



# **Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force Recommendations**

**Presentation to Board of County  
Commission**

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**April 13, 2021**

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# Presentation Outline

- **Task Force Structure**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Community Crime Survey**
- **Subcommittee Recommendations**
- **Request and Next Steps**
- **Requested Action**



# Local Headlines

## **'They killed my baby!' 3-year-old boy shot to death in Orange County drive-by**

Deputies investigate fatal shooting on Drexel Avenue

## **16-year-old shot near Orlando park**

Teen taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center

## **14-year-old killed, 15-year-old critically injured in Orange County shooting**

Deputies investigate double shooting in Pine Hills

## **'We don't feel safe anymore': 2 teens shot at Orange County apartment complex, deputies say**

September 29, 2020 at 12:27 pm EDT

## **There has been a shooting in Orange County every day so far this month**

Uptick in shootings attributed to gang violence, Sheriff John Mina says

Shooting that injured 2 teens off Colonial Drive linked to gang feud



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Task Force Structure



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

**Mayor Demings convened the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force on November 6, 2020**

- **Seven shootings in three-weeks that involved two fatalities**

## Citizen-Led Task Force

- **37 members representing diverse backgrounds**
- **Met for 120 days | 52 meetings | Over 100 hours**
- **Developed 20 recommendations**





# Task Force Members

## Task Force Co-Chairs

- **Jim Coffin, Executive Director, Interfaith Council**
- **Rod Love, Former County Commissioner & President, Community Synergy Group, Inc.**

## Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- **Patricia Brigham, League of Women Voters**
- **Bishop Kelvin Cobaris, The Impact Church of Orlando**
- **Lisa Early, Families, Parks & Recreation Department, City of Orlando**
- **Samantha Love, Orange County Public Schools & Restore Orlando HOG**
- **Bishop-Elect Derrick McRae, The Experience Christian Center & African American Council of Christian Clergy**
- **Patricia Rumph, Pine Hills Community Council**
- **Pastor Gabriel Salguero, The Gathering Place & National Latino Evangelical Coalition**





# Task Force Members

- **Rachel Allen, Peace and Justice Institute, Valencia College**
- **Rolando Bailey, Orange County Representative, District 2**
- **Charles Brown, Bridges International**
- **Lisa Coffey, Social Services, Orange County Public Schools**
- **Ruth Cedeno, Orange County Representative, District 3**
- **Mimi Chan, Wah Lum Temple & Host of Culture Chat Podcast**
- **Jonathan Cox, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida**
- **Fernando Cuevas III, Orange County Representative, District 1**
- **T.J. Legacy-Cole, Orange County Representative, District 6**
- **Eric Debose, Retired, Orange County Sheriff's Office & Youth Mentor**
- **Alondra Gittelson, Survivor, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School & University of Central Florida student**
- **Sr. Pastor Terence Gray, St. Mark AME Church**





# Task Force Members

- **Roger Handberg, United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida**
- **Adam Hartnett, Poverty Solutions Group & Circles of Central Florida**
- **Cory Austin Jackson, Valencia College Student**
- **Subhash Kateel, Alliance for Safety and Justice & Florida Rights Restoration Coalition**
- **Ricky Ly, Jacobs Engineering & Advocate**
- **Chief Mike McKinley, Apopka Police Department & Orange/ Osceola County Chiefs of Police**
- **Honorable John Mina, Orange County Sheriff**
- **Miles Mulrain, Jr., Activist and Founder of Let Your Voice Be Heard**
- **Myesha Murray, Apopka Boys & Girls Club**
- **Nancy Oesch, Criminal Justice, Florida Technical College**
- **Javier Andres Pineiro, Florida Department of Health & UCF Student, & Orange County Representative, District 4**







# Task Force Members

- **Nancy Oesch, Adjunct Professor, Florida Technical College**
- **Javier Andres Pineiro, Florida Department of Health & UCF Student, Orange County Representative, District 4**
- **Chief Orlando Rolon, Orlando Police Department**
- **Ruben Saldaña, Founder of Ru Camp, Orange County Representative, District 5**
- **Michael Scott, My Brother's Keeper & Helping All Youth Achieve "HAYA"**
- **Andres Toro, Orange County resident**
- **Honorable Monique Worrell, State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit**





# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

**Goal: Identify solutions and strategies to **prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime** in the community**

## **Objectives:**

- **Review state and local data on gun violence and violent crimes**
- **Examine youth and young adult risk and protective factors**
- **Research evidence-based programs and best practices**
- **Review existing programs and services in the community**
- **Review intervention strategies that deter the possession, carrying and use of illegal firearms**
- **Identify strategies that will mobilize the community and enhance engagement**
- **Expand prosecution of gun violence and violent crimes**



