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<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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<th>Feedback</th>
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<td>Wallace Evans</td>
<td>Mecklenburg</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Michael Dockery</td>
<td>Gaston</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Questions X</td>
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<td>Ben Popkin</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Experiences X</td>
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<td>Sara Harrington</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Policies and Resources X</td>
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<td>Chris Fialko, criminal defense lawyer</td>
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<td>Phoebe Dee</td>
<td>Orange</td>
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<td>Margaret Tinch</td>
<td>Buncombe</td>
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<td>Ashley Carne</td>
<td>Henderson</td>
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<td>Yvonne Sikorski Jr.</td>
<td>Mecklenburg</td>
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<td>Jarri Sling</td>
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Why is this only a police problem? I've seen many police, Black and White, be rude, belligerent and disrespectful to polite police officers. I have been stopped about 10 times in my lifetime as well as my husband and both of us had police come to my house 3 times for various reasons, asked to see my driver's 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 their 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. Roy Cooper! Why won't you stop peaceful 'riots' in our state? Most protesters are peaceful, aren't they the terrorists? That is not 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 crosses there to tap it as police had to be there also this has got to stop. If your afraid to step in military those things and you cannot call them anything she need to be controlled. Protest stop when they start destroying. I served as Magistrate in Orange County some years ago. We were authorized to follow the law re: pre-trial release (bail only) and, at the time, no other county in this state did, and openly ridiculed us for not jail people as the pre-trial order. We should require that bail be set according to the law, i.e., only detained 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.

I would like law enforcement officers to be required to have more training on de-escalation, psychology, trauma-informed, mental health, etc. I don't believe the current law enforcement training is sufficient. I think we should require at least an associate's 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.

In the criminal justice areas, I would like more interventions, trauma informed care. More youths dealt with as juveniles, instead of adults, and social services involved. Hoping 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).

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 CDC 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 needs for people to remain in prison.

I am an attorney, and one important aspect of building justice for people in attorney training. Presently, NC Bar CLE requirements insist upon a 2 day new lawyer CLE for new admissions. They must complete the long, boring, redundant 2 day session that covers the material from the bar exams and MPRE exams. 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.

Additionally, I have been representing a client on her parole matter. The parole review heard in this state is so opaque. Their process, their criteria. It has been shrouding to see on little transparency over why they deny or authorize parole. It fails 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 criminalizing kids behavior. There has got to be a better way.

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-camera, dash-camera, or record ANY interactions. 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-camera, dash-camera, or record ANY interactions. I do not believe the current law enforcement training is sufficient. I think we should require at least an associate's 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.

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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 tragic 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 lawyers, attorneys, prosecutors, advocates and anyone with a stake in our North Carolina Community.


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 hastily 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 NCJDHS is taken as true, the harm it will do outweighs the purported benefit that has not been substantiated by actual incidents of calls.

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 Haywood Brooks case jumps out there, but the go 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 belled system with professional standards with a suitable ethos and use of force standards needs to be included. I don’t believe military combat is 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. Standards come out more often than gone. 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 nick 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 lesser 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, using the percentage of cases where one ends up losing voting rights due to criminal process, not to mention high US incarceration rates overall. We have a system insatiable 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 criteria team training in the past. Hopefully my 3 prior emails are also somewhere in the shuffle. The events here in my hometown of Watauga NC have spent me greatly and at this point I have to let my opinions be known!! The dimension Confederate statue has cause great controversy and remains painful for many here! (Just think it’s very important that law enforcement in small communities like mine are well trained on treating everyone with respect and dignity regardless of their race, 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-win boxers 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 having a heart overwound. Be transparent and fix the problem, don’t hide it.

And how much mental-emotional screening and support is offered to them only matters a sorry. I would like to receive updates and notes related to the THEC (i.e. law classes via GULPHHS related to Criminal & Social Justice) and would like to include discussions about the task force on my classes.

Thank you,

TJ Cadeky

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 use sentencing. Thank you for your response.

TJ Cadeky

I am a Black Man who has experienced Racial Profiling on more than one occasion during my 45 years being the the State of NC. I’ve learned to never question authority during the encounter and to always be obedient and respectful. My questions/concerns is more from the perspective of having a tool to report those 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 a 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 Equations and when law enforcement is asked to interview. Statistics shows there is a huge show in the number of instances 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!!!
Vickie Bass, Yes Concerned Citizens of Granville Yes Yes Experiences X X

Vickie Bass, Yes Concerned Citizens of Wake Yes Yes Experiences X X

Vickie Bass, for Mrs J Yes Concerned Citizens of Wake Yes Yes Experiences X X

Cecilia Metzley, No Guilford Yes Yes Experiences X X X

Ruth Parker-Bellamy, No Nash Yes Yes Questions X X X

Jamie Lau, No Durham Yes Yes Experiences X

TJ Cason No Wake Buncombe Yes No Policies and Resources X X

Ruth Parker-Bellamy
Cierra Motley No Guilford Yes Yes Experiences X X

Vickie Bass for Mrs Evelyn Bass Yes Wake Yes Yes Experiences X X

Jamie Lau No

Will the task force be able to make suggestions/recommendations to:

- Have state legislature support better policing methods/best practices by funding the CALA accreditation of any NC municipal police force which wishes to pursue the accreditation?
- Permit those with felony convictions who have served their sentence to vote?
- 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/selectinit.html
- Suggest/Compel all law enforcement organizations to enact “Duty to Intervene” and “Duty to Report” when colleagues are acting outside of stated organizational policies?

