSxmbwq6o1Pl/view?usp=sharing
									Who will give you your freedom? Who will give Shannon Nyamodi his freedom?
									Call a vote to release 01421494 Shannon Nyamodi 0168048 Steve Harper 0247905 Ronnie Long 1373871 Guthrie W Sharkey 16467058 David Green 0569504 Roderick Sanford 07226624 Joey P. Graham Shannon Nyamodi's statement https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6879738-7-Shannon-Nyamodi-Affidavit.html?fbclid=IwARIZvz-FlUncy7eM7BIB9P27VpWz74Uxc5wB9TXPnV92kI9ktv5QLO_w0eTY
Elizabeth Crudup	No	Harnett	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X		X	The letter dropping him from the 2 year innocence inquiry commission team. Note no signature so you cannot tell who made this decision or sent the letter.
									https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YkIqzFmLuxumucPQWu7_14QPIUCqW9P/view?usp=sharing
Elizabeth Crudup	No	Harnett		Yes	Experiences	X		X	#FreeShannonNyamodi today
									1. Why isn't it required that LEO's have a psychological evaluation yearly? (Required and maintained by the State DOJ conducive to certifications)
									2. What does the State do to support and help identify officers that's suffering from PTSD? (Not enough attention given to this concern) (Overlooked in Law Enforcement)
									3. When communities doesn't have the confidence in the local Law Enforcement Agency to report facts, what can be done to Educate the communities collectively for reporting that agency / officers?
Michael Patrick	No	Richmond	Yes	Yes	Questions		X		Thank you
									The police have the use of force continuum but they don't always follow it and when they don't it seems to be no set punishment. Consequences are important. They assist in making people do the right thing. They need to update their rules of engagement. Adapting more military style. I know this might sound alarming but the military is actually very disciplined and we know of we discharge our fire arm it is a big deal and if we are found wrong their is a consequence that isnt worth enduring. It makes us truly think before we act. Fear is of no impact. Fear doesn't get you off the hook. If fear in the combat zone is no excuse, fear on American soil should not be one either.
Jay Rene	No	Nash	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X	I have created a Facebook Group "Stop the School to Prison Pipeline" along with a Petition. What steps are being taken to stop children in school from being charged by SRO's for non-violent misdemeanors?
Rosemarie Calvoni	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X	The bail system can perpetuate inequality for impoverished people of color. Other states and counties have undertaken significant bail reforms, which have proven very successful. What is NC going to do about bail reform? There are some very simple reforms, as well as more complicated reforms that can be considered: 1) text and phone reminders for court dates 2) use of psychological risk assessments to assess the need for pretrial detention 3) requirement of a pretrial detention hearing before someone can be detained before trial 4) non-monetary conditions for pretrial release. The benefits are innumerable: 1) save money by fewer people being detained 2) in many jurisdictions with reform, over 90% of people still appear for court/are not arrested for crimes while on pretrial release 3) treating people as innocent until PROVEN guilty 4) people are more able to keep their jobs, homes, families, etc.
Jessica Wollum	No	Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X	I was disappointed to see my city of Raleigh adopt a few new policing rules and call it "reform." Similarly, I'm disappointed see among the initial recommendations of this task force some of these same rule changes. Policies, rules, and training are only effective when there is a culture of accountability and community-based mechanisms for oversight. I hope that future recommendations by this task force take oversight into consideration.
Evan Harrison	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X			I am on the faculty of the UNC School of Government and am working on developing more education on racial equity issues for the officials, communities, and people the School serves.
John Rubin	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X	Thank you for the invitation.
Kanika Brown	No	Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X	Thank you for the invitation.
Kanika Brown	Yes	Morningside and Reyn Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X	Our cash bail system is broken and Constitutionally unsound. It leads to a pre-trial incarceration problem that is not ameliorated by a judge's decision to sentence somebody to "time served" after the fact. And since Magistrates are tasked with setting bond amounts or "unsecured" bonds, those decisions are often subjective and inherently unfair. In order to post bond, the accused in most cases must produce 10% of the amount for a bail bondsman, money which will not be returned even if they (or their family) can afford it, which many of them can't. Needless to say, since this is an economic situation, the racial disparities are stark, and should be a core element of any reform this Task Force pursues.
Steve Harrison	No	Alamance	No	Yes	Policies and Resources			X	This is s list of area I have notice problems in law enforcement or our courts 1. Many tactics Police department use, our military can't use during wars. 2. Stop military style policing. Select and equal number of police candidates from there local community in hiring practices. 3 address the Injustice conviction of violent crimes. Justice reform should expand beyond non-violent crimes. 4. A citizen review board is needed to work with internal affairs and fraternity order of Police in-house investigations. 5. Go back to two-year training for law enforcement officers, with a heavy concentration on moral turpitude stress training. 6. Statewide verbal judo training to deescalate conflicts. 7. Background checks cannot exceed 10 years for both state and private sector. 8. Improve better unbiased jury selection in our courts. No African-American defendant should face an 11 white one black jury. 9. In reasonable suspicion stop-and-frisk and focus more on probable cause. 10. End prejudicial arguments focus more on material facts for evidence.
Linwood Gallup	No	Nash	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X	
Wendy Sellars	No	Davidson	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X	