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Four Pillars

- **Prevention:** Work with youth ages 13 – 25 in zip codes where the incidence of violent crime is highest
- **Intervention:** Promote interagency cooperation and coordination among service providers in Orange County to assist with reducing gun violence and violent crimes pertaining to youth
- **Enforcement:** Review data & evidence-based enforcement strategies to reduce gun violence
- **Prosecution:** Enhance prosecution of gun violence and violent crimes



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

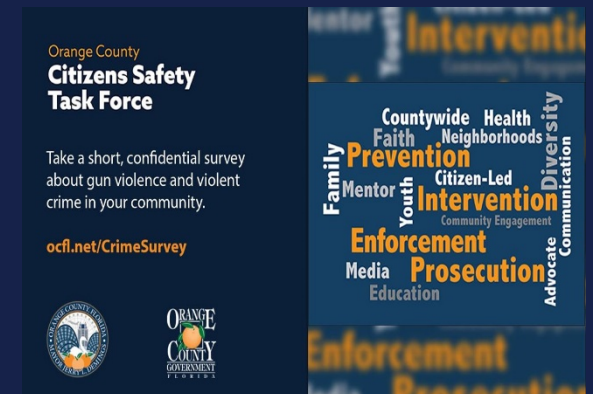
## Community Engagement



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Community Engagement

- Subcommittee Meetings – Public Comment
- Launched Citizens Safety Task Force Webpage & Email
- Held Joint Prevention & Intervention Community Meeting
- Launched Community Crime Survey





# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

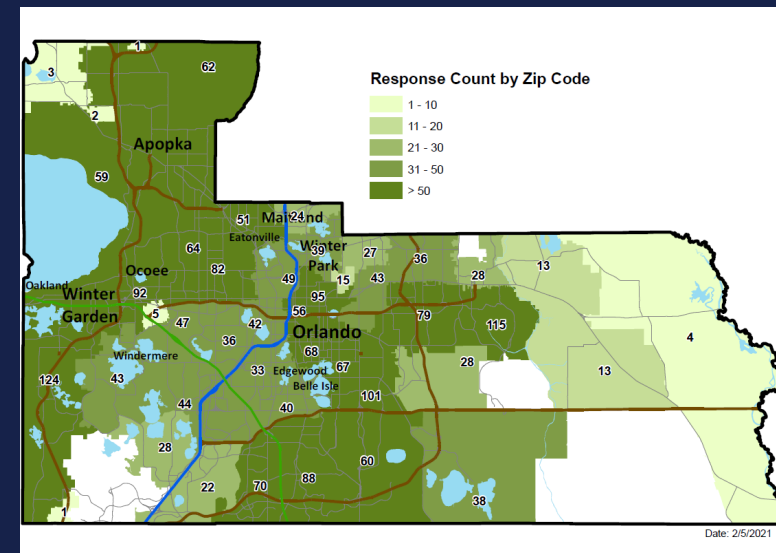
## Community Crime Survey



# Community Crime Survey – Key Findings

## Community Crime Survey – 2,188 Responses | 43 Zip Codes

- **84%** - rated their feeling of safety as safe or very safe
- **9%** - someone in their household had been the victim of violent crime, and **6%** reported the crime
- **28%** - stated the level of gun violence and violent the past three years has increased
- **64%** of the respondents rated the level of police excellent or good
- **33%** - felt law enforcement makes it easy to input to them to help solve problems
- **45%** did not feel they had access to prevention and intervention programs
- **65%** - expand mentoring and intervention programs for youth and young adults





# **Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force**

## **Prevention Subcommittee**





# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #1: Use a Racial Equity Lens and Trauma-Informed Approach to Implement All Task Force Recommendations**

- **Examine racial impacts in the implementation of recommendations**
- **Consult with racial equity practitioner**
- **Incorporate ongoing trauma-informed training at all levels of implementation**
- **Screen all participants for trauma and symptoms**



# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #2:** Expand/Enhance Access To Effective Youth, And Parenting, Mental and Behavioral Health Programs

- A. Allocate funding to programs operated by “Credible Messengers”**
  - Programs that offer youth mentorship, conflict resolution, life skills and job training
- B. Allocate funding to implement research-based models proven to prevent violent crime**
- C. Invest in an effective system of behavioral and mental/trauma-informed services for at-promise youth**
- D. Develop/implement a system that provides free transportation to programs for youth**

