



## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Krista Artis; Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** FW: [All City Commissioners] taskforce comments

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] taskforce comments

Kate Nesson ([kathrin.nessan@gmail.com](mailto:kathrin.nessan@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Commissioners- I urge you to reconsider the Crime Task Force suggestions and include strategies that actually address crime, like access to affordable housing, healthcare, and transportation along with substance use disorder treatments. Increasing policing will not solve any issue but rather increase the likelihood to reoffend, owe fines, and impede ones' ability to improve their circumstances. And I'm utterly disappointed in the suggestion of sending low level offenders out of town with a one way bus ticket. That is not how I want my great city to treat people, and it does absolutely nothing to get to the root of the problem. It's a shame that the taskforce isn't invested in helping people, only enforcing a harder hand on an already stressed community. Please consider more prevention based solutions. Thank you



**From:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** Krista Artis; Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** FW: [All City Commissioners] Great Falls City Crime Task Force

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Great Falls City Crime Task Force

James Scott Hedegaard ([pastorscothed@gmail.com](mailto:pastorscothed@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

After reading the recommendations made by the Great Falls City Task Force, drafted by City Commission member Rick Tryon and Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter, I have found many of these recommendations to be both heavy-handed and often contradictory. For example, the recommendation of increased enforcement of minor offenses (page 5, item 1 under the heading Consequences) seems to serve only to justify increasing the number of law enforcement officers in the city and puts unnecessary burdens on already impoverished persons. The proposal to use tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales (page 3, item 7) is contradicted by the recommendation that no recreational marijuana businesses be allowed within the city limits (page 7, item 1 under Partnerships and Collaboration). On the other hand, the recommendations do little to address the root causes of crime - poverty, homelessness, mental illness, and the like. I strongly urge the City Commission to reject these recommendations and pursue a more collaborative path with local health and human services agencies, rather increasing the burden on local taxpayers for greater law enforcement presence.



## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Darcy Dea  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** Krista Artis  
**Cc:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Subject:** FW: [All City Commissioners] proposed Great Falls Task Force.

FYI  
Darcy

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] proposed Great Falls Task Force.

Corine Lindhorst ([hiplain@mt.net](mailto:hiplain@mt.net)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

More policing will not solve this problem for Great Falls or the people affected. It is much more effective to get these people into available programs to help them to get out of their current situation.

**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** Darcy Dea  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 12:38 PM  
**To:** Krista Artis  
**Cc:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Subject:** FW: [All City Commissioners] Crime Commission recommendations

FYI - Darcy

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime Commission recommendations

Patricia Rosenleaf ([prosenleaf1@gmail.com](mailto:prosenleaf1@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I am very opposed to the tenets of this commission. Some of the ideas in the proposal should be rejected outright, like ticketing people for "loitering" or giving homeless people a one-way bus ticket out of town. There are already measure being taken to help the people most likely to be targeted. We do not need more police presence, but more humane and positive ways of handling these situations.



**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** Krista Artis; Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** FW: [All City Commissioners] Great Falls Crime Task Force proposal

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 1:19 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Great Falls Crime Task Force proposal

Tim Dallacqua ([tim.dallacqua@gmail.com](mailto:tim.dallacqua@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY

Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 8:50 PM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment for Crime Task Force

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Donna Williams <dwilliamshome@charter.net>  
**Date:** September 12, 2021 at 5:35:39 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Crime Task Force

To the Crime Task Force:

I sometimes think if public comment came sooner in the process it might be more fruitful, so I apologize for not speaking up earlier. In my defense, even before your first meeting, just seeing how members were selected, I lost hope. It looked like you might care more about property crime than people. And the problem of crime is so big, where do you even begin?

Do you really recommend making criminals of the homeless and the hopeless by prosecuting them for "loitering" and kicking them out of town with a one-way bus ticket? Friendly directions to the Rescue Mission would be easier, more effective, sensible, and far less expensive. And now that I know I can't count on the police to do this, I will know better than to call on them when someone looks lost—maybe I'll try to talk to them myself. If I have to worry about preventing conflicts between the police and the street people, then why would I want to pay you more?

