

Regular Crime Task Force Meeting

Civic Center, 2 Park Drive South,
Gibson Room 212, Great Falls, MT

CALL TO ORDER: City Manager Greg Doyon called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Great Falls Crime Task Force Members (TFM) present: Shawna Jarvey, Nicole Griffith, Sandra Guynn, Sara Sexe, Jeff Newton, Jesse Slaughter, Shane Etwiler, and John Parker. Also present was Ex-officio TFM Rick Tryon. Mary Lynne Billy was absent.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF: City Manager Greg Doyon, Police Captain Rob Moccasin, Police Captain John Schaffer, Sgt. Jason Mitchell, Lt. Mike Grubb and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea.

TASK FORCE AGENDA ITEMS

1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 7, 2021, GREAT FALLS CRIME TASK FORCE.**

TFM Sexe moved, seconded by TFM Newton, that the Crime Task Force (CTF) approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2021.

City Manager Doyon asked if there was any discussion amongst the TFM or comments from the public. Hearing none, Manager Doyon called for the vote.

Motion carried 8-0.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**

TFM Newton moved, seconded by TFM Slaughter, that the CTF appoint Sandra Guynn as Chairperson of the Great Falls CTF.

Manager Doyon asked if there were any other nominations, discussion amongst the TFM or comments from the public. Hearing none, Manager Doyon called for the vote.

Motion carried 8-0.

TFM Sexe moved, seconded by TFM Etwiler, that the CTF appoint Jeff Newton as Vice Chairperson of the Great Falls CTF.

Manager Doyon asked if there were any other nominations, discussion amongst the TFM or comments from the public. Hearing none, Manager Doyon called for the vote.

Motion carried 8-0.

3. **BRIEFING FROM RUSSELL COUNTRY DRUG TASK FORCE (RCDTF).**

RCDTF Operations Supervisor/Sgt. Jason Mitchell reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation which included drug investigations, RCDTF goals, current risks, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl pills, how narcotics get here, how investigations begin, how investigations end, source states for narcotics to Montana, recreational marijuana, current difficulties and narcotics. He provided handouts, which included the legalization of marijuana in Colorado: the impact and Daines hears about counterdrug task force efforts in Montana.

Manager Doyon inquired about the number of drug complaints the Drug Task Force receives and parcel services process for packages containing drugs.

Sgt. Mitchell responded that he receives approximately five complaints a day and Helena Postal Inspectors utilize analysts for backtracking packages to determine the source. He added that private parcel services require subpoenas.

Manager Doyon suggested that the CTF review Sgt. Mitchell's handout from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force with regard to the executive summary report about Colorado drug trafficking issues.

Sgt. Mitchell explained that there are state and local drug trafficking organizations (DTO's), such as the Cartel, that have highly defined command and control structures for producing, transporting and distributing large quantities of illicit drugs.

Chairperson Guynn received clarification that a significant amount of citizens in the community use illegal drugs.

4. **BRIEFING FROM US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Resident in Charge Stacy Zinn-Brittain reported that she oversees offices in Missoula, Great Falls and Billings. The DEA has identified Great Falls as a haven for drug traffickers and generational drug traffickers. The Mexican cartel is directly targeting Great Falls and illegal drugs either stay in the community or go to the reservations. There are limited resources on Montana Interstates to control drug traffickers. There is Cartel influence with regard to spreading illicit fentanyl into communities across the nation, which is causing multiple overdose deaths.

Ms. Zinn-Brittain expressed concern with regard to increasing overdose deaths and kids experimenting with drugs at a younger age, if the drug trafficking problem is not corrected soon. She added that drug addiction is the root cause of criminal activity.

TFM Etwiler received clarification that cocaine is the trend in Bozeman, and heroin is the trend in Missoula.

Ex-officio member Tryon received clarification that the rise in Mexican cartel activity in the community is attributed to the cartel being able to manufacture illicit drugs cheaper. He inquired about what the CTF could do locally to get more resources on a federal level to address the drug trafficking problem in the community.

