



**Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force
January 15, 2021 | Meeting Notes
Final Minutes**

Welcome: The meeting began with Co-Chair Love and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Demings, now as we have entered 2021, I am looking forward to the work of the task force and the recommendations that will come forward. I heard from several members of the task force and subcommittee meeting and they sounded somewhat discouraged about whether or not the work you are doing is meaningful work. You are broad representatives of our entire community and I believe each one of you have the passion to make a difference. I am looking forward to your recommendations so we can implement and execute the recommendations. If through your collective spirits and passion believe the work you are doing will have a significant impact on the community than I believe it will. They have to see your leadership and your spirit and the need to bring about positive change in the community. That is our goal there's a way for us to get that point to see violent crime in our community reduced. I want to see you stay focused on the reason why we brought this body together. I appreciate the work our chairs have been doing to lead you through the various conversations and conversation that would move people in certain directions. Do not give up on the process. Thank you.

Co-Chair Jim Coffin led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Co-Chair Rod Love welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Citizens Safety Task Force. Since our work began, the subcommittees have held 20 meetings. I want to thank the members and the residents that have participated. It takes this type of effort to get to the solutions our community needs.

Roll Call:

Rachel Allen
Honorable Worrell
Patricia Brigham
Lisa Coffey
Ruth Cedeno
Mimi Chan
Bishop Kelvin Cobaris

Fernandeo Cuevas, III
TJ Legacy Cole
Eric Debose
Roger Handberg
Adam Harnett
Ricky Ly – online
Bishop-Elect Derek McRae
Chief Mike McKinley
Honorable John Mina
Nancy Oesch
Javier Andres Pineiro
Chief Orlando Rolon – Captain Rich Lane
Patrician Rumph
Ruben Saldana
Reverend Gabriel Salguero
Michael Scott

Approval of Minutes – Co-Chair Love asked for any changes to the draft minutes. Motion to approve the minutes and a second from Patricia Rumph. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment – Co-Chair Coffin asked Carol Burkett, Staff Liaison to the Task Force if there were any members of the public that have filled out a speaker card for today’s meeting or any public comments there were received online. Please note the speaker will have three minutes for their comments. Carol Burkett indicated there was no public comment.

Presentations:

Orange County Sheriff’s Update – Sheriff John Mina announced Undersheriff Mark Canty received the Drum Major Award for Social Justice. Over the past two task force meetings, there has been much discussion of the arrest of juveniles. I want to provide stats and show a graph that shows our commitment to not arrest the youth, as you can see, a 67% decrease in juvenile arrests from 2014 to present. Most of the arrests are for felony crimes and felony drug possession. We are headed in the right direction in this community. Our philosophy is on those who commit violent crimes in our community. I also wanted to cover briefly – two homicides early this week. The victim and suspects were involved in the drug trade. This was a dispute over money and drugs. Last year, we ended the year with 18% decrease in overall crime. Our homicides were up, but the good news our homicide detectives, with the help of the community, finished with a 75% clearance rate. Through community leads, tips, and great detective work, these results are well above the national average.

Co-Chair, what do you envision of the trend going down with juveniles arrests – When I chief in Orlando, we all decided as a community that we were behind arresting juveniles and not giving civil citations. We agree with that philosophy, and we have had meetings with DJJ and the League of Women Voters; we are committed to arresting fewer juveniles. We know that kids that arrested are more likely to re-offend. If we can give them a civil citation or turn them over to their parents, we can focus our efforts on violent crime. I would like to give thanks to OCPS to work with youth and provide administrative violations, and that has helped in this situation.

Eric Debose – First, I want to commend law enforcement for being here especially, Orange County Sheriff’s Office, Orlando Police Department. I want to say that law enforcement must not lose sight of their primary focus to enforce the laws of the state of Florida and protect the citizens. I hope as we collaborate that we can come together with something that will benefit the community. We need to understand that enforcement is their primary focus. I want to comment on them and working with us toward those goals.

Sheriff Mina – top priority is the safety and security of the residents of our community.

Rev. Salguero – echo the appreciation of our task force. Comparison with other counties on juvenile arrests, and are we picking up best practices from counties with lower arrests.

Sheriff Mina – historically, we have lagged behind, we recognized that, and that is why we see the decrease in juvenile arrests. We have changed our policy, so it does not prohibit deputies from issuing civil citations. We are looking at best practices across the state to continue this significant downward trend of juvenile arrests.

Rev. Salguero - I would appreciate if the Prevention Subcommittee could get the rates of decline of juvenile arrests and the practices that have led to that decline for our report to the Mayor and the task force. It would be helpful to look at this over a three year or five year period.