Surena Johnson	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	<p>I'm interested in a study of rulings in court from judges and how they rule differently in the matter of the same charges and different defendants. We have seen there is bias in sentences and want something to be done about it. How will the task force work to ensure that judges are held accountable for their rulings. In the recent cases of judges being targeted due to unfair rulings what will be done to ensure that fairness and justice is the goal?</p>
Sierra Lindsey	No	Guilford	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	<p>Thank you again for hearing my concerns during the public session as I mentioned I am a fiancé of Jeffrey B Cobb who was wrongfully convicted and overly sentenced. He was railroaded by the Guilford County DA office and Lead Investigator Matthews of the Guilford County Police Department. The sentence imposed on him was harsh, biased and unjust. He was a first arrested on burglary and attempted robbery then it was upgraded to capital murder then they offered a plea because they didn't have enough evidence for trial for second-degree with arm robbery he was not the shooter, only receive 17 to 22 years the other shooter received 11 years my fiancé Jeffrey B Cobb #0881140 receive 25 to 31 years and he was not the shooter they don't even have enough sufficient evidence put him inside of the crime scene. Now he has taken a plea and we're having a rough time trying to litigate post convictions he was railroaded by the justice system he was railroaded by his defense counsel they didn't even try to defend him. This is something we see way too often with indigenous people when they get public defenders these public defenders feel like they don't have to defend our citizens as if they were private attorneys. They are just giving their clients away to these prosecutors for these plea deals these political gains financial gain now my husband has to sit in prison for 20-31 yrs for a crime that he did not commit unless we can find a new evidence to get him back in court something must be done about these post conviction litigation's or offer parole or the second look bill I am deeply disturbed by the amount of people that are wrongly convicted and overly sentenced in today's society it is guilty until proven guilty you're never innocent. My fiancé has been incarcerated for six years has had no in fractions he is upstanding inmate he has people that follow him he has no problems with the officers he has a nonprofit that's in the works he's wrote books he has wrote poetry he has support with change.org for a new evidentiary hearing a new trial I ask you please to start looking at these prosecutors and these long sentences and try to come up with strategies to make a change for our justice system and our citizens. Fayetteville PACT has received training from our coalition National Association Civilian Oversight Law Enforcement. We are willing to train all law enforcement and officials in the cities and counties on the Civilian Oversight Authority. For City of Fayetteville it only takes 1% of the FPD budget to implement this. We have a have created a Citizen Review Board Ordinance for the city of Fayetteville that will pass NCGA, we have reviewed this with Senator Kirk DeViere for further edits.</p> <p>I am providing our links on presentation that was given to our city council on a special city council meeting</p> <p>Fayetteville PACT Presentation on Civilian Oversight Board with Citizen Review Board</p> <p>https://youtu.be/nBbJpb1uJ_Y</p> <p>https://youtu.be/WLh3EA6fFxs</p> <p>https://www.nacole.org/</p> <p>Thank you please reach me at fayettevillepact@gmail.com, phone (910)494-6914.</p>
Kathy Greggs	Yes	Fayetteville Police Con Cumberland	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	<p>Kathy Greggs Co-Founder/President Fayetteville PACT Thank you for this opportunity and consideration NC Task Force!</p> <p>The objectives to execute Equality, Fairness and Justice is much anticipated through different regions of NC, Throughout the Justice system and Police-ing.</p> <p>I am here today in behalf of a NC resident from Mecklenburg County, that is currently serving a 175-222 month sentenced. A non-violent, first offense, 2 counts of Drug trafficking. *Time served as today roughly 578 days.</p> <p>This offense carried a mandatory maximum sentencing of 29-37 years.</p> <p>There where several inequities within this case.</p> <p>These inequities show comparison to cases such Mclawhorn Vs. NC, Noviaro Vs United States, and State VS Parks. Where the identity of the confidential informant was not disclosed, when discovered he/she was an active participant, to the Defense. The Defendant pleaded not guilty but was not afforded the opportunity to completely defend himself.</p> <p>The negligence and the gross over sentencing of an active NC Small Business owner that has lost his entire livelihood, is what is being asked of the NC task force. This case has been presented to the Appellate Court in March 2020, your review of the injustice of this Conviction, to ensure it to be overturned IS MUCH APPRECIATED. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>I have made multiple complaints to your office in 2019 and 2020 and was told that they do not handle police misconduct! My point of contact was Author Anderson which I have emails with and also letters back from the office stating the same. There is a all white taskforce that planted drugs in a daycare in Fayetteville N.C. and your office has failed to investigate it after there is a video showing proof. Two officers has resigned and one has transferred and the whole taskforce has been totally dismantled all except certain officers that was never identified! Instead of taking the allegations serious Special Deputy Ryan Haigh has been pushing for prosecution even calling the US Attorney Scott Lemmon to try and get one of the defendants to testify false information by coercion. When she was asked to testify she stated that she saw the police bringing in the drugs and they didn't seem to want to hear that either. This happened July 17 2018 and we have yet to see a day in court which we all are looking forward to!</p> <p>Unfortunately I was not able to attend the meeting on today. I would like to be included in future task force meetings. This is a great initiative and I would love to speak on my experience concerning Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability and look at their policies to see what needs to be changed so that police can be held accountable for unjust practices.</p> <p>I provided my suggestions verbally and in writing today. To reiterate it is critical that the specific NC problems be described AND their causes be identified. ALL proposed actions should trace to mitigation of specific problem causes. there should be near term, mid term, and long term actions. The specific needs of different communities should be addressed. There must be a definitive way to measure progress in accomplishing the goals that your mitigation/correction recommendations are focused on. Every recommended action must have a person or organization responsible for implementing it with milestones!</p>
Sidra Hanna	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	
Reshod Everett	No	Cumberland	Yes	Yes	Questions	X		
Allison Smurtherman	No	Cumberland	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		
Stanley H Levine	No	Chatham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	<p>I have spent over 30 years in analyses and project management and the above is critical if we are to achieve any reasonable measure of success! How about creating educational programming on UNC-TV or other readily accessible outlet with discussions about history to explain the who, what, why of needed changes. (use From Here to Equality authors as resources and other experts)</p>
Julie Coulter	No	Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	<p>We're all not on the same page and we need to learn history first before moving to restitution. Thank you for working for change and improving lives.</p>
Lisa Brown	No	Durham	No	Yes	Questions	X	X	<p>How can this group be effective if all the people are basically apart of the justice, police department or elective officials? Which is who we have issues with. There isn't one person apart of this group that is without bias.</p>