I don't see much in this proposal that will actually reduce crime. Raising taxes and throwing more money at the police department will not even take a nibble out of crime. To be fair, I don't think any task force however constituted could make much of a dent in the problems we have, which have roots far beyond our town and would require deep and radical changes beyond our means.

But we could do some things.

Rather than open up a hole that could swiftly drain municipal coffers, I would sooner see us focus on positive change to improve the quality of life in Great Falls such as build a new indoor swimming pool, upgrade our water system, and maintain an open and inviting space in the public library. These expenditures might not reduce crime in Great Falls either, but at least we'd have something good to show for it. Let's do more things like that.

Sincerely,

Donna Williams  
[dwilliamshome@charter.net](mailto:dwilliamshome@charter.net)  
2916 2nd Ave N  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 8:49 PM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Input / Feedback on the Crime Task Force Recommendations Draft

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** David Saslav <dsaslav@gmail.com>  
**Date:** September 12, 2021 at 4:40:59 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** Input / Feedback on the Crime Task Force Recommendations Draft

“To a Hammer Salesman, every problem looks like a nail...”

I feel the Crime Task Force has done the community of Great Falls a disservice, by choosing to address our City’s vibrancy and safety issues through the myopic lens of the criminal justice system and by advocating for increased use of interdiction and militarization on our streets. Taxing the residents of Great Falls to hire a dozen more police officers will not solve homelessness or addiction on our streets, or create needed educational and economic opportunities. Hiring more police officers is only going to increase divisiveness and feelings of inequity— far from being a “silver bullet” solution, it will create more bullets for us to dodge. We simply can not delude ourselves into thinking that giving people one-way bus tickets out of town will have any effect; it’s like swatting flies attracted to food in a dirty kitchen; Beautify and Clean the Darn Kitchen!

The Downtown Safety Alliance has shown us the proper way this can be (and has been) done — through civic investment in working solutions and community outreach and educational programs to keep the public informed about participating in civic life and assisting their fellow Montanans in need.

The huge amount of money required to support the recommendations of additional police officers could be used in ways that would address the issues that often lead the hopeless to lives of crime.

Instead— let’s make a commitment to each other — city government, business leaders, community activists, faith leaders, law enforcement, and citizens alike — to honestly face the ramifications of defunding social welfare and ignoring the common good.

Let’s own the issue of crime in our City - like responsible adults - instead of pretending a police state will make our lives better.

Sincerely,



David Saslav  
Great Falls, MT

✓  
**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 8:48 PM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Crime in Great Falls MT>

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** dan devine <dandmnt@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** September 11, 2021 at 10:53:21 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** Crime in Great Falls MT>

SIRS,

How am I to know about the crime problem in Great Fall?

How can the public be informed about criminal activities?

I can find no court proceedings or conviction records.

How can you better provide information to the public of criminal activities in our community? Our local newspaper prints very little of any local news in recent years.

Thank you

Dan Devine

Sent from Mail for Windows



**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 4:25 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] The Crime Commission Draft Report

Melissa Smith (mls3ster@gmail.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Thank you to the Crime Commission Task Force members for their service on this important issue facing the community of Great Falls.

My problem with the draft recommendations are that many of the recommendations seek to export our problems rather than address them. Additional police officers will not solve homelessness, addiction, and lack of educational and economic opportunities. Hiring more police officers will not be a quick and painless solution. We simply can not clean our streets by sweeping up people into jails or giving them one-way bus tickets.

That said, I am in support of

1. Federal dollars to be used for a DEA officer for Great Falls to help with drug trafficking which is a serious problem
2. BRIC officer for Downtown Great Falls
3. the many recommendations that the Downtown Safety Alliance Plan has shown are working solutions and to support their community outreach and educational programs to keep the public informed and participating in civic life

and

4. environmental design solutions to deter crime.

The amount of money required to support four more police officers could be used in ways that would address the social welfare issues that often lead to crime. We need investments in solutions that actually address public safety issues, like mental health support, affordable housing, and addiction treatment. Taxing residents to hire more police officers doesn't solve those problems.