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.

Best,
TJ Cason
Morristown, NC
1.14

I am a woman of color was hit by a caucasian attorney Travis Morton in the Granville clerk’s office. I made a report of assault to Granville county sheriff's office. 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 plait had 2 witnesses, retired Judge Patlive Harrison was in court and she checked on it and said case was wrongly dismissed a day when no court of this type was held. She suggested I report all involved to NC State Bar but nothing changed. The 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 owed it with zero mortgage. This eviction summary action was a lie. I had lived in it for 13 years and was not renting. This was fraud. Two attorneys with a deposit with guidance to do not rent. They took all the property and my mother’s property. Monroe illegally sold home via obtaining property by false pretenses. District Attorney Waters refused to proceed to private Attorney Monroe. I am not accepting if this apparent racial injustice. Why can Caucasian attorneys get away with crimes?

My Mom, Mrs. Evelyn Bass, was temporarily living in a 55 plus apartment in Briar Creek Raleigh NC. Mom was placed in a guardianship but had no due process, not served not in court in Wake county. When her 2 daughters resigned as guardians, Clerk Jennifer Knox, granddaughter of US Senator Jesse Helms 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 service 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 arrangement, 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 my property by Monroe but even now, Raleigh detectives got followed up.

A missing Black 95 year old women who was kidnapped, all property stolen in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mom was temporarily living in a 55 plus apartment in Briar Creek Raleigh NC. Mom was placed in a guardianship but had no due process, not served not in court in Wake county. When her 2 daughters resigned as guardians, Clerk Jennifer Knox, granddaughter of US Senator Jesse Helms, 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 service 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 arrangement, 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 my property by Monroe but even now, Raleigh detectives got followed up.

We are Christians and trust God.

I am interested in serving on the Racial Equity Criminal Justice Task Force. I am a UNC Chapel Hill BSPH and MSPH graduate and Harvard Kennedy School of Government MPA graduate. I am concerned that Jim Crow is alive in North Carolina and there is no equal protection under the law. Most attorneys we contact are afraid to go against this racial injustice system in courts and law enforcement as district attorneys and judges are involved in racial injustice by dishonest tactics and orders that are fraud on the court.

Thank you.

Vickie Bass, MSPH, NPA (919) 480-5514

Holding Prosecution and Law enforcement accountable for holding evidence falsifying documents offering guilty pleas without full investigation of the case causing plenty of wrongful convictions just signing up for email updates

I’m concerned about strategies used to intimidate inclusion of residents in various communities with awareness, decision making, and accountability to bring about unity and respect on all levels.

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 the CJS will continue. While all of the things listed below may not be necessarily backwards looking, I hope they will be considered by the task force to increase fairness in our criminal justice system.

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.

2) Review general statutes to give AG’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.

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.

4) A change to the general statutes 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 a default and remove discretion.

Finally, life without parole sentences and the death penalty should be eliminated. It would make prisoners 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.

Respectfully,

Jamie Lau
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. Behavior should be handled by school administrators, not police. The police should be protecting the school, not policing our students.

I made comments on all it 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 Nyemudzi 1425998 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 housed Shannon’s head in a brick in the past. The Prison Warden Stephen Jacobs and his assistant Mary Gadlaur are of particular concern. Can members of this task force in their individual or collective voices intervene and save Shannon’s life? #FreeShannonNyemudzi

When a wrongly 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 Nyemudzi would make an EXCELLENT addition to this task force. None of you have been processed through the system as all of you have is to your own advantage. And the data show our stakeholders in the system telling us if we understand them. Can members of this task force in their individual or collective voices intervene and save Shannon’s life? #FreeShannonNyemudzi

while reforming marijuana laws will not solve the entirety of the problem, it can be a significant part of the solution.

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 already ahead of the curve on legalizing marijuana. It’s time for change, and we must start in our own communities.

I try to focus my thoughts on safety and “Police Reform”. Police Reform:

I am sure there are many ways to approach changing policing in 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.

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.

Community Based Policing:

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 involves a focus on intervention and preventing 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.

The recruitment and retention of police officers has been a problem in Greensboro. This is a large problem and it requires a comprehensive approach. We need a culture of respect and professionalism within our police department. We need to increase transparency and accountability.

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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.
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 2.3 times more likely to be arrested for possession than the rate varies widely by county. In Beaufort County, a Black person in 11.8 times more likely to be arrested. Granville = 11.7 times more likely. Henry = 11.2 times more likely.

https://graphics.cbsnews.com/marijuana-arrest-report/NC

The prohibition of cannabis in giving the police cause for more interaction 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, so 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.

Wayne No New Hanover No Policies and Resources X X

I am 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 ways we create with criminalization of cannabis, lives destroyed, and on how the (Black Lament Syndrome) to this prohibition that was built on racism at its inception. The drug war is not only war on Black people, but it is war on those without money or resources and locks on an endless spiral of criminal involvement, poverty, bad job opportunities, and more poverty, for which there is no escape. I would like to direct you to a compilation of crime, thoroughly-rooted, peer-reviewed studies that demonstrate safety and.cannabis would increase by legalization of cannabis. https://www.ourmoney.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 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 20 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-Griffin No New Hanover Yes Y Experience X X

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 coming 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.