Co-Chair Coffin- Subcommittee Updates: We are going to hear from our subcommittees. As you know, this is where a lot of the tough work takes place and the most interesting work with discussions. We have four subcommittees, and they will give us a brief presentation on their work. You will have five minutes each. I would like to introduce Lisa Early, Co-Chair of the Prevention Subcommittee. I would like to thank the co-chairs and the members participating for their tremendous work.

Prevention Subcommittee Update: Co-Chair Lisa Early – thankyou Sheriff Mina; I had the privilege to work alongside you when you were Chief of the Orlando Police Department. It was an honor to work with you and the difficult work you put into reform OPD along with Undersheriff Canty. One of the conversations we have had at the Prevention Committee is around crime statistics. You mentioned that most of the arrests are around serious crimes. The data we have

seen is more minor crimes; we would like to have a deep dive into the data as we build our recommendations are statistics.

The Prevention Subcommittee has a great team. These are the major themes of our subcommittee:

- Addressing Poverty and Family Economic Insecurity
- Ensuring Access to Effective Youth and Parenting Programs
- Reforming the Criminal Justice System
- Reducing Access to Guns
- Increasing Community Awareness of Issues/Programs
- Improve Overall Neighborhood Conditions

We came up with a mission statement: The purpose of the Prevention Subcommittee is to research and recommend programs, policies, and priorities for Orange County Government to implement to reduce the incidents of gun violence and violent crime in Orange County. We are focusing on the ages 13-25 population, particularly in the communities where the incident of violent crime has been the highest.

Addressing poverty and economic insecurity and reforming the criminal justice system are intertwined. Recent research by Brookings Institute looked at data on 2.9 million prisoners across the country. The research indicated that boys who grew up in families within the bottom 10% of income distribution were 20 times more likely to be incarcerated by their early 30's than those living with families with the highest income level. Between 40-50% of the prison population grew up in families in the bottom 20% income distribution. Three years before incarceration, only 49% of prime-age were employed, and their earnings were only 6,259 a year.

If you drill down into data in Orange County, where are the arrests being made, and what is the impact of poverty and race on arrests. The data we found from DJJ – disproportion arrests of young black men in Orange County compared to the overall population. How do we address disproportionate arrests in Orange County? Co-Chair Early read a quote from a long-time criminal justice reform advocate– “Poverty causes crime and crime causes poverty. The system will take relative minor offenses and turn them in criminal convictions; unable to afford expensive legal representation, the poor, when they find themselves in need of legal defense, usually have no other recourse than to secure a public defender and often after the young man is convicted and has served his time he has an added burden of a felony on his record. The system ensures that a young man will never be employed; this is going to cause poverty.” Our focus in investing more funds to engage the target populations - Youth ages 13-25 residing in neighborhoods where crime is the highest and programs that prevent violence and specifically programs run by credible messengers (trusted by the youth). Programs that connect youth prosocial adults, engaging in life skills and leadership programs, promote academic success and employment.

Co-Chair Rod Love introduced Co-Chair Bishop Kelvin Cobaris.

Intervention Subcommittee Update: Co-Chair Bishop Kelvin Cobaris – this subcommittee has a group of great minds. We are co-chaired by Samantha Love and myself. Our themes over the last few meetings after hearing presentations and data:

- Assess the Trauma-Informed Care best practices and incorporate them in the services delivery plan
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Collaborate with social service programs that concentrate on mental health/ counseling
- Educate and train families, youth, and the community on at-risk behaviors and preventive methods
- Incorporate homegrown programs that provide a holistic approach and utilize services such as credible messengers, non-traditional arts, and grassroots program models

In essence, the Intervention Subcommittee integrates and comes together with the Prevention Subcommittee. I would like to highlight in our themes the direction we are going in. We want to look at programs that have worked in the past and look at funding with sustainability that could create a holistic approach to work with the youthful offender as well as mentor young people and keep them from committing any offense. We also need to focus on youth and youthful offenders but focusing on the family. With our focus, it will deal with our young people, families in need of mental health counseling, and education and education our community on the different intervention measures and help end and reduce our plight of violence and create public safety.

We are looking forward to our public meeting with the Prevention Subcommittee, which will allow us to hear from the community to ensure the plans that we are coming with are on track and implement what we hear from the community as best practices.

Co-Chair Coffin introduced Patricia Rumph, Co-Chair of the Enforcement Subcommittee, for her update.

Enforcement Subcommittee Update– Co-Chair Patricia Rumph - On the Enforcement Committee, we have a great group of people from law enforcement and those with a career in Corrections. The overall goal of the Task Force is to identify solutions and strategies to reduce and prevent gun violence and violent crime in the community.