Sydney Grace Simps	Yes	Durham People's Allia	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	As a High student in the DPS system, I am primarily concerned with the issue of the school to prison pipeline. I highly encourage the task force to take an in depth look at the issues and policies within schools that result in more students of color being funneled into prisons from schools. This includes: Zero Tolerance Policies for misbehavior, suspension rates among students of color, the lack of school social workers and counselors that are actually accessible to students and are trained in deescalation tactics, and finally the unnecessary presence of SROs in schools that ultimately do more harm than good—often using unnecessary force with And intimidation tactics with students. Thank you.
Sydney Grace Simps	Yes	Durham People's Allia	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	As a High student in the DPS system, I am primarily concerned with the issue of the school to prison pipeline. I highly encourage the task force to take an in depth look at the issues and policies within schools that result in more students of color being funneled into prisons from schools. This includes: Zero Tolerance Policies for misbehavior, suspension rates among students of color, the lack of school social workers and counselors that are actually accessible to students and are trained in deescalation tactics, and finally the unnecessary presence of SROs in schools that ultimately do more harm than good—often using unnecessary force with And intimidation tactics with students. Thank you. My daughter has experienced a stalker for past 3 years. It has been a nightmare and when it all came down to it, he NEVER served the time he was sentenced to. That is a long nightmare put short. I could not imagine how the victims and families of violent and serious crimes will feel when they or their loved ones don't get the justice they were promised.. Please do not let people how have been CONVICTED of violent and unspeakable crimes has a "get out of jail early card". The justice system was put in place to deter people from doing terrible things against others with the fear of imprisonment. not the fear of a slap on the wrist and a day in jail. Think about what this means to society as a whole. I understand the idea of wanting the make the system more equal for people of color, I do to, but letting murders, rapists and child molesters free does not fix the problem. educate officers against profiling and making unjust arrests. work on what you can do to go forward and not make a mess out of what has already been established. I would like to see juveniles only tried as juveniles and if convicted the sentence be capped at 5 years.
darlene muhlsteff	No	Union		Yes	No	Experiences		X	
Joe J. Johnson	No	Wake		Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	Can the provision that prevents felons from voting be stripped from North Carolina Law? I would like to have the state to look into our online adjudication software that levels the playing field for people that can't afford attorneys to get the same plea agreements as people that can. YouPlea software https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AAdcx0XSbE https://www.facebook.com/Lex-Loci-Labs-111045497195710/
Lee Welborn	Yes	Lex Loci Labs	Alamance	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	Also please take a look at offering funds to provide diversion software to other counties in NC as Orange County has had much success in this. Law enforcement needs to be able to connect people with proper resources such as housing, employment, substance abuse, education and can make the referral easily. I support the reimagining of public safety and the justice system to ensure safety and justice for ALL. This includes more narrowly defining the responsibilities of law enforcement and ensuring that officers have the appropriate temperament and training to perform the tasks and responsibilities required of them. This also means redistributing some of the existing law enforcement responsibilities -and funds- to organizations and services that can better meet needs and crises such as mental health professionals, social workers, substance abuse professionals, affordable housing, etc. This also means ensuring that laws are enforced equitably and alleged infractions prosecuted fairly and in a manner that does not disproportionately penalize people of color or those with fewer economic resources. We also need to ensure transparency and accountability in all our public systems. Thank you for your efforts!
Janet Harmon	No	Mecklenburg		Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	I would like to suggest an inclusion of review for conditions of probation for offender records. If an offender is deemed eligible for probation as an alternative to incarceration, the offender's criminal event should be removed or hidden from public record. Access to criminal records should not be so easily accessible to the public as to encourage discrimination and oppression through social systems and employment resources. Those needing access to criminal backgrounds should have legal clearance to access such information. I believe these first 3 measures are vital to BEGIN the process of actually making our justice system JUST for ALL citizen. As Justice Earls' quote implies, it is only the beginning.
Nakitta Long	No	Forsyth		Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	The following words are that of a heartbroken sister who lost her best friend at the hands of murderer. My brother, Clay Thomas Scott, was killed in 2016. The loss I feel daily is not one that can be put into words. His murderer admitted to the crime and accepted a plea deal. My family has been made aware that this Task Force is considering the reinstatement of parole, which would allow serious offenders to serve minimal time and/or let them out before their sentence is served. What you are talking about will reverse all of the work that's been done for victims' rights. My family was promised justice. Other families were promised justice. Victims and their families should be able to count on justice in the future. You are conducting these meetings under the guise of "racial equality", while ignoring the fact that it will be devastating to so many regardless of their race. My brother's killer is a white female, as am I. This is not about race. If someone commits a crime, especially one that hurts someone, they should be punished. MY BROTHER'S LIFE MATTERED! What you are considering is a slap in the face to victims and their families. As victims, we have been through so much. We get a life sentence of pain, unlike most of the perpetrators you are advocating for. The small amount of peace we get comes from knowing that the person who took everything from us has to answer for it. This proposal would take that from us too. Haven't we been through enough? By even considering this, you are causing so much additional pain and making us feel as though we have to fight for justice all over again. If one of your loved ones were murdered or harmed in some way, would you be okay with this proposal? Please do not pursue this recommendation and take into consideration the message it would send about justice in North Carolina going forward. Thank you for your time.
Joy Rochester	No	Forsyth		Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X	
Amanda Scott	No	Union		Yes	Yes	Experiences		X	
Terri Scott	No	Union		Yes	Yes	Experiences		X	I am writing this in reference to the parole issue in NC. It has been brought to our attention that the Task Force is considering the reinstatement of parole. I would respectfully like to ask that the Task Force consider the ramifications if you were to move forward with this recommendation. My son was murdered in the second degree on Feb 17th 2016. As you can guess, we are heartbroken forever. We worked with a private detective for probably a year and ended up having enough evidence to take it to the DA to prosecute for a second-degree murder charge. The woman charged took a plea for 9 to 12 years, no less than 9 years to be served, without parole. We felt that the number of years was not enough for the lifetime of suffering that we would have to endure but a sense of relief that at least she would have to serve an entire 9 years and without worry that she would be out sooner. We were lucky enough to have evidence, but I'm sure she has been responsible for many other deaths that had no evidence. My son's death was caused by an overdose from pills that she brought directly to him. His health was compromised at the time and she was well aware. He had begged her to leave him alone. I had begged her to leave him alone. (when I found out about her, long story) But she continued to pursue him and did not care about his life. HIS LIFE MATTERED and now she has 8 more years to serve while we have a lifetime of pain. Please don't recommend a law that would put someone like her back on the street to hurt more families. I am writing in reference to my families experience but I know there are many other victims and other situations that will be affected by this law changing and many lives that could be taken if someone like this thought it was no big deal. She can just get out on parole and get back to what she was doing and feel it wasn't taken seriously. Most of us in these situations have been given a lifetime of pain. I'm not sure I understand what this has to do with race. In our situation, both parties, our son and the woman charged are white. I believe race should not be a factor and only the crime committed and the evidence should be taken into consideration. Our DA's office, Detectives, and Police Force need to feel that their work is also taken seriously and that finding a guilty charge after many months and sometimes years of hard work does not go without notice. And that they can feel justice is served as well. Families work with them closely on their cases and feel a sense of trust that their loved one's loss of life is taken seriously. Thank you for allowing us to share our experiences and thoughts on this very important matter that will affect so many victims of loss.

									Presently under North Carolina law, in order to expunge prior offenses from one's criminal record, offenders must jump through a variety of hurdles. Filing an affidavit, obtaining statements of good standing from fellow citizens, file a motion, pay additional court costs, etc. My question is why? After someone has served their time, paid their damages, and gone a certain amount of time without getting in trouble again, why do we make them go through all of these additional steps? The state has the resources and access to information to verify whether the offender is in good standing. Let's make expungement easier by making it an automatic process. This will help offenders transition back into society by automatically removing the negative stigma of a conviction from their record and overall make the judicial system more efficient. Of the 2,060 validated gang members in the Durham Police Departments Records Management System (RMS) on February 7, 2020, 82% (1685/2020) were identified as Black/African American. This may reflect a tendency of law enforcement to validate Black/African Americans as gang members more frequently than other races/ethnicities. However, it may be true that in Durham 82% of gang members are Black/African American. Regardless of the percentage, we must concentrate efforts on conditions that create environments that are favorable to gangs.
Wes Saunders	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X	
James Suit	Yes	Durham Gang Reducti	Durham	No	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	
Ro Mentasana	No	New Hanover	Yes	No	Policies and Resources X	X		X	
Terri Scott	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	
Denise Yannone	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X		X	
Gloria Wright	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	
madison muhlsteff	No	Union	No	Yes	Experiences			X	