My son was stopped by the police on the way to his job Interview and was desparate to get to his Interview on time. They searched him without a warrant, but there is 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. I let my kids visit my ex wife in NC and she uses the racist court to get of the murder.

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Barbara Danny No Winston No Yes Yes Experience X

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Thank you.

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.

Joyce A. Delia No New Hanover No Policies and Resources X X

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Thank you.
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.

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 have a discussion on "Defending the Police." We had participants with many viewpoints and I can share my perspective and a summary of the discussions if you are interested.

I was stopped in 2009 by Raleigh Police and Cary Police twice in the same year with my husband and two children in a car. We were pulled over two times and both times we had registration, insurance, and who we are. I was wearing a safety vest because I had an injury. The police officer had his gun pointed at me and I was very scared. My husband was told that he was going to have his gun seized. I was scared and I thought he would be shot. The police officer was very, very apologetic. I had a comforter with me because it was very cold. I was told to go to the back of the police car. I was only released after an hour. The whole experience was very traumatic for me.

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. 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 I had to. 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 I had to.

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 I had to. Thin in this family, you see.

I am a citizen, I can "fit in" anywhere. I know, from personal, direct, lifelong experience that white supremacist racists recruit for such a inaccurate description of law enforcement, especially in NC. I believe I could offer a lot of relevant information and experience to the task force.

I am a 77 year old business owner. I once missed a restaurant because my husband ran out of gas. I was afraid to ask for help. I was afraid of the police. I was a customer and I was 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 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. 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 I had to. 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 I had to.

I am a retired pediatrician who used to work with children who had been abused. My first grandson, whose mother was African American and Hispanic (Mexican and Honduran). Since having these grandchildren and great grandchildren, I have become aware of my own racism and how it holds us in a systemic racism and white privilege are in our culture. I am learning from their experience 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 mother was African American and Hispanic (Mexican and Honduran). Since having these grandchildren and great grandchildren, I have become aware of my own racism and how it holds us in a systemic racism and white privilege are in our culture. I am learning from their experience and their friends' experiences. What I have learned is that our local police forces (Cary and Raleigh) are not without guilt in the matter.

I am a father of five children and two grandchildren. I have been in the car with my wife and my children when we were followed and stopped by law enforcement just because my wife was driving a nice car.

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 serving the final 2 chapters of my PD dissertation on crisis intervention.

Dear Esteemed Task Force,

I would like to share a few stories from my experiences with Raleigh Police, I had very positive feelings. I guess you have to be black to see the other side of policing policy! 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. I’m for that.

I am in my 70s. I am African American and grew up in a mixed race family. My experiences with Raleigh Police, I had very positive feelings. I guess you have to be black to see the other side of policing policy! 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. I’m for that.

I do not expect the silent majority to remain silent much longer.

3. All officers required to wear body cams.

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.

1. Model portion of situational training after real events which were not handled well.

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 such a inaccurate description of law enforcement, especially in NC. I believe I could offer a lot of relevant information and experience to the task force.
Douglas Loflin No Montgomery Yes Yes Experiences X

Larry Barnhill No Wake Yes Yes Experiences X

Kathy Greggs Yes Fayetteville PACT Cumberland Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X X

Timothy Lyda No Mecklenburg No Yes Policies and Resources X

Douglas Loflin No Montgomery Yes Yes Experiences X

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 than a White person. 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.iacl.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC

The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and laws to "protect and serve" all of us. 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-related car crashes all decline. At this moment, our Black neighbors must now have the experience of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you.

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 Cannabis 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.

Mariana Ramirez No Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X X

Kathy Greggs Yes Fayetteville PACT Cumberland Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X X

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 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. Please let the state government trust and aid on our efforts.

I think 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 ownership would get first choice. I feel the justice system should treat all people the same, regardless of skin color.

The American pharmacopoeia listed marijuana as a useful drug for the treatment of numerous afflictions such as neuralgia, tetanus, typhus, cholera, rabies, anthrax, leprosy, tourniquets, dysentery, insanity, and excessive menstrual and uterine bleeding. As far back 2459-2203 BCE, ancient Egypt used cannabis for medicinal purposes. The prohibition of cannabis gives the police greater incentive to violate our rights and less to “protect and serve” all of us. 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. 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.”

The American pharmacopoeia listed marijuana as a useful drug for the treatment of numerous afflictions such as neuralgia, tetanus, typhus, cholera, rabies, anthrax, leprosy, tourniquets, dysentery, insanity, and excessive menstrual and uterine bleeding.

Contrary to Myths - Legalization Actually Reduces Criminal Activity

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 illegally marijuana used for medical purposes.

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.

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%.

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.

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 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. Please let the state government trust and aid on our efforts.