Enforcement focuses primarily on gun violence and gangs in the community. Our four main areas have not changed - targeting enforcement areas, legislative and advocacy and policy and partnership, and increasing law enforcement participation with a joint effort.

Law enforcement enforces the law to reduce gun violence and gangs, and the best way is to target hot spots. We have spoken with Law Enforcement and looked at articles; we know there

is a common theme they know when certain people are released back in the community because crime increases. We want to continue to look at legislation, and Sheriff Mina is working on legislation on gun shops and those that sell guns to make sure they are secured properly. Locally, we are talking more about PTR through Orange County. We have learned that through a partnership with other agencies, the Florida Department of Corrections and Orange County Corrections were not at the table. We are also working jointly with the community; it is important to get the community engagement. It is not that they do not trust law enforcement, but some communities want to handle the issue themselves. We are working with those agencies to see how we can get the community more involved. Once we correct the problem and reduce the crime in the community, we want to work with other agencies to make sure the street lights are working, which is part of the broken problem. We want to make sure the communities are in the best conditions for affordable housing and safety.

We did entertain the thought of how law enforcement could engage in misdemeanor arrests – so when they stop someone with a broken light, then don't let your next question be, can I search your car. How to interact with law enforcement and how to interact when they make an arrest. The next step forward is working with the Prosecution Subcommittee. Law enforcement knows we can take care and do our jobs, but if we do not get the prosecution on board with us, crime will be back on the street again.

Co-Chair Love introduced Co-Chairs Patricia Brigham and Bishop-Elect Derrick McRae for the Prosecution Subcommittee Update. It has been excellent to see the subcommittees work together and with the community.

Prosecution Subcommittee Update: Co-Chair Patricia Brigham – the Prosecution Subcommittee has been hard at work. We are very pleased to have a great team and thanked Co-Chair McRae for his valuable input. I have to be very candid with the Task Force and the significant challenges we've had regarding the full participation of the State Attorney's Office. We had one meeting that the previous State Attorney attended. We understand that there is an outgoing State Attorney and an incoming State Attorney. Our subcommittee has been tasked with the hard issue of prosecuting criminals, particularly those committing gun violence. We look forward to hearing the recommendations and answering the many questions we have of our prosecutors. We have various themes that we are working on, and we have many questions.

One of the top concerns, as we have looked through case files on Orange County arrests, is in regards to suspects released on pretrial without supervision. How many of those alleged criminals are being released and reoffending before they go to trial. If they are released before they go to trial, do they go on to commit another crime? One of the cases we looked at indicates someone accused of domestic violence with aggravated assault was released ahead of trial. That is dangerous as many people go on to commit more serious acts of domestic violence. Numerous studies show there are 2-4 times higher incidences among law enforcement in

communities than the general population of domestic violence. The National Center of Women and Policing show at least 40% of law enforcement families experience domestic violence. We are looking at risk protection orders, which permit law enforcement to intervene when there is a case of domestic violence and go through their own attorneys and petition the courts to have the guns taken away when they are a danger to themselves or someone else. If there is a problem with domestic violence among law enforcement, we have to ask ourselves if there is a subconscious bias going into these homes when there is a domestic violence issue in the community.

We are also looking at with the help of the US Attorney geographic stewardship. Assistant State Attorney go into the community to build trust and reduce violence. We are also looking at the bond/bail considerations. Once again, we need answers from our State Attorney's Office as to how the release of violent criminals take place and what happens after they are released before trial, and what are the terms of bonding. We have upcoming discussions on pretrial diversion for our youth, on obtaining data for tracking arrests and using SMART focus for items for final recommendations.

We look forward to working with the other subcommittees since these issues intersect, and we look forward to working with the State Attorney's Office.

Co-Chair Love introduced Open Discussion and have an exchange among the members. Co-Chair Coffin asked everyone to please keep his or her comments to two minutes.

Open Discussion:

This is a question for the Prosecution Subcommittee and State Attorney Office. I am very concerned about pre-trial release. The work we are doing will be futile and void if we release violent offenders before their court date without true supervision and true accountability. This is concerning that; the State Attorney did not participate, as they should have in the Prosecution Subcommittee. However, I am very glad to see the new State Attorney, and I am looking forward to working with the new State Attorney and hearing her vision and direction related to my question on pretrial release. I want to get to the bottom of how pretrial release works, and who provides oversight and are these violent offenders reoffending when they are released before trial. If we are asking the community to talk about what they know, and then the person that committed the crime is released the same day, no one is going to talk in the community, and that is a threat to public safety. This is a serious concern.