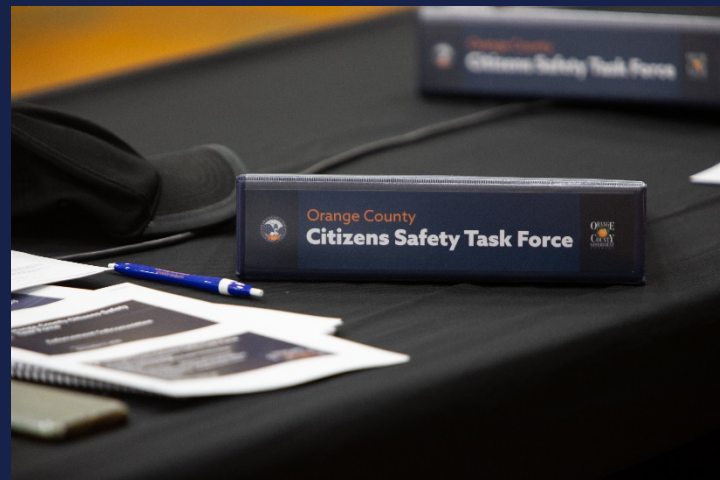


# Prevention Subcommittee

## **E. Implement changes to the Citizens' Review Panel (CRP) Advisory Board for Human Services**

- **Publicize the opportunity to serve**
- **Include youth participation**
- **Add violence prevention to focus areas**

## **F. Invest in programs that teach life skills to parents and youth**





# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #3:** Transform the Criminal Justice System to Reduce Disproportionate Arrests and Incarceration of Black Youth

- A. Develop and implement strategies to eliminate over-policing and develop/implement solutions to reduce arrests for low level offenses**
- B. Review all other stages of the criminal justice system after arrests are made and reform them to reduce criminalization of at-promise youth**
  - Eliminate cash bail for County level offenses (*referred to the Orange County Public Safety Coordinating Council*)**



# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #4:** Support Economic Development, Reduce Poverty and Address Family Economic Insecurity

- A. Develop policies/programs that encourage businesses to offer internships, apprenticeships, mentorships and alternatives to recidivism for youth**
- B. Develop and implement comprehensive policies/programs to help families build generational wealth and overcome poverty**
- C. Offer financial planning and mentorship services to residents**



# Prevention Subcommittee

**Recommendation #4:** Support Economic Development, Reduce Poverty and Address Family Economic Insecurity (continued)

**D. Continue to support the HOUSING FOR ALL 10-Year Action Plan**

**E. Invest in Black-owned business development**





# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #5: Reduce Access to Illegal Firearms**

- A. Conduct a comprehensive review of State and Federal laws governing the sale, purchase, ownership, and carry of guns**
- B. Collaborate with/support citizen groups advocating for common sense gun legislation at the State level**

## **Recommendation #6: Improve Overall Neighborhood Conditions**

- A. Invest in improvements in the target zip codes via the County's Neighborhood Services Division**



# Prevention Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #7:** Communicate Key Issues and Programs to the Community

- A. Implement targeted strategies to communicate and obtain input from residents on violent crime and prevention programs**
- B. Respond to the root causes of violent crime and broadly communicate effective resources and youth programs**
- C. Develop and disseminate social media campaign aimed at strengthening anti-violence social norms**





# **Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force**

## **Intervention Subcommittee**



# Intervention Subcommittee

**Recommendation #1:** Develop a detailed plan that addresses generations of neglect and poverty by formulating a 10-year vision with a systemic focus that reviews the structural changes that provides a healthy community where everyone thrives

**Recommendation #2:** Increase the use of grassroots organizations in the community and allocate funding for them

- Fund community specific programs with credibility
- Provide training and technical assistance to apply and maintain funding



# Intervention Subcommittee

**Recommendation #3:** Develop a Neighborhood Accountability Board and increase the use of diversion services

- Increase the use of civil citation and other diversion services

**Recommendation #4:** Define, develop, and fund a credible messenger's program

- Develop credible messenger's program from the current operating model
- Enhance the program model to include non-traditional arts





# Intervention Subcommittee

**Recommendation #5:** Coordinate with mental health providers to increase the number of providers in the areas identified and require the agencies to increase their hours of operation

- Teach and educate families and youth life skills
- Develop on-line resource directory of prevention programs
- Collaborate with agency providers to develop recruitment video to retain and develop agencies

**Recommendation #6:** Provide safe and reliable areas for youth to congregate

- Create programs in community centers that attract youth
- Create additional mentorship programs
- Provide employability and life skills training





# Intervention Subcommittee

**Recommendation #7:** Create a realistic channel for communication with the community and the youth

- Create social media platform that reaches youth & families
- Create a user-friendly website providing community resources





# **Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force**

## **Enforcement Subcommittee**



# Enforcement Subcommittee

**Recommendation #1:** Establish and maintain quarterly scheduled community public safety forums between law enforcement and community stakeholders over the next 12 months to review relevant data, solicit community input, and discuss and develop strategies to reduce gun/violent crimes

- Law enforcement agencies identify members to participate
- Engage community stakeholders to coordinate and participate in the forums
- Contract with community ambassador/groups to facilitate public safety forums