Presently under North Carolina law, in order to expunge prior offenses from one's criminal record, offenders must jump through a variety of hurdles. Filing an affidavit, obtaining statements of good standing from fellow citizens, file a motion, pay additional court costs, etc. My question is why? After someone has served their time, paid their damages, and gone a certain amount of time without getting in trouble again, why do we make them go through all of these additional steps? The state has the resources and access to information to verify whether the offender is in good standing. Let's make expungement easier by making it an automatic process. This will help offenders transition back into society by automatically removing the negative stigma of a conviction from their record and overall make the judicial system more efficient. Of the 2,060 validated gang members in the Durham Police Departments Records Management System (RMS) on February 7, 2020, 82% (1685/2020) were identified as Black/African American. This may reflect a tendency of law enforcement to validate Black/African Americans as gang members more frequently than other races/ethnicities. However, it may be true that in Durham 82% of gang members are Black/African American. Regardless of the percentage, we must concentrate efforts on conditions that create environments that are favorable to gangs.

Thank you Governor, for this task force. We need to hold accountable those who infiltrate racism into our law enforcement. Practices and training will significantly help to attain these goals. I admire all law enforcement people, but would hope all people are treated equally.

I have written earlier and made a mistake on one part where I said "private detective", it was really a Union County Detective and I just wanted to clarify that. Mainly because I wanted to emphasize how much work goes into finding the guilty person and that when sentenced or a plea is taken that it shouldn't be looked at like "oh they can just get out on parole." It's very important for this to be taken seriously and that the victims are protected, feel safe and can find some closure and feel that they received some justice for their loved one. Thank you again for your time. Sincere appreciation and support goes out to Governor Cooper for establishing TRUL, to Attorney General Stein, and Associate Supreme Court Justice Earls for their leadership and to all the Task Force members for their dedicated hard work. I am both relieved and hopeful that reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice reforms have become the focus of attention and action. It is long past time to establish a duty to intervene and to prohibit use of the chokehold in law enforcement. It is also time to decriminalize poverty and to stop exploiting the poor in our communities.

I hope the Task Force will also recommend stricter and more transparent vetting policies for new law enforcement job applicants. Things like social media activity and group memberships should be thoroughly examined before hiring and should be monitored throughout a law enforcement officer's career. More intensive background information checks, stricter interview questions and more rigorous psychological personality testing should all be part of the vetting process. It is far more important to hire the best and the brightest and to support those excellent police officers in the challenges of their job. Doing so prevents senseless use of force leading to murder. It is of the utmost importance to keep law enforcement free of racists. Retraining is also necessary. In my opinion, it is already way too late once a life has been needlessly taken. There have been too many losses already. No one is safe until everyone's life is respected at the hands of law enforcement officers. No one should die for selling a few bootlegged cigarettes or for possessing a counterfeit twenty dollar bill. No young man should die for walking to the store for some skittles. It is not a crime to be homeless, poor or mentally ill. It is not a crime to be Black or Brown. It is not a crime to defend yourself when your home is invaded because of a no-knock warrant which also absolutely has to be abolished.

Say their names: George Floyd, Elijah McClain, Breonna Taylor, Treyvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castille, Sean Monterrosa and too, too, too many more. One life senselessly lost is one too many. Thank you for reading our comments, for listening to your conscience, for meeting the moment, and for stepping up and doing what is right to help North Carolina and our country move toward realizing the dream of truth, justice, liberty and equality for all.

I am a clinical social worker and have worked as a victim advocate and counselor who had the opportunity to sit in court on many occasions and observe both in Jacksonville and Wilmington. It troubles me greatly that there is no general advocate for folks to receive even the slightest guidance about how to present themselves in court and what their options are. I have observed people openly asking a judge questions and he/she will say they are not allowed to give legal advise. Sometimes it might be something that even I could tell them the best thing to do, but that is not allowed. This is not equal justice. I know of a young man who gets a lawyer and has beaten multiple DUI charges. I also know people who got one DUI charge, no accident, but it basically ruined their life, charged guilty. The outcome seems to depend on the attorney. This is not equal justice. People who workand/or who are ignorant of courtroom protocol, will often do things in court that are not in their own best interest. Some plead guilty immediately, even when the aggrieved party has not shown up. Sometimes I have seen this pleading guilty and then when the judge asks, they will say, I just want this over with, I got to get back to work. They have no idea what the ramifications of pleading guilty are. An attorney would recommend against that, but the defendant has no idea of what is best. I have also seen people who are obviously mentally ill, not be able to contain themselves from talking even when warned and see them thrown in jail for contempt. Some of the court fees and fines are crazy. They are entirely too high, especially if a person also has to pay an attorney. In some courts, it is common knowledge that if it is your first offense, you probably don't need an attorney and you don't need to plead guilty. i I have known people who have spent hundreds of dollars for a traffic ticket, that they could have easily handled without an attorney. The average person does not know about structured sentencing, that is required once having entered a guilty plea. Because going to court is so anxiety provoking anyway, I feel it would be really helpful to send folks some type of flyer giving practical important information, including instructions/directions to the courthouse, to available parking, and the room number where trial will be, as well as guidance as to dress, let them know things that are not allowed to be carried into the courthouse. Inform them that if they cannot hear the judge when he speaks, they need to speak up and let the judge know, as this is not a good time to misunderstand things. When people would ask me about court, I would tell them from my experience, it is not true justice. Justice is based on how much money you can afford to pay. This is horrible, but true from what I have seen. I once accompanied someone to court who lived out of town, four times, as he case was postponed. People can lose their jobs due to that practice and then victims don't show up. There are many things I could report, but one of the worst is how the judges always side with the police, or seem to. This is not fair at all as they make many mistakes. I support the police in general, but some of them also lie and it is obvious, but hard to convince a judge of that. I also believe that when people lie in a court case, even a civil case where the lie is obvious and easy to prove, the person lying should be charged with a crime.

i have been a victim of stalking for almost 4 years. the system has failed me again and again and it wasnt until recently that my stalker actually got jail time. If this law/bill passed my stalker would end up doing less time (if any) and my family would never get peace of mind

Hi - thanks for organizing this public comment session, and best wishes to both Atty General Josh Stein and Associate Justice Anita Earls.

I am a public health epidemiologist working at both (1) UNC, where I did my PhD dissertation on disparities in North Carolina Traffic Stops (accurate measurement, opportunities for action), and (2) at NC DHHS Division of Public Health, where I help build and maintain the Opioid Action Plan among other work.

