

## Darcy Dea

---

**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 12:50 PM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments on Crime Task Force Recommendations  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.jpg; image004.png; Bronson Crime Task Force Ltr 09-13-2021.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Carol Bronson <CBronson@nwgf.org>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 12:35:39 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject: Comments on Crime Task Force Recommendations**

Krista:

Attached are my comments regarding the Crime Task Force recommendations. I apologize for them being a bit late! If you or the Task Force has any questions, please let me know.

**Carol A. Bronson**

Director of Community Initiatives and Grants Management |  
NeighborWorks Great Falls  
P: 406-216-3526 | C: 406-781-9537 | [www.nwgf.org](http://www.nwgf.org)  
509 1st Ave South, Great Falls, MT 59401



509 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
406-761-5861  
[www.nwgf.org](http://www.nwgf.org)

September 13, 2021

City of Great Falls  
Crime Task Force  
P.O. Box 5021  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
Sent via Email: [kartis@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:kartis@greatfallsmt.net)

Dear Task Force:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the City's Crime Task Force recommendations. In my capacity as the Director of Community Initiatives at NeighborWorks Great Falls, I have worked closely with law enforcement to work to make Great Falls more safe, vibrant, and livable. I commend the task force on re-iterating the value of many of the programs and projects NeighborWorks Great Falls and our partners have led or supported since 2009. Because the Downtown Safety Plan has just been updated, we have again re-committed to doing this work collaboratively with the community.

Examples of some of our collaborative work includes coordinating Neighborhood Watch in Cascade County from 2012 – 2018 and working with the BID and others to offer ongoing Neighborhood and Business Watch programs at NeighborWorks. I also was a founding leader in the Downtown Safety Alliance, which is now a part of the Downtown Development Partnership. NeighborWorks also created the states first through the wall drop box for expired and unwanted prescription drugs at the Highway Patrol, the downtown Coins for A Cause program re panhandling, and others.

We continue to work with community partners at the intersection of homelessness, housing, and the criminal justice and healthcare systems, and are actively working on ways to address that. The community has strong partnerships that care deeply about the issues of crime and safety in our community, and they continue to work hard to address these issues. I make the following comments on the Crime Task Fork's recommendations:

1. **Additional Police Officers:** The GFPD BRIC officers and Direct Enforcement Team have made a tremendous impact on crime and quality of life issues in the downtown in the last 5 years or so. I would endorse and strongly support another downtown officer, but with all the other staffing needs of the GFPD, I would look to them to prioritize what officer assignments should be.
2. **Prioritizing Mental Health Care:** From our work from 2017 – 2019 mapping the intersection of homelessness, the criminal justice and healthcare systems, we know that mental health calls are increasing in frequency. There are many agencies that are working on providing mental health support to law enforcement and those partnerships should be expanded and fostered.
3. **Foot Patrols:** The Great Falls Police Department has a strong volunteer program that literally walk the streets making their presence known. I have worked as a GFPD downtown for several years. It is another program to expand and foster.

4. **Non-Uniformed Code Enforcement Officers:** The City has a non-uniformed Code Enforcement Officer who addresses most of the code enforcement issues. Law enforcement is called in when crime or other serious issues are involved that require an officer. Residents and the Neighborhood Councils are very concerned about non-criminal code violations, as it affects the quality of life in their neighborhood, not just those that involve criminal activity.
5. **State and Federal Legislation and Advocacy:** It is essential that the City have a voice in both state legislative and federal matters that affect our community. There has been much work done to date, but a focus on state legislative decisions made in 2017 and 2019 are particularly critical.
6. **Community Impact Study:** That could be a great resource for the community.
7. **Communication and Education:** As Chief Newton and Mr. Etwiler can attest, the Downtown Safety Alliance has been doing crime and safety education, at least 5 times a year, since about 2010. NWGF ran the county wide Neighborhood Watch program from 2012 – 2017; Business Watch was also an integral part of the Downtown Safety Alliance education programs. The newly updated Downtown Safety Plan provides for ongoing education, primarily at the Public Library, on just the topics outlined in the Task Force Recommendations, including “if you see something, say something,” National Night Out, business crime deterrents, panhandling, public nuisance, safety lighting, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, security cameras, etc. The Safety Alliance and its partners have use social media; the GFPD has an excellent social media program.

The Neighborhood Councils are working closely with GFPD to expand on the Watch networks that were established there in the past. For example, please contact Eric Ray at Neighborhood Council #5 for an outline of the great work their Council has done in this area over the years.

8. **Partnerships:** There are a multitude of well-established partnerships that address many, if not most, of the issues raised in your recommendations. To map and identify those agencies and partnerships might be useful to see the depth and breadth of the work the City and its partners are doing now.

Thank you for your work on these important issues in our community.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Bronson  
Director of Community Initiatives  
cbronson@nwgf.org  
406-216-3526

## Darcy Dea

---

**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 2:21 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Task force proposal

Vickie leigland ([Vmposl12@gmail.com](mailto:Vmposl12@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I am against the proposal from Slaughter and Tryon. I just read that there are not enough staff to monitor RV parking so where are the extra staff coming from to ticket for the offenses listed in the proposal? To provide bus tickets to people to get them out of town is irresponsible and a horrible idea. Page 1 Section 1 item D appears to be a license to discriminate against our Native American neighbors. So much of this proposal is simply wrong. Please vote no on this.

## Darcy Dea

---

**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 2:51 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Task force proposal

James Leigland ([Jim@leigland.com](mailto:Jim@leigland.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

It is obvious these proposals are driven by the philosophies of Tryon and Slaughter. A lot of the language seems too generic to comment on. Are we going to see as much transparency from CCSO as is advocated in this proposal. To me the “bus ticket law enforcement” idea says it all. While I think it is good to look at these issues I also think there needs to be ideas from the larger commission. This proposal needs to go in the trash.