State Attorney Worrell – I would like to point out that this is the conclusion of my first week in office. I will not make any comments regarding the prior administration. We fully intend to participate in the discussions going forward; I think it is controversial at best to talk about participation from the State Attorney's Office recognizing there is a new state attorney.

Bishop Cobaris – Madam State Attorney, I agree and concur, and my question does not target you in any way as the newly elected State Attorney. I want to emphasize how serious this matter is, and we look

forward to working with your office, Chief Judge Myers, Corrections Administration, and anyone that has anything to do with pretrial release need to speak to this task force, and this community and needs be held accountable for how this is being carried out. This is a public safety concern. I want to go on record that we want some discussion and participation from the State Attorney, which I believe we will get. Still, I just want to emphasize that it is a concern not only of the Prosecution Subcommittee but a concern of the community at-large.

State Attorney Worrell – thank you and your concern is noted, we will look into that issue what the questions and concerns are, and we will provide a response.

Roger Handberg, US Attorney’s Office – Bishop Cobras, I want to make sure you know that our next Prosecution meeting is a joint meeting with Enforcement on January 25th. We are bringing Chief Judge Myers and Judge O’Kane, the Administrative Judge for the criminal side and we are working with the State Attorney Office to have a conversation about pretrial release. There is an administrative order that the Chief Judge does that talks about on pretrial release and bond, and we have been talking about that. We are looking forward to having the State Attorney’s Office as part of that full discussion on the 25th.

Co-Chair Love: There has been a great deal of interaction between the subcommittees and task force members sitting on other subcommittees.

Patricia Brigham, Co-Chair Prosecution Subcommittee – thank you, madam state attorney, this was not a personal attack on you. We understand there is an outgoing and incoming state attorney. Still, we certainly are looking forward to talking with you and having you answer our questions, or if you are unable to attend our subcommittee meetings, we understand you have a busy schedule if you can send a representative from the State Attorney’s Office.

T.J. Legacy-Cole – everyone to be mindful of their words because although it was stated it wasn’t an attack on the current State Attorney, as soon as you said that about the previous administration, my phone blew up from local activists asking why they’re coming after the newly elected state attorney. From what I hear from Enforcement, we want to hit the hotspots and lock people up and make sure the violent criminals are locked up before the trial; I do not know if they are considered criminals before trial. I am hearing there is a lot of great ideas; I know there are situations about economics and affordable housing, and let us throw some programs out there and get to the hot zones and prosecute in these areas. That is what the community is hearing, and I do not know if people need to clarify their intentions, but that is what I am hearing.

Co-Char Love – from the vantage point Co-Chair Coffin and I sit, we have heard prevention programs, and we have heard stopping kids before they get into the system. We have heard about community engagement and credible messengers being engaged in the process, and that is Prevention. In Intervention, what tools are out there to look at red flags and get in front of them? Once young people get into trouble, we are looking at vocational and job training not just for the young people but from a holistic approach. We have talked about the engagement with Enforcement, noticed I did not say Law Enforcement subcommittee, and how do we make sure that we honor the public safety perspective of those communities. As Sheriff Mina identified, what can we do to redirect. It is very holistic, and I look forward to all the reports rolling up into one.

Bishop-Elect McRae – it is definitely not happening as some may see. In our meetings, we have been in discussions about other methods we can implement. We have been strongly identifying and working to identify that those detained are treated as innocent until proven guilty. My committee and that is the only one I can speak to, has not been focused on the lockups. We have been focused on how we can get to a healthier community—still understanding that there will be cases that we do have to enforce. We are working on programs that will give the same benefits to those regardless of your class, race, and zip codes. We want to make sure that all those are equivalent, and that has been a strong effort in our committee.

T.J. Legacy Cole - what type of budget are we looking at for the recommendations proposed by the Task Force. Is there a set budget aside so when we make recommendations, or is there a grant the county wants to apply for in lieu of the recommendations? How much funding and what are we looking at when it comes to the recommendations, and maybe that will help all the task force members and our parameters.