While anti-racist action (acknowledged by public health organizations like APHA as essential for addressing health disparities) is not driven by data alone (but organizing, education, and the like), data plays an important role in transparency and accountability. That data transparency and accountability isn't just to partners and communities external to the government, but internal partners (e.g. DHHS) as well. Without speaking about specifics, at times, in various formal roles, I and teams I'm on have had a very difficult time getting data on policing and justice-involved populations. To that end I have these questions:

- > What is the task force's approach to "open data?" - what, if any, data on policing and justice outcomes does the task force plan to keep private and unshared with (a) the public and (b) other state departments?
- > What data sources is the task force prioritizing next to increase transparency for?
- > Are there any maps of criminal justice related data available in NC, the state of it's availability, and the target improvements for that data source? For instance, timely prison data is very differently available from jail data, which is differently available from administrative office of the courts data and traffic stop data - to researchers, state government partners, and the public.

I'm happy to be contacted on these questions, provide feedback, or assist in transparency / reporting efforts.

Thank you!
-Mike

Thanks for your time reviewing this comment. Now more than ever I believe we are finally starting to understand that criminal justice requires structural changes if we are ever to see true racial equity.

One obvious area where we can see the several racial disparities of our current system in North Carolina is the fact that a Black person in North Carolina is 3.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession though the rate varies widely by county. In Dare County, a Black person is 11.8 times more likely to be arrested; Granville = 11.7 times more likely; Haywood = 11.3 times more likely, and Watauga = 11.2 times more likely.

<https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC>

The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and less to "protect and serve" all of us.

There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibition that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved car crashes all decline.

I appreciate the willingness to review comments surrounding obvious structural issues, and my ask is to please take the advice of science, data, and the communities who are currently most disadvantaged by this system. As we begin taking action to change the system, please take the immediate action to stop the prohibition of cannabis so that our Black neighbors may prevent additional undeserving experiences of the trauma of police interaction for use and possession of plant material.

Thank you.

The first time I was introduced to the idea of abolishing the police and getting rid of prisons was in 2015. At the time, my reaction was something like, "We can't do that." I believed policing and prisons and the criminal justice system in general were broken and needed fixing, but I could not imagine getting rid of them.

Since then, and particularly this year, I have learned more about the history of this country – the kind of history that was left out of the textbooks I learned from throughout my formal education. Most recently I, and about 100 members of my church (the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship), participated in a 30-day Racial Equity Challenge based on a plan from America & Moore, an organization started by Dr. Eddie Moore that provides diversity education, research and consulting. (See <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>.)

One of the things I have learned is the criminal justice system in our country is not broken. It is doing exactly what it was designed to do, which is to support systemic racism. For example, policing was started in this country to capture and return Black people who had escaped enslavement and to discourage others from attempting escape.

I hear there are a lot of folks, specifically a lot of White people, who resist the idea that the criminal justice system needs to be radically rethought at a fundamental level. I want to go on record as a 60-year-old white woman who no longer resists this idea, but instead fully supports it.

While I support each of the three Policy Recommendations the Task Force has made so far, so much more is needed. Rather than trying to "fix" the existing system, which is actually doing what it was designed to do (support systemic racism), we need to replace it with new systems designed to ensure racial equity.

I am mostly writing to say that I am a white person (she/her) in my 60s and I fully embrace and support reinventing our criminal justice system and dismantling the underlying racism that has been a part of it since its inception. This needs to happen at all levels from the "school to prison pipeline" and beyond. We need to dig deep to break underlying cause and effect situations. This goes way beyond policing, but certainly policing is a major concern when a biased police officer can murder someone just because the color of their skin or the way they look triggers biases (implicit and otherwise) held by that police officer who then "feels threatened." When I first heard talk about "defunding the police" in 2015, I was one of those white people who thought how ridiculous and unrealistic that sounded. At the time I thought we needed protection from and incarceration of "bad actors." Now after a lot of reading and learning, I know that what we have instead of bad actors is a bad system of criminal justice that creates and maintains injustice instead of justice. I believe that we have no idea how many innocent people, guilty only of being poor or Black or Indigenous or Latinx or other person of color, are currently in our criminal justice system, but there is plenty of data on those we do know about (e.g., <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/opinions/systemic-racism-police-evidence-criminal-justice-system/>).

I applaud and support the work of this task force. Please work as hard as you can to fix this brokenness in our society and reinvent a system that can truly create justice.

Michael D Fliss	No	Orange	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X
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Lauren Shiel	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources X	X	X
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Holly Kingdon	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
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Judy Teague	No	Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
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Gracia O'Neill	No	Madison	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Barbara Thomas Nosewicz	No	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Joe J Johnson	No	Alamance	Yes	No	Questions	X	X
		Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions		X
Jesse Gibbons	Yes	PAC 1 Partners on Crir	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
		Durham					
Terri Scott	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X
Denise Morris	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Leah Robison	No	Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X
Lisa Archie	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X
Stephen Boyd	Yes	Ministers' Conference	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	
		Forsyth					

I thank you for this opportunity:

1. Start listening to black and brown community leaders when they identify problems and solutions. Let them lead. Implement their ideas.
2. Start a Truth and Justice reconciliation project to uncover, examine and lay bare the racially motivated acts of terror and injustice that took place in NC throughout history. Look at it. Name it. Talk about it - it's one of the best proven ways to get at the root of the problem and will help us remember what we must never again become.
3. Re-examine the purpose of law enforcement and jailing people. Do they do what we need them to do, or can their role/function be better implemented by another entity? How is systemic racism embedded in the structure and implementation of these systems? How can the goals and purpose of these systems be changed to eliminate the racism inherent in these systems?
4. Eliminate Civil Service Boards that are not majority civilian. Police supervisors cannot hold law enforcement officers accountable for their actions if their decision is constantly overturned. Find another way for officers to shed light on internal issues - this doesn't work in Asheville or anywhere else.
5. Re-examine the metrics by which we measure the success of law enforcement and District Attorney's offices. What metrics provide a more accurate measure of whether these entities are truly meeting newly defined purpose, roles and goals?
6. Pass a law to obligate police to report and prevent crimes by police. We know too well the harms of child abuse, and it's a crime in North Carolina to ensure child abusers are reported. We see the irreparable harm police brutality causes its victims and communities. We need a similar criminal law to obligate police to report and prevent crimes by police.
7. Pass a law requiring district attorneys to actually follow a standard when deciding whether to prosecute and what charges to bring. Ensure those standards are written with an anti-racism focus.

8. Be a leader in support of local government efforts to divest from the police and invest in Black communities. Many NC cities and counties want to re-imagine the role of police & start investing in long-term safety strategies including supporting Black startups/business, eliminating the racial opportunity gap in public schools, and funding all-civilian oversight committee with the power to hold the police departments and individual officers accountable. Redirect part of the State law enforcement budget(s) to a criminal justice reform think tank. Policing is so broken (from screening applicants, to hiring, to accepted cultural norms, to militarization, to training, to leadership to low wages) - we cannot hire and train our way out of this. Pay staff to research case studies and organize community groups to provide ideas for overhauling the NC

Thank you for implementing this task force. It's way past due and I appreciate the efforts of Governor Cooper, Justice Earls and AG Josh Stein. Just want to sign up for mailing list.