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.
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; Raynold = 11.3 times more likely; and Washington = 11.2 times more likely (Harrington, 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 (employing Mexican) and Congress was pressured to make this 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 to violate our rights in ways that have nothing to do with protecting and serving commumities. 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 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 58,000 North Carolinians were arrested for possession (not sales) of marijuana between 2014 and 2015 and these families faced major upheaval and financial hardship. The Mayo Clinic reports that addiction rates to legal drugs nicotine (32%) and alcohol (17%) are higher than marijuana (9%).

Not to be overlooked, legalization of cannabis can positively save lives. Between 1999-2006, 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid overdose. Importantly, medical cannabis, a common practice a hundred years ago, has been substanitiated 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. Increasing 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 60% 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: NC NORML.

There is nothing inherently dangerous about the adult possession or use of cannabis. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibitions that, following legalization, opioid use, alcohol use, and alcohol-involved 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 reliable data and several reports advised against the ban on marijuana. It is very 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 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.

Imprisoned 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 has people offset their income and net 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 apprehend 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 who 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 report 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.sacra.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC/, African Americans are 3.3 times 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 harms keeping marijuana illegal does to our community as it puts minorities in prisons over harmless offenses. 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.

Thank you very much for reading this, and I hope you can bring the change we would like to see.
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 through 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; Hyde = 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 prohibitions 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," 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. The police have a duty to serve and protect all of us. We are giving the police a job and a duty to serve has given the police the power to enter our homes and steal our belongings. In America, going back to two men’s companies panning money into Agent orange pocket to end the companies competition. This is a wrong way it is set up and we still follow this false Madison’s caused death because what we were made to believe. Cannabis has been used safely since the beginning of time. We have learned from the many states who have loosened cannabis prohibitions 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," Legalize marijuana

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Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie Strickland

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 prohibitions 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.

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To whom it may concern;

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some ideas to consider. First and foremost, cannabis should be removed as a 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 13.1 times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana; White person is 6.2 times more likely. https://graphics.aclu.org/marijuana-arrest-report/NC

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 more 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 the moment, our Black neighbors must not have to experience the traumas of police interaction for use and possession of plant material. Thank you.

Law Enforcement Hiring and Training: Quotes 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 racism should have no bearing on the hiring decisions.

I am invested in hearing how the task force approaches and corrects this inhumane system for the benefit of all.

unjust imprisonment of human beings. I want the government of my state to stop helping corporations profit from the more aspect that I would like to see discussed.

and genuine desire to do and be better, for the sake of EVERYONE in its community.

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.

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. 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 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

options, social workers, and rehabilitation programs. I believe preventative measures have the capacity to do much more to reduce crime than reactive ones.

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 had to: -no call is 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.

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.dconc.gov/government/departments-a-e/durham-local-reentry-council

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 involvement of ofﬁcers must therefore become part of that ofﬁcer’s permanent employment record, so a single background check will show such incidents. Also, the current “blue wall” culture that turns a blind eye when other ofﬁcers fail to intervene must be STRONGLY challenged, as inaction when intervention is appropriate must also be a criminal offense. Please legalize cannabis medicinally or otherwise. North Carolina is behind the times and the science on this issue. Cannabis laws are racist and unconstitutional.

I am writing concerning the unjust imprisonment of Ronnie Long. The foundation of our democracy in opinion depends on fairness and proper intervention is appropriate must also be a criminal offense.

administration of our laws. Ronnie Long was not fairly tried or convicted and should be immediately released.

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 involvement of ofﬁcers must therefore become part of that ofﬁcer’s permanent employment record, so a single background check will show such incidents. Also, the current “blue wall” culture that turns a blind eye when other ofﬁcers fail to intervene must be STRONGLY challenged, as inaction when intervention is appropriate must also be a criminal offense.

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 service/record so a simple background check will show such incidents.

I am also highly interested in hearing about the task force exploring options such as deprogramming the minds into POC communities, as well as alternative organizations that deal with crimes 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.

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

Unfortunately, this does not happen.

It is imperative that we have notification of the release of individuals returning to the community.

Thank you for your time.

I am signing up to receive updates on the NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.

I believe that the voice 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 those issues, like NC-SIRED (http://ncracialjustice.org/nc-cred-statement-on-gov-coopers-task-force-for-racial-equity/). I believe that the voices of Black, Indigenous, Latinas and other impacted groups are of the utmost importance and the Task Force will not be effective without them.

I am also highly interested in hearing about the task force exploring options such as deprogramming the minds into POC communities, as well as alternative organizations that deal with crimes 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.

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

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.

These are my hopes from the task force, and although I am unsure on the effectiveness of task forces in general to truly assist in meaningful ways, I hope to members can please me wrong. Meaningful change needs to happen NOW, and too often in this country, we are quick to stop a head-aid on a head wound and call it fixed. If I find, 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.

I just left some feedback detailing what I am hoping will come out 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.

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.

I am involved in hearing how the task force approaches and corrects this inhumane system for the benefit of all.
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.

Our organization is built on listening to the stories of our community and organizing around actions that will bring the change that these 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.

We believe Durham has one of the most comprehensive re-entry networks in the State for our citizens returning from incarceration. Too often, we hear the stories of reentry 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 rewards 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.

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 often undergo evaluations within DPS but these evaluations often do not return with the formerly incarcerated person. Their home plan does not require our support necessary ongoing mental health services. The normal difficulty in successfully transitioning out of incarceration is multiplied many times without proper mental health diagnostic and treatment.