Mayor Demings – that is a fair question. Some of the answers to the questions you have made and perhaps some of the answers to the programs you recommend may require additional dollars. Some may require the reallocation or refocus of current dollars that we expend in our community. I am committed to it. At an upcoming board of County Commission meeting, we will advance a budget amendment to the current fiscal year we are in, which runs from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021. I intend to, within Orange County’s budget, put an additional 2M dollars into this effort. Of course, the Board will have to support that. But is insufficient to adequately address all the needs trying to reduce violent crime in the community. I believe crime is a byproduct of all the things that have gone wrong. It is a byproduct of social problems. There are reasons why we have neighborhoods that have substandard housing; there is a reason why we have people underemployed in certain neighborhoods. Much of that goes to the development of the individuals. Yes, we will apply for various grants through the public sector, but I also believe through the private and nonprofit sector, there are opportunities there. If the task force does it work from a holistic perspective, there will be other sectors that bring dollars to the table. As a result of the social justice movement that we all experienced in 2020 and beyond, there are lending institutions that have made commitments to invest in minority communities. We should look for synergy and collaboration across the spectrum to adequately address the challenges before us. It will require additional dollars, but there are dollars already programmed to do some of what we are talking about within various budgets, in our municipalities, within our federal and state, and local budgets. So if we do our job appropriately, we should be able to collaborate in these various efforts.

Rachel Allen – in our subcommittee, we talked about a two-pronged approach with Intervention programs with credible messengers. I also wanted to point out about hospital-based interventions I just found out that Orlando Health hired a person that has experience with the hospital-based intervention. This leads me to the second prong, the collective impact model I believe the Mayor is speaking about. When I was handed the spiral binder that showed services we have in Central Florida, Orange County specifically, I am amazed. I’m sitting on the Creating Resilience Community Network, a network of over 200 professionals in nine sector groups coming together to build a trauma informed resilient community. Every time I say we should do this, someone says we have that program, and we’re doing that here. Under the Central

Florida Foundation's Thrive Initiative, where they are taking the sustainability development goals and putting them in six buckets and finding funding sources; this in partnership with the Creative Resilience Community Network and K-Ready Initiative looking at early learning and childcare, I believe that we could come together as a community in a collective process with the County, the Creating Resilience Community Network, K-Ready, the Thrive Initiative and come together, a possible recommendation for the task force we could go through a community collaborative process, that's well designed to put out some collective impact model and perhaps choose geography. I recommend we work around community schools like Evans, where we have a strong program in place. So we put together a big theory of change on the collective impact model, and we give it a go. I believe we have the passion in this community, the experience, we have the programs, and we have what it needs. Lisa Early and the PKZ is a model program that could be scaled. If we use our resources wisely and think together, it is doable.

Rev. Salguero – I want to circle back to some of the task force comments and what the Mayor has spoken regarding the allocation of funding for recommendations of the task force and the implementation of policy recommendations. I am mindful of the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Often investments in prevention you don't see them because you are preventing it. I appreciate we have four subcommittees, and it is a holistic, systemic approach. What we are navigating with one of the tensions that we are dealing with prevention and trying to avoid high crimes in targeted zones at the same time, we have existing problems on the prevention and intervention side and enforcement. I am hoping the recommendations of the task force rightly allocate on the prevention side and the other side and place a high priority on policy practices that help us prevent the things we do not want to see again. My recommendation is that we rightly prioritize the allocation of funding to get to the core issues, and the policy priorities are itemized so we can do that.

Co-Chair Patricia Rumph - address the issue of the hotspot. It is a small percentage of the population that is causing havoc in the community. We would target those hotspots so we could have a better community. Those targeting the gangs are causing blight in the community, and businesses do not want to develop in the community. The community looks at law enforcement like the one they are not doing their job. That small percentage that is causing the disturbance in the community, we need to more aggressive with those arrests and prosecution. If we are not moving in that direction and being more aggressive from that perspective, then what are we doing? It is very disturbing as law enforcement agencies do their job. I am speaking as a Probation Officer, I was a lenient Probation Officer, I would give people breaks after breaks, and then when a person continues to violate, and you are brought before the court and released, then you come back to me and say look I am back on the streets again.

Co-Chair Love –we are having a good uncomfortable conversation; we need to develop trust not only among ourselves but among the community as well.

TJ Legacy-Cole – for the community, we need to clarify, we are talking about hot zones, and we are talking predominately about District 6 based on the data. A recommendation for law enforcement - not just a pocket of the percentage of people who you say is causing the havoc in the community and not blanket and not treat everyone as if the entire community is causing havoc. As Dr. Nelson said, it is not a lack of trust with law enforcement because African Americans are calling law enforcement in the community. The disconnect is when law enforcement comes into these communities and throws our constitutional

rights out the window, and violates our civil rights. You cannot engage with the youth when the cameras are on, and then when the cameras leave, you are harassing our juveniles with trumped up charges. There lies the problem, not taken into account the outside factors and the fruit that it bears; there are no statistics that show more policing has produced less crime.