How do I access the Working Group #2 Meeting taking place at 1:00 PM today? While the Task Force is focusing on equitable policing, studying the fairness of NC's court system use of exorbitant amounts of fines and fees imposed disproportionately on poor defendants and people of color, it should also study the widespread illegal and unfair use of cyber tracking technology and surveillance equipment (stingray, etc) to stalk Black Lives and other activists, w/o FICA warrants, in violation of their constitutionally protected civil liberties! I would also like to add that The Task Force please keep in mind that a plea agreement should remain in force for the entire amount of time that is agreed upon. Our DA's office accepted a plea without parole. Please keep in mind that whatever the sentence is; should it be changed negates all the work done prior and what had been agreed upon at the time by the DA, Judge, Attorneys and the accused. And especially in the case of a plea. Why else have a plea? Please don't suggest to have a law changed that has been working for so many years and would affect so many victims and put others in danger. Maybe a parole option could be a part of a sentence but only used if it was given as part of the sentencing at that time. But even then I think it is very risky and obviously this law in 1995 was changed for a very good reason.

Thank you again! I am concerned about the equity, fairness, and ending the systemic racism that has historically resulted in higher stops, arrests, and longer sentences. Also, the hurdles to reentry and voting for people of color and people at or below the poverty level. I am in favor of the 3 recommendations addressing systemic racism and police brutality made by the Task Force on July 24, 2020. <https://ncdoj.gov/trec/> I would approve these by vote if given a chance. I would like my representatives to approve them on my behalf, and law agencies and the NC Supreme court to implement these 3 policies.

Would like to be updated about the meetings. Agreed there needs to be reform in PD in several depts. Probation needs to be reformed as well it seems, as with the choke hold, that the use of the prone restraint (hogtie) on anyone should be banned. It seems to have been the major contributing factor in the death, in December 2019, of John Neville in the Forsyth County Detention Center.

08-04-2020

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice:

WHEN WILL OUR LIVES MATTER?

I hope this email finds everyone safe and well. On November 1, 2010, My husband and I was robbed and shot multiple times with a .44 magnum. We was left in the parking lot of our business (NC License Plate Agency) to die. The pain and countless agonizing surgeries I have faced and continue to face will always haunt me. My husband relives this tragedy daily in his head...he will NEVER be the same. They have stolen our lives and happiness from us. We will never escape the hell that has been unleashed upon us. Each day is a miracle and a curse all at the same time. It has taken me 9 years 8 months and 30 days to recover to the point that I am today and I will never be 100%. I have never applied for disability nor have we ever asked the State of North Carolina for a dime. Restitution was issued by the court although we know it will never be collected. This tragedy just about bankrupted us, but through the grace of God, we have managed to make it thus far. I was just now able to sleep at night (my husband still does not sleep much) without reoccurring nightmares. I also find myself constantly checking the NCDOC website to find out if Otis Redding Howey Jr offender #B24178 projected release date 11-27-2080 and Melvin Luckey offender # 586199 projected release date 05-16-2079 (both of which are habitual felons) has been released. I am afraid to leave work each day, afraid that someone will be waiting on us in the parking lot again to rob and shoot us again. OUR LIVES AS WE KNEW IT IS OVER! I fear the day their release happens. Not only do I fear for our lives, but the lives of every NC License Plate Agency contractor and their employees. Facing the fact that they could be set free at any time greatly disturbs us. They will never know the struggles we have faced (learning to walk, write, etc) and continue to face each and every day. I BEG YOU TO PLEASE NOT CONSIDER THOSE MONSTERS FOR EARLY RELEASE! If you will take just another few minutes of your time and look at their arrest records, you will see that NO ONE IS SAFE as long as they are on our streets! I am attaching some pictures for you to view. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Crystal Jordan	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences		X
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Shawn Freeman	No	Burke	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X	<p>If we are looking at true police reform and professional change, we need to start at the foundation. This means we should look into standardizing all training new officers receive. Each institution in North Carolina do things a little different. Some focus on the physical aspect while some focus on legal aspects, while even others focus on techniques. We should look at the example set in South Carolina where they have one teaching institution for all law enforcement training. While I am not advocating this is the only way, this is a good example to build from. This would allow all law enforcement, both state and local, to receive the basic training. Block testing in BLEET should be standardized as well.</p> <p>In order to build officers from the ground up, in BLEET we should introduce de-escalation into not only it's own block of instruction, but include it in all forms of training that include force, such as the use of force, firearms, ASP baton, Taser and Subject Control Arrest Techniques. We have to expand the training to include implicit biased training and Critical Intervention Training in basic classes. This would also require us to raise the BLEET hours from 640 hours to 1000-1200 hours of Basic Law Enforcement Training. This would accommodate for the additional de-escalation training and adding de-escalation to all blocks of force training/practical training as well as CIT and implicit bias training. We should teach things like the Brady/Giglio Act in BLEET as well to make officers aware that there are negative repercussions for their actions, both on and off duty. No matter how slight they feel the problem is, their conduct could deem their testimony impeachable which would jeopardize their certification. There is much more to discuss on this particular topic.</p> <p>We as a state should also look at having one Training and Standards Commission rather than one for Sheriffs and one for Police. This would improve communication who officer misconduct may have occurred. Chiefs and Sheriffs need access to review potential applicants prior law enforcement history. We need to add Brady Giglio issues to all Standards reviews as this could indict issues with a particular officer that should no longer be in the law enforcement profession. Again, this discussion could be lengthy as well.</p> <p>Defendant-William Turner Broom II Judgment and Commitment-File No# 18CRS215626 *Please let me know if you need anymore information.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity and consideration NC Task Force!</p> <p>The objectives to execute Equality, Fairness and Justice is much anticipated through different regions of NC, Throughout the Justice system and Policing.</p> <p>I am here today in behalf of a NC resident from Mecklenburg County, that is currently serving a 175-222 month sentenced. A non-violent, first offense, 2 counts of Drug trafficking. *Time served as today roughly 578 days.</p> <p>This offense carried a mandatory maximum sentencing of 29-37 years.</p> <p>There where several inequities within this case.</p> <p>These inequities show comparison to cases such Mclawhorn Vs. NC, Noviaro Vs United States, and State VS Parks. Where the identity of the confidential informant was not disclosed, when discovered he/she was an active participant, to the Defense. The Defendant pleaded not guilty but was not afforded the opportunity to completely defend himself.</p> <p>The negligence and the gross over sentencing of an active NC Small Business owner that has lost his entire livelihood, is what is being asked of the NC task force. This case has been presented to the Appellate Court in March 2020, your review of the injustice of this Conviction, to ensure it to be overturned IS MUCH APPRECIATED. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Governors Task Force members, I'm writing to you for the first time ever. I am writing in response to your Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) through Executive Order 145 in June 2020. I am asking as a concerned citizen to please reconsider or at least please do VERY deep dive into some of these prisoners considered for task force possible release. I am referring to Otis Redding Jr & Melvin Luckey specifically(Redding offender # 824178 release date Nov, 2080 & Luckey offender # B586199 release date May 2079). Both are serving sentences for robbery with a dangerous weapon (conspiracy & principal) and attempted first degree murder of Mr. Robbie Jordan & wife Crystal Jordan as they were leaving their jobs as owners of our local NC License Plate Agency. This is not the only agency they robbed or attempted either. With each attempt they became more and more brazen and violent! I am a very close personal friend of the Jordan's and want to share just how extreme this life changing event has been for them.</p> <p>We often travel and go on vacation with the Jordan's and love their friendship and company. However this is also challenging. As a result I'm sure you can imagine how PTSD has a daily effect on both of these two with loud noises, loud voices and anyone that approaches at a fast pace with concealed hands in pockets or behind their backs. I witness two individuals that can not sleep thru a night without anxiety and fearful reenactments of the that evening that replay in their heads... night after night. After being shot 4 times Crystal has had to undergo so many surgeries that with all this comes a body that is scared and deformed causing constant pain and she must wear clothing larger than normal just so she can TRY to be comfortable. Her medication she must take every day is numerous and even with this is never without pain. When either of them departs the NC License Plate Agency they still operate, it causes anxiety and takes amazing strength to enter the parking lot just to go home to safety. They are forever changed by this event in a negative way... it's like they must relive their personal hell every day!</p> <p>I truly believe that if Mr. Redding or Mr. Luckey were to be released earlier than dates originally designated by the NC Court's, it will have a tremendous negative effect on these two individuals. The ONLY reassurance they have is knowing both of these two gentlemen are still in a Correctional Institute and can no longer cause harm to them or anyone else until 2079 or 2080. Their verdict should be upheld and NOT released early.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration and support for Robbie & Crystal Jordan and letting them know their safety is a priority for NC governors office.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jenny Rorie Monroe, NC</p>
Sidra Hanna	No	Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X	
Jenny Rorie	No	Union	Yes	Yes	Experiences				X