In support of the two issues described above, we are asking you to recommend that DPS have a policy of notification of returns 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 release, 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.

An organization Durham CAN is aware of many other criminal justice issues that most adversely affect people of color. The re-imaging 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, synthesizing our findings, and proposing or embedding needed actions through this feedback mechanism.

Thanks for your critical work on this initiative.

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 these 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 total court judges from granting fee waivers for an individual’s inability to pay. The imposition of these court costs, fines, and fees inadequately 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 present many justice-involved individuals from successfully re-entering society and, consequently, raising the risk of recidivism. This task force must address the injustices caused by the imposition of court costs, fines, and fees, and must advance new policies to assure that these 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.

Josh,

You and your office are inexcusable. After jumping through all the hoops on your website to report Law Enforcement Misconduct, I received no response.

Then, after begging Gail or Angelica to put me in contact with someone who would respond, spending lengthy times on hold, receiving unreturned voicemail messages with Serena Jones and Diane Konopka, having to repeat myself every time I called and getting nowhere, I finally gave up.

I told Diane that I would tell my story to others to use to that you are not re-elected on November 3, 2020.

So, stop sending me these emails.

Andree

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.

Police have a history of abuse of power and lack of accountability since its inception. Police power and ability to murder citizens 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 civilians who acted in these ways would be jailed for life. Police are also inefficient 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 escalated any situations prior to these senseless deaths. Reform is too late, the system is too broken. There needs to be a dismantlement 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.

Thank you,

Josh Cranage

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’s 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. One of them was a male and I was informed I would need to be superintend of my son, have him go 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.

How do you get justice?

Katarina Hayes

Who can handle this situation?

Thank you for the invitation.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Policies and Resources</th>
<th>Experiences</th>
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<td>Forsyth</td>
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Good afternoon,

It would seem that local sheriffs are above the law and have no one to be accountable too. I find this disturbing. 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. It is not how a democratic society works. But maybe this is a police state. When we elected a democratic governor and city, general I thought things would be better I was wrong. So it does not really matter republican or democratic it's all the same.

The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice sounds like an amazing group, and I was interested to learn more, and possibly volunteering to assist if there are any opportunities. My background working on Project Safe Neighborhoods and reentry 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 outcomes spent time thinking racial profiling but wanted ONLY “discour” racial profiling at TRAFFIC STOPS mostly a mile away from city hall and racial profiling has been denied despite the police chief saying they stop & search Young Black males [LIKE TIFFANY SCOTT] because [QUOTE] THAT’S who commits the crime young Black males” if that isn’t racial profiling, what is? and 90% of drivers searches in Durham are Black AND TEENAGERS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK PEDESTRIANS [LIKE TIFFANY SCOTT] AREN’T COUNTED BECAUSE THEY DON’T COUNT AND POLICE SHOES (PLURAL) HAVE SAID “WE DON’T HAVE 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 LANMINED ON THEIR FACES, HANDCUFFED, KICKED, SEARCHED & RELEASED BECAUSE CATCH & RELEASE FISHING EXPEDITIONS ARE UNDOCUMENTED AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY COPS TAKE DRUGS OR GUN FOR PERSONAL USE OR SALE [DON'T TRACK] Apologize if this has been addressed in a previous meeting; small task force efforts result in compilation/publication of prosecutions/conviction and sentencing recommendations by race and gender??

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.

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 forfeitures 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 seizures 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 to 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 when treated one way blacks treated another all people should be treated the same!!
I watched the city council vote on the budget and the task force is still a 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 the 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. Finish 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 use 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 4 years of brutal actions against an adversary. I also believe in public safety training. What do the two have in common? You see at base job fair 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 battle field 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 so going on the police force. Public safety is an art not a science. The police could not control a real uprising anyway. They need the cooperation of the people. People must have some of lawlessness is fair because if the police just shot out em up you will see just what you are seeing.

Every law enforcement officer must have a body camera and turn it on at the 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 trust and eliminate racial disparities if transparency doesn't exist.

I was appalled when everyone wanted to let Blassing go. It was for the betterment of the country. Ballot fraud is a felony and Moira Donegan 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. sixty-seven years after the unanimous jury s. maryland ruling, new enforcement and prosecutors in kurnaw have no written process on releasing constitutionally required exculpatory evidence to accused persons.

The problem starts with accuracy 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 create the Constitution by law.

“[I]f the 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 mandate 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 those 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, even though they exist as a judge can ask 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, thus being essential to maintaining public confidence in the administration of services. For city employees, the statute is NCGS 160A-14(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 scrutiny when hiring or moving training at the front that 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 sentencing and sentencing are being based on, it needs to be a very transparent, serious view. When I first started my career, people were very distrustful of the court system. O you say he/she is getting 50 years but he/she will be out in 10. If they are just going to get probabilities. One time, with his sentencing, we could have a victim that these defendants were going to do to be honest is not. There needs to be a clear chart to show what happens when someone is sentenced. Does this need revision? Maybe. However, just blindly handing out parole or sentencing to the amount of time someone will get...especially for violent crimes or habitual crimes in a lease. A lease not for only the court system but to the public as well. We utilize the trust of our victims and the public. I know the state of the country now and know that a hot button issue is it. I know there is a temptation for substance motivation to cut the back and the drug population. This mess 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, revise, study, ask questions. However, do not do what is easy and popular. Please consider the victims and the 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 complex as ours, it is 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.
Durham and State needs another Hope VI grant or a situation similar to it to 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. Correvon Road apartments in Durham or the Mecklenburg apartment complex I’m sixty-six years old and those apartments 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 demographics is redeveloped and projects sit looking as they do then people look out that they see are meaningful. Every city with project housing should set 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 Pedestrians while the school to prison pipeline has been going on for so many young black kids. It seems the Pedestrians were silent as those young kids were being led by the door 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? With them 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.