Co-Chair Love – I appreciate your comments. When we began as a task force, we were tasked with looking at the entire county. Dr. Nelson has educated us and said we need to go where the data and the disproportionate problem is, and that is where we have found ourselves. I am not calling out districts. I would be one of those individuals that would be offended. In the Prevention Subcommittee, we rewrote some of the language that identified certain communities and called certain communities hotspots. The data will take us where the problem is, the problem of gun violence and serious violent offenses. We need to direct not only our resources but also our collaboration. We may not always agree on the best way to get there, but there has been a lot of dialogue in the subcommittees and the dialogue today, and if we all agree, then we have not gotten anything done. Our charge is to go where the data takes us, and from some of the community meetings I have attended, the community is becoming educated. Yes, law enforcement has its issues, and we are working that out. Also, the community is becoming educated, and when they see someone coming back into their community, they want public safety, but they realize there are other components such as the courts, the State Attorney's Office. With some of us, we have a tool belt, that tool belt does us no good if we do not have all the tools we need. Thank you, Task Force Member Legacy that is the kind of conversation we need to have. We need to know we are going where the data takes us.

Mayor Demings – I would like to respond to some of what I have heard today. I can tell you this effort is ongoing to be an ongoing effort. You might be back in five years having this conversation. I do not want anyone to have false hopes that this will solve all the issues. I do not believe the issues are solely focused on any particular geographical area. I've been involved in this work long enough to know that you can squeeze an area pretty hard and get it under control, and like silly putty it will start oozing out around you, and you have to look at it from a holistic approach. As the former sheriff, police chief, and a street cop working all over this area, I can tell you that every neighborhood has some dysfunctionality if we are being honest about it. If you think you live in a neighborhood that does not have a problem, then you are not well informed. So this committee has to look at it broadly and not stereotype any particular community. Ms. Rumph asked what percentage are involved in the system. It is a very low percentage. We are a county of about 1.4 million annually through our Orange County Jail; we book 34,000 – 40,000 people in a year. If we were booking 40,000 annually, everyone was a different person that would represent 2.8% of our population. Of course, there is a lot of recidivism. The same people get arrested multiple times. When you talk about our society, the overwhelming majority of our children/youth do precisely what they are supposed to do. We do spend a lot of your tax dollars trying to fix the broken people. When we look at the Orange County budget, overall, about 40% of the operating budget is for public safety. For the rest of the things we need to do as a county, we never have enough money to do the other things we need to do, so we partner with the private sector and the philanthropic sector. So sometimes, we do get discouraged when bad things happen in our community. We do not celebrate enough what is good and positive about our community. The work of the task force has been somewhat jaded because you are dealing with the underbelly of our community. This is tough work. It is not going to be easy; it is not going to be something you will resolve with the recommendations from the task force.

However, the goal is to move the needle. With the recommendations, my commitment is that we are going to move the needle. We are going to advance the football down the field; we may not make the touchdown, but if you continue to remain focused on why you are here and do not get dismayed because things do not happen quickly. This work is going to take decades to get where we need to be. I want you to be realistic about it; the work did not start with the task force; this is ongoing work.

Michael Scott – I shared some of these comments with the subcommittee, and this is mainly towards law enforcement. As you know, I do a lot of mentoring, and people expect us to police the police; if there are actions that are not favorable, they text us or go live. In the information, you provided in the initial binder, if you could quantify those arrests, so we know which ones are violent or not violent. Because someone could have been arrested a lot for violent crimes. There was an OPD case - double shooting one of the young men that was killed was a mentee; I was talking to the Sgt./Detective, the frustration comes from the family members. They do not know what is going on, and we need to educate them on the process and ease the frustration. I had the Mom come up, she spoke with the Detective, and that worked out well. Orange County situation – a young man in his 20s, was arrested and released. I appreciate the detective called him to let him know he had another warrant and asked if he wanted to turn himself in today or Monday. So he just got out of jail, and now he has to go back to jail to bond out again. Switching back to the OPD case, another man arrested for trespassing after warning. We have some kids and young people that make mistakes; if I have a kid that I am trying to help make it and you arrest him for a small crime; the \$100 I am using to save that kid, I have to use that to bond him out. Just educate the community when you are doing the things you need to do.

Lisa Early – my background is in child development and adolescent development. A lot of the behaviors that people youth in the criminal justice system are considered normal behaviors. Youth do stupid things, risky things, and, I do not know how you were as teenagers, I did a lot of things as a teenager that would have got me arrested, but I was a white girl growing up in a middle-class community in a different time and place when we did not criminalize these things. We could smoke a joint at the high school. One of my sons had a fake ID and got into bars and I know both of them smoked pot from time to time. These are things that kids grow out of. Should the criminal justice system be the response, or should there be other systems that respond? What programs do we have for older youth; programs that take them on field trips, helping them with school, and get them involved in positive things. How can we have a response to these things that do not involve the criminal justice system?