MEMO TO THE REPRESENTATIVES,

As a concerned citizen, I would like to submit the following policy proposal. This proposal, to establish the North Carolina Crisis Intervention Team as an additional emergency management services response pilot program in select counties, was influenced by the previous North Carolina Crisis Intervention Team program (established in 2005), the CAHOOTS community policing initiative in Eugene, Oregon (established in 1989), and the Denver STAR pilot program (entering its 3rd month of piloting). Thank you for reviewing this proposal and TREC's work to better our state.

An Act to Establish the Crisis Intervention Team as an Additional Emergency Management Services Response Pilot Program and Appropriate Commission

1.This act shall establish the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) as an additional Emergency Management Services response unit pilot program in certain counties to be decided.

2.The state shall provide grant funding to local agencies within these select counties to establish a Crisis Intervention Team and its associated specialists and staff. Federal, public, and/or private grants awarded to the state and/or selected localities shall also be permitted to be used as funding for the pilot program.

2.1.The CIT shall respond to service calls associated with, but not limited to, emergency mental/behavioral health crises, noncriminal occurrences seeking immediate intervention, and other emergencies falling within the scope of behavioral crisis intervention as disseminated through 911, 211, or direct-line service calls.

2.2.CIT specialists shall be hired upon applying to the position, review of the submitted application, and successful completion of a 16-week training course consisting of specialized training deemed necessary by CIT guidelines.

2.2.1.Applicants having prior experience as police officers, sheriff deputies, emergency medical technicians, or firefighters may receive lateral entry into the CIT upon the completion of a 31-day specialized training course designed and deemed necessary by CIT guidelines.

2.2.2.CIT specialists may aid other emergency management service units in patrols, operations, and other community engagement activities.

I disagree with the proposal to assess fines only to those who can afford them. First, this is not a racial issue, it is an economic issue. No one wants to pay a fine. This is a penalty, which is normally issued for breaking the law. If you break the law, there should be a penalty. It is not fair to charge only those who can afford it. The solution should be across the board fair for everyone. If fines are looked at as bad, lets offer community service. People who cannot afford a fine can certainly contribute to the community in a helpful way. The community service could also be in a way that is meaningful to the crime. If someone litters, have them pick up trash. I also think this option would be useful for those who commit crimes and are bailed out by their parents who have money. We have a lot of privileged people who could benefit from having to do community service instead of handing over some of Daddy's money.

In light of the current investigation and lawsuits in the John Neville case, will the tar force be pushing for a ban on the hogtie restraint?

Will you ban the Prone Restraint?

Will you ban the Prone Restraint?

Will you please ban the prone restraint?

Will you ban the prone restraint hold? This is completely dehumanizing. Would you want your child or father placed in this position, regardless of the crime or mere accusation? Considering the horrific death of John Neville, I implore you to immediately ban the prone restraint hold.

Will you ban the prone restraint? Will you treat people as humans or will you put your ego and greed in front of another's life?

Will you ban the prone restraint?

Will you ban the prone restraint, otherwise known as the "hogtie"?

Ban the hogtie/prone restraint.

Will you ban the prone restraint?

Will you ban the use of the prone restraint?

The fundamental point is that setting bail to detain is unlawful. We want this illegal practice ended in NC.

When the founders of our country enshrined the concept of bail into our constitution, it was intended to be a method of facilitating pretrial freedom and reasonably incentivizing incarcerated people to return to court to face charges levied against them. Using bail as ransom money or to generate revenue violates the core tenets of a system of pretrial justice. Black people are disproportionately affected. People are sitting in U.S. jail cells solely because they cannot make a payment. We challenge wealth-based detention and promote anti-carcer alternatives to human caging that are less restrictive, more effective, and grounded in holistic community engagement and empowerment.

I believe you must be accountable for your actions at all times!

POLICE OFFICERS WITH THE "I AM THE MAN" ATTITUDE SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE FORCE EVERYWHERE IN THE US. THAT MEANS A NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL POLICE OFFICERS. WE NEED STRICT EVALUATIONS OF THE MENTAL ATTITUDE FOR POLICE OFFICERS. BETTER PAY WILL ATTRACT BETTER POLICE OFFICERS.