# Enforcement Subcommittee

**Recommendation #2:** Increase the community's and law enforcement's use of evidence-based practices and non-traditional approaches of community policing and engagement to further build public trust in communities historically distrustful of law enforcement and that are disproportionately impacted by gun/violent crimes

- Law enforcement agencies continue to review and enhance community policing strategies
- Law enforcement agencies continue to educate and engage community stakeholders





# Enforcement Subcommittee

**Recommendation #3:** Implement public safety workshops with law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders through an independent third-party facilitator

- Community ambassadors will work with community stakeholders & law enforcement to coordinate public safety workshops
- Contract with a third-party facilitator to conduct public safety workshops



# Enforcement Subcommittee

**Recommendation #4:** Increase community awareness of Orange County Sheriff's Office Behavioral Response Unit and Orlando Police Department's Community Response Team mental health programs that provide a joint response to calls that involve mental health crisis

- Law enforcement will implement and maintain research study to evaluate effectiveness
- Law enforcement will initiate communication with community stakeholders to review and provide feedback



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Prosecution Subcommittee



# Prosecution Subcommittee

## **Recommendation #1:** Implement Geographic Stewards Programs in the Community

- **Implement a community prosecution model - prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office and U.S. Attorney's Office will partner with the community and law enforcement to focus on reducing the incidence of crime and improving the quality of life for residents**
- **Assemble a Council of Faith and Humanistic Leaders**





# Prosecution Subcommittee

## Recommendation #2: Implement Civil Citation Diversion Programs

- Form a committee to develop, implement and oversee a Civil Citation Diversion Program
  - Ninth Judicial Circuit
  - State Attorney's Office
  - Orange County Sheriff's Office
  - Municipal Police Departments
  - Key Stakeholders

2011-12 Civil Citation

**CIVIL CITATION**

Theo Roberts  
Civil Citation Coordinator  
(850) 322-9564  
Theo.Roberts@dcj.state.fl.us

Civil Citation is designed to give law enforcement an alternative to custody that provides swift and appropriate consequences to youth for certain minor misdemeanor delinquent acts. The goals of Civil Citation are to divert the youth at the time of arrest, make the youth accountable for delinquent behavior, involve the parents in sanctioning the youth, and prevent the youth's further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Law enforcement officers are allowed the discretion of issuing a citation rather than a formal complaint.

Local Civil Citation providers oversee youth who are required to receive an assessment of needs, perform community service hours and complete various sanctions which may include reparations and treatment services. This reduces the time spent completing paperwork. Civil Citation is also much more cost-effective than formally processing a youth in the court and juvenile justice system, and offers the youth an opportunity to receive sanctions, treatment, and to make reparations without obtaining a delinquency record that may interfere with educational, work, and military service opportunities for many years into the future. The low recidivism rate (8%) for youth who participate in Civil Citation is one indicator of the success of this approach.

The success of Civil Citation depends on a volunteer and collaborative effort of many agencies and personnel throughout the community. These include, but are not limited to: law enforcement, state attorneys, judges, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), public defenders, work sites, and the Civil Citation program itself.

**Profile of Youth**

The following tables provide demographic data taken from DJJ's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). Profile data are based on the number of unduplicated youth who received Civil Citation services during Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12.

**Civil Citation (FY 2011-12 Youth Served)**

|            | AGE  |       |       |       |         |    | Youth Served |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------|----|--------------|
|            | 8-11 | 12-14 | 15-17 | 18+   | Unknown |    |              |
| Statistics | 8    | 403   | 2,644 | 3,299 | 7       | 0  | 6,361        |
| Percentage | 8%   | 7%    | 42%   | 51%   | 0%      | 0% | 100%         |

|            | Male  |       |          |       | Female |       |          |       | Youth Served |
|------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|
|            | White | Black | Hispanic | Other | White  | Black | Hispanic | Other |              |
| Statistics | 1,548 | 1,276 | 99       | 97    | 96     | 96    | 94       | 94    | 3,699        |
| Percentage | 28%   | 28%   | 14%      | 1%    | 17%    | 15%   | 6%       | 6%    | 100%         |

Youth served is based on all youth recorded in JJIS as of September 1, 2012.

Page 1 Florida Department of Juvenile Justice



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Request & Next Steps



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Request & Next Steps:

- **Begin allocation of \$2M for implementation of recommendations upon acceptance**
- **Convene staff workgroup to develop a strategic implementation timeline**
  - **Immediate, Short-Term and Long-Term**
- **Staff will provide progress reports bi-annually Board of County Commission**



# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Requested Action





# Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

## Requested Action:

- **Accept the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force recommendations to prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime in the community.**



# **Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force Recommendations**

**Presentation to Board of County  
Commission**

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**April 13, 2021**

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