Wayland Burton No
Durham
Yes
No
Policies and Resources
X

William Burton No
Mecklenburg
Yes
No
Questions
X

Black Incbas Yes
Black Community Unit Guilford
No
No
Policies and Resources
X

Jaysha Griffin No
Pawhuska
Yes
Yes
Policies and Resources
X

Tonya Jones No
Franklin
Yes
Yes
Policies and Resources
X

Johnny and Elaine T  No
Ames
Yes
Yes
Experiences
X

Faula Pierre No
Guilford
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Yes
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Jonathan Thomas No
Union
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Yes
Experiences
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Andra Killingsworth No
Wake
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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/1YkIqzFmJuxyumucPQWu7_14QDIbQ27VpWz74Uxc5wB9TXPnV92kl9ktv5QLO_w0eTY

#FreeShannonNyamodi today

1. Why isn’t it required that LED’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 are 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 community collectively for reporting that agency / officers?

Thank you

The police have the use of force continuous but they don’t always follow it 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 war discharge our war is in a big deal and if we are found wrong then there is a consequence that isn’t worth enduring. It makes it truly think before we act. Four is no impact. Four doesn’t get you off the hook. If the the combat zone is no excuse, four on American soil should not be one either. 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 LED’s for non-violent misdemeanors?

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, 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 (or tried) 4) pretrial release 5) requiring proof that the defendant has a low risk of flight 6) people are more able to keep their jobs, homes, families, etc.

I was disappointed to see my city of Raleigh adopt a few new policing rules and call it “reform.” Similarly, I’m disappointed to 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.

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.

Thank you for the invitation.
Thank you for the invitation.

Our cash bail system is broken and Constitutionally unsound. It leads to a pre-trial incarceration problem that is not alleviated by a judge’s decision to sentence somebody to “time served” after the fact. And since Magistrates are tasked with setting bond amounts as “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.

How can we get more traditional housing in our communities?
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 can 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 in the goal?

Thank you again for hearing my concerns during the public session as mentioned I am a fiancé of Jeffrey B Cobb who was wrongly convicted and everly sentenced. He was charged by the Guilford County DA office and Lead Investigator Matthews of the Guilford County Police Department. The sentence imposed on him was harsh Based and injustice. He was a first arrested on burglary and attempted robbery then the 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 however only received 17 to 22 years the other shooter received only received 11 years my fiancé [Jeffrey B Cobb #8081140] received 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 is in taking a plea and we’re having a rough time trying to mitigate post convolutions he was railroaded by the justice system he was railroaded by his defense council they didn’t even try to defend him. This is something we see way too often with indigenous people when they get public defenders those public defenders feel like they don’t have to defend our citizens as if they were private attorneys. They are just giving their clients easy to these prosecutors for these plea deals those political gains financial gains now my husband has to sit in prison for 20-31 years for a crime that he did not commit and we can’t find enough evidence to get him back in court something must be done about those post conviction litigations or other parole so the second look bill can be deeply disturbed by the amount of people that are wrongly convicted and everly sentenced in today’s society it is guilty of unto prison guilty you’re never innocent. My fiancé has been incarcerated for six years he has no in fraction he is reproducing Imagine how that has people that follow him he has no problems with the officers he has a son with that it is the work he is worse basic he is worse poetry he has support with change for a new evolutionary hearing a new trial ask you please to start looking at this complaint and make it right when you think the people who do wrong are wrong our system that is what is happening we are trying to true an has enforcement and officials in the chaos and confusion of the Guilford Police Authority. For City of Fayetteville it only takes 1% of the FPD budget to implement this. We have here created a Citizen Review Board Ordinance for the city of Fayetteville that will pass NCGA, we have reviewed this with Senator Kirk DeFrance for further edits.

I am providing our links on presentation that was given to our city council on a special city council meeting

Fayetteville PACT Presentation on Civilian Oversight Board with Citizen Review Board

https://youtu.be/WLh3EA6fFxs

https://youtu.be/nBbJpbIuJ_Y

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https://youtu.be/nBbJpbIuJ_Y

Thank you please reach me at fayettevillapact@gmail.com, phone (910)494-0914.

Kathy Greggs
Co-Founder/President
Fayetteville-PACT
Thank you for your opportunity and consideration. I am pleased with the objectives to execute Equality, Fairness and Justice in much anticipated through different regions of NC. Throughout the justice system and Police-ing.

I am here today In behalf of a NC resident from Mecklenburg County that is currently serving a 175-222 month sentence. A non-violent, first offense, 2 counts of Drug trafficking. *Time served as today roughly 576 days.