I would like to join the task force as a board member

I am seriously concerned about explicit or implicit bias affecting the decision-making of prosecutors in our state. As of 6/30/2020, the NCDPS prison population has 38 people serving life without parole because of violent habitual felon status. A striking 30 of 38 are black. Two are Native American. Six are white. There are many predominantly white counties in which there are zero white VHF convictions, but one, two, or three black. We need to be able to look at data that can show the people who were eligible to be prosecuted as violent habitual felon. Then, we need to be able to see whether prosecutors chose to prosecute people as violent habitual felon or whether they made plea offers and the terms of those offers. We need to put protocols in place to curb the systemic injustice.

my Question...Why can't any police officer who takes a life, lose their life! Death sentence! This will bring a Clear Message...no more tragic excessive force.

Durham County over the past 10 years has drastically decreased the number of criminal juvenile petitions filed in our county. Our work included organizing programs alongside the Sheriff's office (SRO) to work together to create innovative ways to defer youth from being charged and instead referred youth to the JCPC programs in lieu of criminal charge. Durham County has worked to address racial equity and name as an issue however as our criminal petitions have decreased, our DMC rate continues to overwhelmingly show disproportionality in the criminal justice system where Black students namely Black male students continue to be charged at an alarmingly rate in comparison with non Black students. Our board has paid particular attention to racial equity and has recently allocated funding for all programs and board members to have completed at least phase 1 of REI. We are also closely monitoring racial equity through analyzing monthly data of the demographics of students that do receive a criminal juvenile petitions. Our work with the Juvenile Court counselors office and the Sheriff's Office has led to drastic improvements due to their shift in training and partnerships with JCPC and its programs as well as the community. As you look to implement trainings on how to create positive changes you should reach out for further interviews or trainings to Durham JCPC Chair, Nisha Williams, Durham Chief Court Counselor, Tasha Jones-Butts, as well as Andre Hinton with the Durham County Sheriff's office.

Jarrold James	No		Wayne	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X	X	X
Tracy Meyerson	No		New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources			X
Stephanie Hammon	No		Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Questions		X	
Molly Southern	No		Forsyth	Yes	No	Questions		X	X
Molly Southern	No		Forsyth	Yes	No	Questions		X	X
Ian Brown	No		Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X	X
Karen Obas	No		Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Questions		X	X
Justice	No		Forsyth	No	No	Questions	X	X	X
Nia Sadler	No		Forsyth	No	Yes	Questions	X	X	X
chloe brewer	No		Forsyth	No	No	Policies and Resources		X	
Sam Shafer	No		Guilford	Yes	Yes	Questions		X	
Desiree DeDolce	No		Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Questions	X	X	X
Adolfo	No		Forsyth	No	Yes	Questions	X	X	
John Bowthers	No		Forsyth	Yes	Yes	Questions		X	X
Phyllis L Utley	No		Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Questions			X
Barbara cella	No		Iredell	No	Yes	Experiences			X
DEXTER JONES	No		Robeson	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		X
Joyce Lanier	Yes	NCDHHS	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
Lauren Miller	No		Wake	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources		X	
Susan Leary	No		Wake	Yes	Yes	Questions		X	
Nisha G. Williams	Yes	Durham County JCPC	Durham	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X

Melissa Price Kromn	Yes	North Carolina Voters	Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		
Dwayne Daughtry	Yes	North Carolinians for I	Wake	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X	X	X
Ethel Simonetti	No		Durham	Yes	Yes	Policies and Resources	X		
Emerson Whitted	No		New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Experiences			X
Julie watkims	No		Buncombe	Yes	Yes	Experiences	X		

I would like to offer up an idea from New Orleans which has an independent police monitoring entity that is sent out every time force is used to decide if it was warranted. You can learn more about the Independent Police Monitor's here: <https://nolaipm.gov>. And here is the DOJ's report about the New Orleans Police Department. https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/03/17/nopd_report.pdf

I was extremely disappointed in the way Friday morning's "listening session" played out during the Task Force meeting. There were more elected officials that were participating than advocates or community members. The elected officials were predominantly the ones who were allowed to speak. However, these are the very people who may be part of the problem that is trying to be corrected. Under their current leadership, the problems persist, thus the need for community and organizational feedback. My hopes were that elected officials were there to listen, learn, and strategize ways to improve the current situations. It is vital that organizations and community members express their concerns and that they are heard. The facilitator went over the ground rules of allowing everyone 3 minutes to speak. The facilitator began by ensuring everyone stopped at the 3-minute mark. However, a select few were allowed to go way over their time limit. The DAs from Wake and Durham spoke for over 6 minutes each. There were only 2 people that did not get a chance to speak: Mr. Ronald Gates and our representative, Mr. Arvis Owens. If the rules were followed to 3 minutes per person, everyone would have had the chance to speak. Unfortunately, the select few were given more time instead. It seems apparent that rules do not apply to them. This is one of the problems we are trying to solve. Mr. Owens took time out of his demanding schedule to participate in this important opportunity but was not even acknowledged and given the chance. Neither his time nor his concerns were valued by this group. What is the purpose of these meetings and this task force if they do not listen to the community and give the people a chance to share their concerns - especially if our organization was invited to participate as a panelist? If the elected officials could solve these problems, they would have done this already. The purpose should be to bring issues to the forefront that they may not understand and move towards positive change. Community and organizational involvement are critical aspects. These "listening meetings" are not doing their intended job to listen to the people of North Carolina.

I suggest, re the 3 policy recommendations the TaskForce has put forth, the following - in order of the recommendations shown: 1) the "duty to intervene and report" needs to be specified as to "to whom..." 2) the banning of neck holds sample policy needs to clarify the exception for use, when the life of the officer is in danger...Any officer? Why not recommend an absolute ban? 3) assessing the defendant's ability to pay, before assigning fines + fees - who does the assessing? what about bail? what about jail house charges to use the telephone/receive a call? It seems that assessments would need to be made multiple times for the defendant, depending on the type and amount of the fines and fees (+ bail)...Durham County jail has a contract with GTE whereby the inmate is charged for each call he/she wishes to make or receive. This seems arbitrary, unfair, and a violation of due process. Final point: I recommend that this task force call for legislation to establish a statewide pilot program to fund and staff for five years the teaching, training, and strategic implementation of restorative justice, as taught and now employed in a handful of counties (Durham is one.)

Are the members of the task force reporting to local areas by newspaper, print media, etc? The bail system is unfair and costly for family members. The warrant system is too easy for one to acquire one, some investigation should be done, before such is implemented. In domestic cases magistrates should avoid letting plaintiffs use the process to try to keep the defendant incarcerated. There must be someone, in the court system to respond to citizen advocates who are trying to assist their relatives who are maneuvering through the system. Me & my fiancée both have wrongful convictions= he has done 17 yrs in prison over 2& i have 1& we can prove this thru paperwork& i was wondering if someone could contact me over this& ty s0 much for all yall d0!!!