Rev. Salguero – thank you, Mayor, for your response. No one here is naive to think we will fix all the problems through this task force. However, if we return and the policies and recommendations we made five years ago or ten years ago have still not been implemented, then there will be push back from the constituents we serve. I do appreciate Mayor the clarification that it is a small group of people, about 3-5% of people that have high rates of recidivism in high violent crime rates. My point again is that we want to make sure the 3-5%, we can make a significant dent if our focus is in that area both from the prevention side and enforcement side. My point is that we need all the above strategies. I don't think anyone is coming at this from a naiveté, knowing the systematic and long-term structures that exist.

Chief McKinley – I know it has been said what the state attorney's office hasn't done, but as she stated, she's only been in office a week. I would be remiss if I did not say what she has done, which is a great

milestone in our relationships. She is reached out, she will be attending the Orange/Osceola County Chiefs of Police meeting next Thursday, and that is a step ahead. She has also made appointments with all the law enforcement chiefs to meet with us and sit down and listen to us. We are looking forward to working with her and looking forward to those meetings.

Sheriff Mina – I would echo Chief McKinley’s comments about that the State Attorney. We have had a very positive dialogue. Just a few comments in reference to the subcommittees and open discussion, there was mentioned minor offenses, which are failure to appear signed by a judge, but we can provide statistics. For every juvenile arrest, what you do not see is thousands and thousands of interactions with youth, many times positive. Sometimes juveniles are involved in minor offenses, but we never hear about it because juveniles are released to their parents, or they are let go. As far as community engagement, yes, we post pictures of ourselves with kids at barbeques; the reason we do that is because, again, thousands of interactions that the public never sees. Why I realize our profession is certainly not perfect, one of the main reasons we are here is because Daquane Felix, a three-year old was killed along with two teenage boys because of violence committed in the community. There will be enforcement; we will continue to engage with the community in a positive way. We see a decrease in juvenile arrests – a 67 percent decrease in juvenile arrests since 2014. I was proud of that and the men and women of law enforcement committed to this task force and the safety of this community at risk to our own lives. We are not perfect, but we have made incremental steps over several decades in a positive and meaningful way that I think needs to be celebrated. Lastly, I would like to make comments about law enforcement and domestic violence. I would like to see those studies. I have zero tolerance for domestic violence at the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, and it will continue under my leadership. Two people accused of domestic violence have been terminated, and we did seek a risk protection order in both cases. We are committed to this task force, and we are in it for the long haul. We have been doing this work for 30 years, and we will continue.

Bishop Cobaris – I have a law enforcement question. Mayor Demings has not only demonstrated commitment to this issue by calling the task force and put funding behind it; it should be highlighted that the \$2 million Mayor Demings mentioned is not sufficient to cover all the recommendations. During the protest last year, many things across American were happening, and there were statements about defunding the police. What that means is about redirecting funds of the law enforcement agency toward some of the issues we are having with juveniles and problems in the community. My question to law enforcement leadership, are you prepared to look at you budget and see what you can do to come alongside the Mayor, the private sector and fund some of these issues. I am not saying take away for law enforcement to advance and do their jobs but are there funds that can come to support prevention and intervention causes.

Sheriff Mina – I can assure you that all the funds that the OCSO asked for we need to help keep this community safe. When you talk about funding some of these programs, you are talking about millions of dollars. The only way to get to that number is to cut personnel. The conversations I have had in the community is that they want more law enforcement, not less law enforcement. I would say that we have been extremely responsible with our budget and give back \$1.5 million to the county through attrition and other impact fees. I can ensure you that every penny we spend is scrutinized, and those funds are needed for the safety of this community.

Bishop Cobaris – I understand that, but I have worked with previous sheriffs and other municipalities for years in this county. All of them have also used some of their funding to help support some of the initiatives of the community, and even some of my faith-based organizations have been benefactors, including the Enough is Enough program that we had years ago. The success of it was because of the partnership between law enforcement and the mental health community, which means law enforcement made an investment in a program. I support law enforcement, law, and order, and I support all of us doing what we need to do collectively.