It's hard work, time consuming and the results are rarely immediately obvious. It will take serious commitment on the part of city government, business leaders, community activists, faith leaders, law enforcement, and citizens to honestly face the gutting of social welfare and the common good which has led to crime in our community. We simply can not make the issues of crime in our City - someone else's problem.

Melissa Smith  
Great Falls, MT

**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 2:26 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime Task Force recommendations

Lita Sharone (lrsharone@gmail.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I totally disagree with the proposed Crime Task Force Recommendations. They will not be effective.

What we need is:

- more support for mental health help since many infractions are due to mental health problems
- funding for more affordable housing to help take care of homelessness
- more funding to help create job opportunities for our citizens

More taxes for police Will Not solve these problems. Lets invest money in these areas instead and our crimes will go down. Great Falls deserves this!!



**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime Task Force draft

Steve R Grout ([stegrout@charter.net](mailto:stegrout@charter.net)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I am appalled by the attitude seeping throughout many, if not most, of the recommendations in this draft. Poverty, lack of affordable housing, and drug addiction drive many of the 'congregated' persons that Mr. Tryon and Mr. Slaughter would prefer to hammer and/or ship out of town. Remove most of those reactionary suggestions, and you are left with some more thoughtful ideas, such as coordinating (and funding!) work already underway by several non-profits to alleviate the CAUSES rather than hammer the SYMPTOMS. I hope that the other volunteers working on this draft are not disheartened by Commissioner Tryon's uninvited intervention. Please wipe away the 'angry tough guy' language and suggestions.

Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 8:17 PM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Great Falls Crime Task Force Proposal

Paula Evitts ([prhpevitts@aol.com](mailto:prhpevitts@aol.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I feel investing in mental health support, affordable housing and treating addictions is a better use of tax payers money than hiring more police.

Thank you for this way to share my thoughts.



**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:32 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime Task Force

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

Please consider returning the recommendations to the Crime Task Force for further discussion.

An excellent group of people were brought together to hear information from area experts to address a significant issue in our community. The presenters unfortunately were limited to law enforcement and adjacent agencies and did not include information about many of the community efforts already underway. Information about the Downtown Safety Alliance, the Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance, the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect Task Force, the Continuum of Care homeless initiative and more are bringing together nonprofits, businesses, community leaders and law enforcement to address many of the crime issues referenced in the Crime Task Force recommendations.

Hearing from these stakeholders would certainly change the recommendations on the table before commissioners.

Beyond that, these recommendations don't come from the task force. They were given brief opportunity to offer suggestions of changes. Why recruit a diverse group of leaders to be a part of this effort and not let them lead? I believe if these two things are done, the recommendations before City Commissioners to address crime would be very different.

If the City wants to get community support to raise taxes to pay for more law enforcement, it's important to get the community on board first. Thank you for your time.

Kim Ochsner

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:52 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Great Falls Crime Task Force recommendations comment

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Doug Wendt <wendtworld@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 9:09:31 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** Great Falls Crime Task Force recommendations comment

Dear Great Falls' Crime Task Force,

The way forward is right across the street from the abandoned Hardy's downtown on 1st Ave North, former site of our beautiful Opera House and YMCA, on the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce building's signs, "Montana's Base Camp for Art and Adventure".

The needed balance between the private sector and our precious public domain is out of whack and getting worse. What's required is a Civics Chamber to re-establish what makes an economy flourish, a Commons for all that does the jobs the profit motive can't or won't. Even the Post Office has been infected. Though it's uniquely in our US Constitution as a vital public service to provide essential affordable communication, community, and commerce for all, especially regular folks, it's now burdened to show a profit while things like our interstate highways and military never see such restrictions. The problem is not the powerless.

Yet most of the Task Force's recommendations continue ideas from decades ago, concepts based on unsure 'Political Science' unlike science that harnesses facts and adapts, PS has theories that never get much traction as they spin the same tired arguments, using language that's been neutralized at best, pointing fingers at the most vulnerable like in the musical West Side Story, where low-hanging defenseless society is "depraved on account it's deprived".

