

Regular Crime Task Force Meeting

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Sandra Guynn called the meeting to order at 5:38 P.M.

Due to the COVID-19 health concerns, the format of the Task Force meeting will be held in a virtual video-conferencing environment. Some Task Force members and City staff may attend the meeting via a remote location, using a virtual meeting method.

**ROLL CALL/STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** Great Falls Crime Task Force Members (TFM) participated electronically via Zoom Webinar: Dugan Coburn (joined at 5:33 p.m.), John Parker (joined at 5:37 p.m.), Shane Etwiler (joined at 5:38 p.m.), Nicole Griffith (joined at 5:42 p.m.) and Deputy City Attorney Jeff Hindoi. Sandra Guynn, Jesse Slaughter, Jeff Newton, Sara Sexe, Ex-officio TFM Rick Tryon and City Manager Greg Doyon were present in the Gibson Room. Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea was present in the Commission Chambers.

In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know (Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution), modifications have also been made for public participation. Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend the virtual meeting utilizing Zoom Webinar. Attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/registerWN\\_aOxN4WFaRT606AEjWJUEQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/registerWN_aOxN4WFaRT606AEjWJUEQ). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar by Zoom.
- Attend in person. Public may view and participate in the meeting from the Gibson Room. Please refrain from attending in person if you are not feeling well.
- Call-in. The public may call in during specific public comment periods at 406-761-4786. All callers will be in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be restricted to customary time limits. We ask for your patience in the event there are technical difficulties.
- Provide public comments in writing. Comments may be sent via mail to City Manager's Office, PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT 59403 or by email to: [kartis@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:kartis@greatfallsmt.net). Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Please ensure that comments arrive before 12:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021. Due to tracking and dissemination requirements, written communication must be received by that time in order to be shared with the Task Force and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item and before final vote on the matter; and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

**TASK FORCE AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 23, 2021, GREAT FALLS CRIME TASK FORCE.**

**TFM Slaughter moved, seconded by TFM Coburn, that the CTF approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2021.**

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

Motion carried 7-0.

**2. TASK FORCE DISCUSSION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

TFM discussed the four categories of the draft recommendations that included the following:

1. Resources for Criminal Justice Systems
2. Communication and Education
3. Consequences
4. Partnerships and Collaboration

Ex-officio TFM Tryon reiterated that the TFM are not voting to implement any of the recommendations and are voting to pass the recommendations to the City Commission.

**TFM Parker moved, seconded by TFM Coburn, that the CTF strike the “one way bus ticket out of town” recommendation.**

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

Motion carried 8-0.

The TFM discussed the following categories:

**Resources for Criminal Justice Systems:**

Referring to 1, Vice-Chairperson Newton requested that the Police Department staff make decisions with regard to recommendations for staffing allocations.

TFM Sexe and Vice-Chairperson Newton requested to strike subcategories 2 and 3 under category 1.

TFM Slaughter requested to strike both sections under subcategory b.

TFM Parker reiterated that because of his position in government, he would be abstaining from any vote on enforcement measures. He expressed support with regard to incorporating mental health resources into everything that the CTF is trying to accomplish.

TFM Sexe recommended striking “Response Team” and inserting “Intervention Collaborative” (CIC) in 1B.

TFM were in favor of the following items in the draft recommendations:

- #2, recommending by City Commission Resolution(s) to our Federal Delegation and possibly to the MT Department of Justice, a, b and c.
- #3, recommending a Community Impact Study.
- #4, continuing to support CIC through GFPD, GFFR, Legal Department, municipal Court and other City staff members.
- #5, recommending the City Grants Administrator assist the Legal Department with investigating grant funding for victim and/or witness assistance for the Legal Department Criminal Division.

TFM Griffith suggested inserting “and also work in collaboration with the local Victim-Witness program” to 5.

Vice-Chairperson Newton recommended striking 6b.

TFM Sexe recommended inserting the following to 6:

- Legal Department case management software, estimated cost of \$50,500.
- Legal Department staff, including Paralegal/Investigator for an annual cost with benefits of \$61,000 to \$76,000. Prosecutor for an annual cost with benefits of \$86,000 to \$107,000, in order to keep up with current caseload. Additional Police Department resources would further enhance the shortage.
- Municipal Court additional elected judge and staff.