This offense carried a mandatory sentencing of 20-37 years.

There were several inequities within this case.

These inequities show comparison to cases such McInnis vs. NC, Nostrum vs United States, and State vs Parks. Where the identity of the confidential informant was not disclosed, when discovered he/she was not active participant in the Case. The Defendant pleaded not guilty but was not afforded the opportunity to completely defend himself.

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.

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 further Anderson which I have emails with and also letters back from the office stating the same. There is a all white neighborhood that planted dragonflies 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 neighborhood has been totally dismantled. Except certain officers who was never identified! Instead of taking the allegations serious Special Deputy Ryan Haigh has been pushing for prosecution even calling the US Attorney Scott Lemon to try and get one of the defendants to testify fake information by coercion. When she was asked to testify she stated that she saw the police bringing in the drugs and they didn’t want to hear that. This happened July 17 2018 and we have yet to see a day in court which we are all looking forward to!

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 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.

I provided my suggestions verbally and in writing today. To reiterate it is critical that the specific NC problems he 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 definitive ways to measure progress in accomplishing the goals that your mitigation/correctional recommendations are focused on. Every recommended action must have a person or organization responsible for implementing it with accountability.

I have spent over 30 years in analysis 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)

We’re all on the same page and we need to learn history first before moving to retribution. Thank you for working for change and improving lives.

How can this group be effective if all of the people are basically apart of the justice, police department or elective officials? Which is what we have issues with. There isn’t one person apart of this group that is without bias.
As a high school 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 social workers and counselors that are actually accessible to students and are trained in de-escalation tactics, and finally the unnecessary presence of SROs in schools that ultimately do more harm than good—often using unnecessary force with and intimidating tactics with students. Thank you.

Terri Scott No Union Yes Yes Experiences X

I am setting in reference to my families experience but I know there are many other victims and other situations that will be affected by the law changing and many losses that could be taken if someone like this was no big deal. She can just go out on parole and get back to what she was doing and feel that it wasn’t taken seriously. Most of us in these situations have been given a lifetime of pain. I’m sure I understand what this has to do with race. In our situation, both parties, our son and the woman charged are white. We believe race shouldn’t be so easily accessible to the public as to encourage discrimination and oppression through social systems and employment resources. These needs 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 citizens. As Justice Earls’ quote implies, it is only the beginning.

Amanda Scott No Union Yes Yes Experiences X

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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; this murderer admitted to the crime and accepted a plea deal. My family has been made aware that this Task Force is considering the reincarnation 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 never erase 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 underground 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, so 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 away, and it would mess out of what has already been established.

Can the provision that prevents felons from voting be stripped from North Carolina Law?

I would like to see juveniles only tried as juveniles and if convicted the sentence be capped at 5 years.

Joy Rochester No Union Yes Yes Experiences X

As a high school 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 social workers and counselors that are actually accessible to students and are trained in de-escalation tactics, and finally the unnecessary presence of SROs in schools that ultimately do more harm than good—often using unnecessary force with and intimidating tactics with students. Thank you.

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Lee Welborn Yes Lee Loci Labs Alamance Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X X

I believe these first 3 measures are vital to begin the process of actually making our justice system just for all citizens. As Justice Earls’ quote implies, it is only the beginning.

I support the reinstatement 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 redressing some of the existing law enforcement responsibilities and funds to organizations and services that can better meet needs and crimes 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!

I would like to see juveniles only tried as juveniles and if convicted the sentence be capped at 5 years.

Janet Harmon No Johnston Yes Yes Policies and Resources X 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 would like to have the state to look into our online adjudication software and try to get the states to agree on software that can do this. I think this software will prevent us from losing some cases.

Joy Rochester No Union Yes Yes Experiences X

Can the provision that prevents felons from voting be stripped from North Carolina Law?

I would like to see juveniles only tried as juveniles and if convicted the sentence be capped at 5 years.

John Joseph No Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X

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Durham Gang Reduction Strategy Steering Committee

Policies and Resources

Wes Saunders No Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X

James Sutt Yes Durham Gang Reduction Durham No Yes Policies and Resources X

Roo Montezuma 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

Glenda Wright No New Hanover Yes Yes Experiences X

audinso maltbafl X 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 into 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 to get back into society by automatically removing the negative stigma of a conviction from their record and overall make the judicial system more efficient.

If the 2,600 validated gang members in the Durham Police Departments Records Management System (ERMS) 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 that other races/ethnicities. Two thirds (66%) 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 inflict racism into our law enforcement. Practices and training will significantly help to attain that goal. 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 in emphasis 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 “oh they can just get out on parole”. It’s very important for this to be looked at 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.

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 tell them they are not allowed to give legal advice. 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 get 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 work/have 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 attogarated party has not shown up. Sometimes I have them pleading guilty and then when the judge asks, they will say, I just want this over with, I just want 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 sworn and saw them throw a fit at court. Someone of the court loses and wins are crazy. They are extremely high, especially if it’s a person also has to pay attorney. In some cases, it is the 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 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 have a clue about structured sentencing, that is required once having entered a guilty plea. Because getting into court is an anxiety provoking experience, I feel it would be really helpful to seed folks some type of floor giving practical important information, including instructions/directions to the courthouse, to be allowed parking, and the room member where trial will be, as well as guidance as to how, do they 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 horrific, 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 some. This is not equality, they are only fair to them 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 go to a court case, even a civil one where the lin is obvious and easy to prove, the person being 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.
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) NC DOJ/DHS 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 to 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 grantees data is very differently available from jail data, which is differently available from administrative office of the court data and traffic stop data - to researchers, state government partners, and the public.