Ms. Zinn-Brittain suggested the following:

- Notify legislators about the drug problem in the community.
- Consider grant funds to educate the public.
- Build up the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.
- Request more detectives and investigators for drug trafficking.
- Request the local HIDTA continue its efforts working with federal agencies.

5. BRIEFING FROM VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE.

TFM Slaughter reported that the Cascade County Sheriff's Office and the Great Falls Police Department created a Violent Crime Task Force to provide better information sharing to help prevent and address the increase of violent crimes in the community.

Cascade County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jack Hinchman reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation which included overview, mission objective, short and long term targeting, 2020 breakdown of cases by offense, current trends recent example quality of life (drug houses), current trends recent example drug trafficking (federal absconder) and current trends recent example (narc/firearms trafficking).

Chairperson Guynn inquired as to the criteria for determining state and federal prosecution for offenders.

Sgt. Hinchman responded that individuals are examined in totality and if they are a public safety risk.

TFM Parker requested that Sgt. Hinchman explain the "quality of life" concept.

Sgt. Hinchman responded that criminal activity associated with individuals who live in drug houses affects the quality of life of the neighbors.

Chairperson Guynn received clarification that all areas of the community are prevalent to drug houses. She further received clarification that individuals are more likely to make a report in areas where criminal activity is not a common problem, than in areas where criminal activity is more prevalent. She reported that Neighborhood Council #7 members expressed concern that blighted areas create criminal activity.

TFM Sexe received clarification that cooperating, communicating and economizing with current local, state and federal partners would improve coordination with inter-agencies.

TFM Slaughter added that the Cascade County Violent Crime Prevention Task Force works as a team with the City by assisting one another with crimes in either jurisdiction.

Sgt. Hinchman explained that a priority of the Violent Crime Prevention Task Force with regard to public safety is to remove violent offenders as quickly as possible from the community and incarcerate them in the state system.

With regard to possession of firearms, Sgt. Hinchman explained that state law is different from federal law and certain criteria determines how an offender would be prosecuted.

DEA Resident in Charge Zinn-Brittain received clarification that there are no Sober Living Homes in the community; however, the City has several outpatient and addiction-counseling services. She reported that several violent crimes are happening in neighborhoods with Sober Living Homes in Billings. She advised Sgt. Hinchman to be vigilant for these types of houses and to ensure that there is oversight of them if they do come into the community.

6. BRIEFING FROM PROBATION AND PAROLE.

Montana Department of Corrections Probation and Parole (P&P) Deputy Chief Region III Wayne Bye reviewed and discussed the attached PowerPoint presentation which included purpose of probation and parole, region III summary, what are probation & parole officers, cascade county offenders, community involvement, type of supervision, supervision rules, typical probation and parole officer duties, agency cooperation, challenges, how can the city help and questions about department of corrections or offenders.

Chairperson Guynn expressed appreciation to Deputy Chief Bye for his informative presentation at a previous Neighborhood Council #4 meeting. She added that Crime Stoppers is expanding its mission to include education.

TFM Slaughter commented that the homeless population, along with regulating transient offenders, are issues the CTF needs to consider.

Deputy Chief Bye commented that breaking the cycle of drug addiction and finding safe housing to individuals on probation or parole are challenges for P&P. He explained that individuals released from prison who are denied by other pre-release facilities, would be released into the community regardless.

Police Captain John Schaffer received clarification that the P&P Officer assigned to mental health currently has 20 to 30 cases.

TFM Griffith received clarification that under Montana statute, P&P does not provide probation for misdemeanor offenses, only felony cases. However, there are a number of communities throughout the state that provide probation for misdemeanor offenses.

Chairperson Guynn expressed concern with regard to Sober Living Homes coming into the community.

DEA Resident in Charge Zinn-Brittain responded that Sober Living Homes could be beneficial; however, they need to have oversight. She explained that Sober Living Homes are funded by the state.