Michael Scott – my point with law enforcement is to educate when you have those interactions. I see when you educate what is going on, the frustration goes away. Sheriff Mina, there has been a downshift. Look back 15 Years ago, we had 100-105 juveniles in the Orange County Jail as young as 13, and you look now, and we have 11 or 12, and that is a combination of law enforcement and the state attorney. One last point, I have seen this from both agencies; I have a military background, so I understand the process and procedures. There is an opportunity to train people when you have newer staff. Recently with Orlando Police Department, there were two SWAT teams, drones, and 3-4 snipers, and when you come into a community like that, it would help explain why you are doing this. It is scary for the residents, and they do not understand. I am being conservative, but I saw four snipers, drones, mobile command unit usually on Ivey Lane – if you just communicate and educate.

Sheriff Mina – first, response to Bishop Cobaris, last year we gave nearly 40% of forfeiture funds to community programs in Orange County. We are doing that again this year, providing \$100,000 to non-profits; that is over 300,000 to local nonprofits, mentoring, and crime prevention programs; our commitment to the community has continued. As far as the last comment, I am certain we can do a better job when we have those situations in neighborhoods that do require that type of equipment. Remember, that type of equipment is needed to protect the deputy and members of the community. Certainly, we can communicate and try to let them know what is going on.

Patricia Rumph – yield my time to Nancy Oesch.

Nancy Oesch – I have spoken with people throughout the community and asked them how they feel about law enforcement can improve. The majority said they feel the police here do a pretty good job and no recommendations. Recognize that the police undergo enormous stress, as evidenced by statistics and high suicide rates, alcoholism, and domestic violence coupled with the negativity, I would like to know what programs are available to help police offices in Orange County, Orlando, and Apopka.

Sheriff Mina – it is a stressful job and a profession like no other. The good news, more and more people, including young people that want to become law enforcement and join the profession. I have been doing this for 30 years, and it does take a toll. We have programs in place, critical incident stress management teams, and UCF Restores, a program for soldiers experiencing PTSD. This program is available for our deputies. We also have chaplains that deputies can speak to. We have great success with all these programs. The help is there, and I would say the difficult part is the deputy/officer coming forward or others recognizing something. We have shared the message that it is okay to come forward and say you are having a hard time. Now when it happens, the person is not ostracized; they are given the help they need.

Chief McKinley – We have a peer-to-peer program in the agency, so officers trained can reach out to other officers in crisis. I think it is also important through the Orange/Osceola County Police Chiefs Association; we meet monthly to ensure our policies are consistent throughout the Ninth Circuit. We share policies and speak to one another; we have great relationships. We are trying to bring some consistency in law enforcement within the Ninth Circuit.

TJ Legacy – Cole – I want to go back to Bishop Cobaris point about asking law enforcement, specifically, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, to put some steak in the game. Over the summer, you asked the Orange County Commission for 15M additional dollars; when you have Michael Scott talk about putting steak in the game, and you just asked for an additional \$15M, and you do not have any funds to put towards any of the recommendations for the task force you sit on; it is extremely telling. I do not know any community that you can go to, and you ask them how law enforcement is doing, and they would unanimously say they are doing a great job with no recommendation. When you hear that law enforcement needs to be more aggressive in some of these zones, that rings extremely tone-deaf to me. Bishop Cobaris – As we are putting the recommendations together, we have heard from many of our community leaders, some of an understanding, and some do not. They know by what they have read and some know because they are engaged. Before we put recommendations together of any kind, we need to hear from credible messengers and others that are victims, and hearing from them and getting information from them will be helpful to all subcommittees. We want to make sure the zip codes and target areas that are most maligned are heard.

Co-Chair Love – we will report back to the full task force based on your recommendation.

Co-Chair Coffin – I would like to thank all of you for your participation and forthrightness. Sometimes, they are difficult conversations to achieve what needs to be achieved. We have quite a bit of work ahead of us, we have seven weeks to go, and by that time, we hope to have our recommendations together to present to the Mayor and County Commission. Our next full task force meeting is Wednesday, February 10, at the Goldenrod Recreation Magic Gym. Also, you have been given in your subcommittees the Citizens Safety Task Force survey. We would like this spread throughout the community to get as much information from a broad sector of the community. It is available online at www.ocfl.net/crimesurvey. If you would like it printed out, Carol will provide you copies, and the survey is also available in Spanish and Haitian Creole. Please let Carol know if you need data, and she will work with the appropriate agency to secure it for you. The notices of our meetings are posted on the website at www.ocfl.net/safetytaskforce. Suggestions can also be emailed at CitizensSafety@ocfl.net. You can also provide suggestions to the task force members and county staff.

Thank you to everyone, to the community that has been participating. State Attorney Worrell, you have one new initiative you have rolled out; please let us know how we can help you. Thank you again, and this is the kind of conversation we need to have, as we get closer to the March date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.