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 designed to ensure racial equity.

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

While the existing system, which is actually doing 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. 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.

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.

Hi - thanks for organizing this public comment session, and best wishes to both Atty General Josh Stein and Associate Justice Anita Earls.
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. Talk about it — one of the best proven ways to get at the root of the problem and help us remember what we must never again become.

3. Re-examine the purpose of law enforcement and jailing people. Do we 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 Coll-Off Service Boards that are not minority civilian. Police supervisors cannot hold law enforcement officers accountable for their actions if their decision is constantly overruled. 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 present crimes by police. We know too well the harms of child abuse, and if a crime in North Carolina to ensure child abuse are reported. We need the irreparable harm police brutality causes its victims and communities. We need a similar criminal law to obligate police to report and present 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 allows 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 police system.

9. Consider the impact of the law passed in 2019 to allow for early release of eligible inmates. Current parole policy positions eligible inmates for parole at 1/3 of their sentence. The new law will allow for early release of eligible inmates based on their good behavior, as if after 1/2 their sentence. If we can do this for inmates, why not for police officers?

Gracia O’Neill No Madison Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X
Barbara Moore No New Hanover Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X
Joe Johnson No Wake Yes Yes Questions X X
Joyce Gibson Yes Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X
Terri Scott No Union Yes Yes Experiences X
Denise Morris No Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X
Leah Robinson No Wake Yes Yes Policies and Resources X X
Lisa Archie No Mecklenburg Yes Yes Experiences X
Stephen Boyd Yes Ministers’ Conference Forsyth Yes Yes Policies and Resources X
Crystal Jordan No Union Yes Yes Experiences X

CONSIDER THOSE MONSTERS FOR EARLY RELEASE! If you will take just another few minutes of your time and look at their arrest records, you 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 the impact of the law passed in 2019 to allow for early release of eligible inmates. Current parole policy positions eligible inmates for parole at 1/3 of their sentence. The new law will allow for early release of eligible inmates based on their good behavior, as if after 1/2 their sentence. If we can do this for inmates, why not for police officers?

WHEN WILL OUR LIVES MATTER?

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 operating surgeries I have had and continue to live will always haunt me. My husband relives this tragedy daily in his head. He will NEVER be the same. They have stolen his life and happiness from us. We will never escape the hell that has been unleashed upon us. Each day is excruciating and a curse at all 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 got bankrupted us, but through the grace of God, we have managed to make it thus far. I can just now able to sleep at night (my husband still does not sleep much) without reoccuring nightmares. I also find myself constantly checking the NCDOC website to find out if Otis Redding Howey Jr offender #824170 projected release date 12-27-2050 and Melvin Lucas offender #548997 projected release date 05-16-2079 (both of which are habitual felons) have 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 KNOW 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 continues 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 MADE 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.
If we are looking at true police reform and professional change, we need to start at the foundations. This means we should look into standardizing all training new officers receive. Each institution in North Carolina does 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 uniform 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 BLET should be standardized as well.

In order to build officers from the ground up, in BLET we should introduce de-escalation into it 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, Tracer and Subject Control Arrest Techniques. We have to expand the training to include implicit bias training and Critical Intervention Training in basic classes. This would also require us to raise the BLET hours from 488 hours to 1600-1200 hours of Basic Law Enforcement Training. This would accommodate for the additional de-escalation training and adding de-escalation in all blocks of force training/practical training as well as CIT and implicit bias training. We should teach things like the Brady Rights Act in BLET 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.

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 Rights issues to all Standard reviews so this could add issues with a particular officer that should no longer be in the law enforcement profession. Again, this discussion could be lengthy as well.

Correctional Institute and can no longer cause harm to them or anyone else until 2079 or 2080. Theis verdict should be upheld and NOT reversed.

I truely 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 that 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.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support for Robbie & Crystal Jordan and letting them know their safety is a priority for NC.
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 treat people as humans or will you put your ego and greed in front of another’s life?

Will you ban the Prone Restraint?

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

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 more animosity? 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 hold?

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 20 people serving life without parole because of violent habitual felon status. A striking 30 of 32 are black. Two are Native-American. Six are white. There are many predominantly white counties in which there are zero whites in 75,000 but one, or two, or three blacks. We need to make data on those who seek this penalty be presented in court in non-racial terms. If there is a challenge to illegal patterns, the issue is not one of race but of access to counsel and representation.

The fundamental point is that setting the date 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 tenants of a system of judicial 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-carceral alternatives to human-captivity. alternatives 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 STRUCTURAL EVALUATIONS OF THE MENTAL ATTITUDE FOR POLICE OFFICERS BETTER PAY WILL ATRACT BETTER POLICE OFFICERS.

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

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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. However, a select few were allowed to go way over their time limits. 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 don’t 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 he 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 toward 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 Task Force 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 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. Much my fiancé both have wronged 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 & all much for all your help!!