Montana Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Bureau Chief Kim Lahiff added that if an offender has appropriate housing, the Montana Department of Corrections offers housing vouchers and transitional assistance funds to parolees released from prison to find safe housing.

Deputy Chief Bye reported that Blue Thunder Lodge through Gateway Community Services and Set Free Ministries are Sober Living Houses currently in the community. He added that both houses are well ran; however, Sober Living Houses can turn into trap houses if not carefully monitored.

7. CONFIRM NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING FOR JUNE 28, 2021 4:00 P.M.

Chairperson Guynn announced that the next scheduled CTF meeting would be on June 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Room.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TASK FORCE.

Manager Doyon reiterated that the TFM notify him of organizations they would like to hear from, and that previous speakers are available for any follow up discussion. He further reiterated that TFM choose ambassadors from entities that have previously presented.

Manager Doyon proposed that the following organizations/individuals be added to the agenda for upcoming CTF meetings.

- City Attorney/Prosecution
- Mental Health
- Municipal and District Court
- Human Resource Training/Dev Coordinator Mark Willmarth

Manager Doyon added that Bryan Lockerby, Administrator of the Division of Criminal Investigation at the Montana Department of Justice has offered to engage the CTF.

TFM Sexe requested that the County Attorney and U.S. Attorney be included with the City Attorney presentation, and noted that she would contact them.

It was the consensus of the CTF to proceed with Manager Doyon's agenda as outlined.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

ADJOURNMENT.

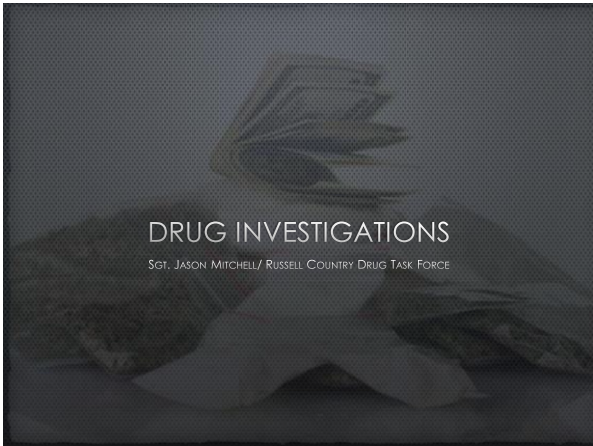
There being no further business to come before the CTF, TFM Slaughter moved, seconded by TFM Newton to adjourn the **regular meeting of June 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

Motion carried 8-0.

Sandra Guynn, Chairperson

Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: June 28, 2021



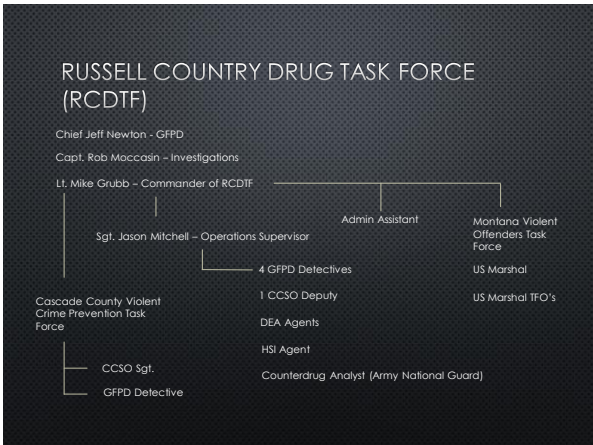
SGT JASON MITCHELL

18 years with GFPD

- 6 years patrol
- 1 year BRIC/Downtown Officer
- 4 years School Resource Officer
- 4 years General Case/Major Crimes Detective
- 1 year Investigations Detective Sgt.
- 2 years Narcotics Supervisor
- Lived in Great Falls for 30 years
- Married with two adult children
- Juvenile Treatment Court
- Veterans Treatment Court
- GFPD Liaison to APS
- Crime Stoppers
- Served in different youth community programs
- Coached youth athletics