Referring to 6b, TFM Etwiler received clarification that the School District currently has School Resource Officers (SRO) and Counselors and adding a Truancy Officer would be redundant.

TFM Coburn added that the School District utilizes a program that tracks students who are absent from school.

TFM Etwiler expressed concern about tracking absent students and he suggested additional resources to support the existing programs.

It was the consensus of the TFM to move 6bg to the Consequences category.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the TFM to move ~~6b to the Consequences category~~, 6g to the Partnership/Collaboration category, and to strike “criminals” and insert “citizens.”

It was the consensus of the TFM to maintain 6e and insert, “see #4 for details.”

With regard to 7, it was the consensus of the TFM to insert “that if the City were to receive recreational marijuana tax revenue”, strike “the Recreational Marijuana” and insert “this” It was also the consensus of the TFM to strike out “January 2022” and insert “the beginning of the budget process in 2022.”

### **Communication and Education**

It was the consensus of the TFM to maintain 1a-e as is and strike 2a-b because it is redundant.

TFM Etzwiler received clarification that “utilizing Neighborhood Councils to a greater extent” will be inserted into 1d.

It was the consensus of the TFM to move 3a to 3 and to insert “Law Enforcement, Great Falls Pre-release Center and Probation and Parole” to 4a.

It was also the consensus of the TFM to ~~move 5 and also~~ strike “law enforcement,” move 6 and change the language to “ consider hiring a specific person or utilizing the current position” to Partnerships and Collaboration.

### **Consequences**

TFM Parker expressed concern that the recommendations for 1a (panhandling) and 1b (loitering) are judgmental and unconstitutional. He added that there is a more profound way to cope with poverty other than 1a, b and c.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon responded that there is no judgment attached to the words panhandling or loitering and that the recommendation is to review and assess Title 9 of the (OCCGF).

TFM Sexe recommended striking “strengthen enforcement and consequences for violations including but not limited to” and inserting “legally address issues regarding...” if the recommendation for 1 is tasking the Police Department and Legal Department to review and assess Title 9 of the OCCGF. She commented that individuals have a constitutional right to panhandle, unless they become aggressive.

TFM Slaughter concurred with TFM Sexe’s comment; however, he added that panhandling is an issue that needs to be addressed.

TFM Sexe recommended removing 2 because the City Prosecutors currently present legal

options for alternative sentencing for low risk criminals to the Municipal Court Judge.

**MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TASK FORCE.**

Ex-officio TFM Tryon indicated that he had another commitment and requested that the TFM continue discussing the draft recommendations on September 27, 2021. The TFM concurred.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Written communication pertaining to the draft recommendations of the Great Falls Crime Task Force were received from: **Terry Bjork, Harry Nusser, Ed Caffrey, Jesse Oldham, Diana Laughlin, Nick Jung, Beth Morrison, Christina Wetzel Depaul, Joan Redeen, Pat Goodover, Kate Nesson, James Scott Hedegaard, Corine Lindhorst, Patricia Rosenleaf, Tim Dallacqua, Nadine Carroll, Donna Williams, David Saslav, Dan Devine, Melissa Smith, Lita Sharone, Steve Grout, Paula Evitts, Kim Ochsner, Doug Wendt, Nancy Ann Hampton, Shyla Patera, Bill Bronson, Rae Grulkowski, Ben Forsyth, Charles Jennings, Camille Consolvo, Marcia Lauzon, Janet Henderson, Gary Owen, Erin Tropila, Carol Bronson, Vickie Leigland and James Leigland.**

**Ben Forsyth**, 3301 9<sup>th</sup> Street N.E., provided and discussed a prepared statement about the harmful effects of Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC.)

Participating via Zoom was: **Beth Morrison**, received clarification that 1d on page 5 of the draft recommendations is referring to a needle drop for illicit drugs.

It was the consensus of the TFM to consider changing the language of 1d on page 5 of draft recommendations at the September 27<sup>th</sup> CTF meeting.

**DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING MEETING DATES.**

Chairperson Guynn announced that at the next scheduled CTF meeting would be on September 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to come before the CTF, TFM Slaughter moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Newton to adjourn the **regular meeting of September 13, 2021, at 7:38 p.m.**

Motion carried 8-0.

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Sandra Guynn, Chairperson

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Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved as Amended: September 27, 2021