RCDTF

- RCDTF is funded by a grant made available by the ONDCP
- GFPD oversees the grant locally
- The grant provides different levels of funding for the RCDTF
- RCDTF is part of the HIDTA program (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)
- RCDTF falls under the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region



RCDTF GOALS

- To STOP the flow of illegal narcotics to our community
- Identify drug trafficking organizations
- Dismantle, disrupt drug trafficking organizations
- Cooperate with other agencies to combat the effect of narcotics in the community



CURRENT RISKS

- Methamphetamine is still the most common drug encountered in our community
- We're encountering more firearms carried by traffickers and users (for protection)
- Demand for Heroin & Fentanyl is increasing
- OVERDOSES are increasing



METHAMPHETAMINE

- Stimulant
- "Ice, crystal, clear"
- Commonly dissolved and injected or inhaled
- Often sold in grams, half grams, "zips" (ounces) and "elbows" (pounds).
- Grams cost about \$60 - \$80
- Made in Mexican super labs and smuggled into U.S.
- Rarely see local meth labs



HEROIN

- Opiate (depressant)
- "H. Dark, Horse, China"
- Commonly dissolved and injected or inhaled
- Often sold in points, 1 point is 1/10 gram
- Points cost \$40 - \$60
- Made in labs and smuggled to U.S.
- Three types seen in Great Falls (gunpowder, black tar, China white)
- Fentanyl compounds more often



FENTANYL PILLS

- Opiate, depressant
- Seeing more common in community
- "meds, oxy's, percs, hyros, cros"
- Sold by the unit (pill)
- Heavy user's increase amounts (1 to 4 pills each use)
- Pills are about \$30 - \$40 a pill
- Made in makeshift/crude labs and pressed (usually Mexico)
- HIGH RISK OF OVERDOSE



HOW NARCOTICS GET HERE

- Most common – trafficker travels to source
- Through parcel services (FedEx, UPS, USPS)
- Source brings drugs to distributors
- Money is moved through phone apps (Venmo, Cash App) & MoneyGram, Walmart to Walmart cash services



HOW INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN

- Confidential Sources/Informants
- Tips from public, ex-girlfriends, Crime Stoppers, people with "an ax to grind"
- Traffic stops
- Intelligence gathering



HOW INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN

- Determine risk to public to identify resources necessary (i.e., drug endangered children, federal case vs. state or local, guns, etc.)
- Limited resources, so focus is put to cases with most potential
- Some investigations take a year to complete

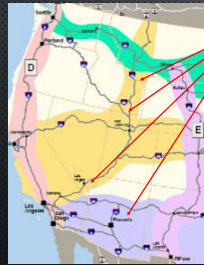


HOW INVESTIGATIONS END

- Investigators use tradecraft methods to gather evidence
- Identify sources of supply
- Obtain and serve warrants
- Request arrest warrants/coordinate the arrest
- Debrief subjects to gather more intel
- Submit case for prosecution



SOURCE STATES FOR NARCOTICS TO MONTANA



I-15 Corridor

- Southern California
- Nevada (Las Vegas Area)
- Southern Arizona (Phoenix Area)

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Denver Report from RMHIDA

- Impaired Driver up 135% since 2013
- Ages 12 & older use up 76% since 2013 (3rd in the nation)
- Public health issues "quadrupled" in the seven year average.
- 278 investigations into "black market marijuana"



Source: Legalization of Marijuana, Volume 7, September 2020, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

CURRENT DIFFICULTIES

- Current demand for drugs has increased significantly
- Ease of getting narcotics through parcel services
- Lack of manpower/Resources
- Increase in guns related to drug crimes
- Lack of jail space, low bonds, released OR
- No jail time for many drug offenders



NARCOTICS

- Major problem in Great Falls
- Catalyst to large portion of crime (thefts, robbery, assaults)
- Creates large numbers of problem houses
- Lowers values of homes
- Causes neighborhood decline
- Suppliers will continuously provide for the demand as demand increases



THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

Questions?

Cascade County Violent Crime Prevention Task Force

Overview

- Mission Objective
- Short and Long Term Targeting
- 2020 break down of cases
- Current Trends
 - Recent Examples

Mission Objective

Combat violent crime through proactive and intelligence based enforcement. The primary focus is high level offenders who are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. The Task Force will accomplish these goals by targeting the following areas:

- Identifying and arresting violent subjects who are in illegal possession of firearms and/or narcotics.
- Locating and arresting subjects who assault or flee from police officers.
- Communicating and collaborating with outside jurisdictions to arrest suspects who travel from other cities to commit crimes.
- Surveillance missions of suspects who are involved in serial criminal activity.
- Street level drug enforcement.
- Quality of life issues.

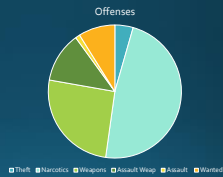
Short and long term targeting

- As a Task Force establishes short and long term targets. The intent of targeting is to identify those offenders whose absence from the community would produce a noticeable impact.
- Targeting is not always a single individual but may be aimed at a group or a specific location.
- Planning and coordination/ deconfliction occur among cooperating units and agencies when determining who or what becomes a target.

2020 Breakdown of cases by Offense

Primary Offenses

- Theft/ Property Crime: 7
- Narcotics: 46
- Weapons: 24
- Assault with a weapon: 11
- Assault (Sex/ PFMA): 2
- Wanted: 11



Current Trends

- Local narcotics dealers are arming themselves with firearms.
- Firearms are like currency to drug traffickers and are often traded to drug traffickers in other states.
- Most firearms are stolen locally (vehicles thefts and storage unit burglaries are common).
- Ballistic vests stolen from local service members have surfaced in some of these investigations.
- Narcotics are the catalyst for escalating behaviors in local offenders.
- Often already supervised by Probation and Parole (State/ Fed).

Current Trends Recent Example Quality of Life (Drug House)

- Quality of life case
- Repeat violent offender
- Supervised by Probation and Parole (State)
- Items seized:
 - Meth and heroin
 - 40 cal pistol
 - \$30,000 cash



Current Trends Recent Example Drug Trafficking (Federal Absconder)

- Wanted Federal Fugitive
- Previously convicted for possessing meth and sawed off shotgun
- Involved in drug trafficking
- Narcotics offenses in several jurisdictions
- Items seized:
 - (2) pistols
 - Fentanyl pills/ patches
 - \$7,000 cash



Current Trends Recent Example (Narc/ Firearms Trafficking)

- Local thief with emphasis on acquiring firearms.
- Responsible for crime (theft/ narcotics) in several jurisdictions.
- Solicits stolen firearms in exchange for narcotics.
- Responsible for numerous break ins to vehicles and storage units.
- Sold meth and heroin locally.
- (14) stolen firearms seized upon arrest.

Current Trends Recent Example (Narc/ Firearms Trafficking)



Questions?

Probation & Parole Overview

Deputy Chief Wayne E. Bye



Purpose of Probation and Parole

- The Probation and Parole Division promotes the mission of the Department of Corrections by providing effective supervision, sanctions, and alternative programs to adult offenders. The Division provides offender supervision and programming through professional staff that supports the needs and concerns of crime victims, their families and the citizens we serve.
- Essentially, we try to ensure Public Safety by effectively supervising offenders. We work with those willing to change but understand that some belong in Prison.

Region III Summary

- Made up of 12 Counties Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Meagher, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Fergus, Golden Valley, Petroleum, and Musselshell.
- Main Office in Great Falls. 18 Officers, 3 Supervisors, 3 Admin Support, 1 Hearings Officer and 2 PSI Writer.
- Cut Bank and Shelby have 2 Officers each, 1 Admin Support and 1 supervisor. Lewistown has 2 Officers and 1 Admin Support.
- We have Institutional P&P Officers Assigned to Nexus Treatment Center, Crossroads Prison, and a Liaison with the Great Falls Pre-Release.

What are Probation & Parole Officers?

- Designated Public Safety Officers, not Sworn Officers
 - PO's have arrest and search authority of offenders on supervision based on reasonable suspicion rather than probable cause
 - PO's can detain offenders without due process up to 72 hours in order to complete an investigation if they are on Probation supervision. Longer if on Parole or Conditional Release
 - Warrantless searches
 - Armed, equipped and trained
 - All Officers complete a 9 week basic academy at Montana Law Enforcement Academy and have additional training throughout their career.
 - We cannot investigate new crimes
 - We cannot intervene in Civil Matters (divorce, child custody, rent payments)

Cascade County Offenders

- Approximately 1045 offenders
 - Average standard caseload 65-85 offenders
- 1 caseload of sex offenders totaling 76
 - Tim Hides
- 1 Officer assigned to Mental Health Caseload
 - Brittany Smith
- 1 Officer assigned Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)
 - Cory Purves
- 2 Officers assigned to Treatment Court, Adult Drug Treatment and Veterans Court
 - Christie Slaughter and Josh Green
- 1 Officer Assigned to US Marshal Fugitive Task Force
 - Mike Stimac

Community Involvement

- Our Officers participate in a number events, task forces, and advisory councils including:
 - Special Olympics Games, Torch Run and Tip a Cop
 - DUI Task Force
 - Drug Task Force
 - Jail Advisory
 - Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Toby's House Crisis Nursery
 - Mental Health Board
 - Violent Offenders Task force



Types of Supervision

- Probation
 - Deferred or Suspended portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of the Court. Revocation proceedings are handled by the Court.
- Parole
 - Custody portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Revocations are handled by Hearings Officers at the direction of BOPP.
- Conditional Release
 - Custody portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of DOC. Revocations are handled by Hearings Officers

Types of Supervision cont...

- Essentially everyone on supervision has similar rules

Supervision Rules

- Standard Conditions are set through MT Administrative Rules
 - All offenders sentenced after those were adopted should have those conditions. However, judges have waived them on rare occasions
 - Conditions limit travel, alcohol use, drugs, gambling, restitution, employment
- Special conditions are ordered for specific crimes.
 - For example, DUI Offenders limited ability to drive
 - Sex Offenders, related to treatment, internet access, contact with minors, etc.

Typical Probation and Parole Officer Duties

- Meet with offenders in the office. Refer them for Services
- Conduct offender checks in field, at home, work, etc.
- Investigate violations, absconders, handle calls from victims, concerned citizens and family members.
- Assist Law Enforcement by working closely with them on investigations, searches, etc.
- Write Pre-Sentence Investigations, Reports of Violations, Disciplinary Reports and other documentation.

Agency Cooperation

- We have great working relationships with Law Enforcement Agencies including GFPD, CCSO, MHP, ATF, USM and others
- We also work closely with County Attorneys, Child Protective Services, Great Falls Pre-Release

Challenges

- Housing
- Sober Activities
- Peer Support

How can the City Help?

- Continue allowing us to work with our partner agencies
- Help us to educate and empower the public
- Include us in plans to address crime or similar issues in the city

Questions about Department of Corrections or Offenders

- Department of Corrections Website
 - <http://cor.mt.gov/>
- Offender Information Website (Conweb)
 - <https://app.mt.gov/conweb/>
- Montana Sexual/Violent Offender Registry
 - <https://app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svow/>
- What Is Public Information?
 - Crimes, Locations, Release Dates, Parole Dates, Status, Court Information
- Victim services
 - <http://cor.mt.gov/Victims>
 - Call – Toll Free (888) 223-6332 or (406) 444-0447

Closing

- You can also call our Office
 - 406-727-6061
- Questions?