When I moved myself back to Great Falls with my family just before the turn of the century my children were in shock when they returned from their first days of



elementary and high school. "Folks here think the world is just a few thousand years old, that dinosaurs roamed the earth with humans, and that you are not born on your birthday!" they exclaimed.

You see, when it comes to the public square, evidence, logic, and reason rule the roost, not beliefs, save that for places of worship. Let it inform adherents not drive shared public policy. Is everyone truly created equal and expected to love others like themselves or are those just convenient platitudes to be jettisoned as demographics become more inclusive, the promise of those foundational attitudes illusory?

Meanwhile income disparity, climate degradation, gun intimidation, election tampering, tax avoidance, and baseless 'whiteness' run through us like a runaway river making reckless paths. Most jobs fall way short of letting employees break even let alone actually thrive, the conditions of a decent society that uplifts all. Both parents holding several jobs is no way to run a family. Extreme weather has been rampant here for over 20 years with people stuck inside in winter and summer, hovering against the reduced seasons of ice, fire, smoke, unusual floods, roof collapses, and worse with food that won't grow, and air that shouldn't be breathed. The wild west was finally tamed when guns were left out of town. Voters were welcomed to make their verdicts. Tax cheats' shortfall weren't forcefully covered by those least able to contribute more and more. And science is crystal clear on there's one race, human beings.

Calumet has some of the best paying jobs in town yet adjusted to inflation they've only kept pace with what the minimum wage was worth in the 1960s. And their industry has repeatedly hid the ball since then on what they've known even longer, their product is toxic, just like tobacco executives finally admitted. Data and statistics on gun mayhem are also off limits from any analysis. Same with cannabis and other factors. It relies on beliefs, little evidence. And downtown and around town is ever more populated by merchants selling poisonous depressants made from rotten fruits and vegetables. Toxins ahoy. The Tribune won a Pulitzer on our booze overload. Can vets and others easily get some miracle natural Herb trusted for centuries for their adult use? It's 'the healing of the nations'. Not under part of your proposal

Civic engagement is vastly reduced. People refuse to read the daily paper. Even professionals here have little clue what's going on locally. One-way radio and cable gossip dominate. The darkest money ever overcomes Montana's top ranked dark money restrictions on quaint political mailings as Facebook allows totally effective and affordable traceless micro-targeting based on hundreds of companies now following Cambridge Analytica's disgraced 2016 pioneering of delivering lies to those most triggered by them, as privacy laws evaporate, making fair elections problematic. It's now being applied in all small elections including state reps, school

boards and election workers, an unmitigated disaster for democracy, rule of law, science, and facts.

We've got to aim our solutions higher than the sufferers. Even President Eisenhower stated that only our government possessed the power to ride herd on this highly sophisticated PR abuse as no one has the willpower or knowledge to resist the forceful manipulative power of infinite growth for money. That's where Civics, civil behavior, and common courtesy come in.

It's going to involve creativity, not looking elsewhere for what someone else did before engaging our laboratory of self-rule. Still, look to Rapid City SD and Cheyenne WY, the only other nuclear missile enclaves like Great Falls, all 3 subjected to 'holding the public hostage to annihilation' the official sister Pentagon policy to MAD, Mutually Assured Destruction. Show that economies can flourish without being propped up by military aid or getting much more from the government than our taxes pay in.

Charlie Russell and our Visitor Center in the Chamber of Commerce building are right. North Central Montana is destined to be an Arts and Adventure wellspring. For now heartily endorse the Human Infrastructure plan before Congress which helps make good out of decades of neglect on many lingering issues. Similarly go after tax cheats to pay the way locally. Stop letting billionaires decide so we follow. For example, make sure that chronically crappy road between Malmstrom and Giant Springs gets spiffy as fresh water becomes scarce and priceless. Use incentives to insure businesses pay proper compensation without government handouts filling the gap. Support our Arts and artists like never before. Make sure STEM becomes STEAMM. Add Arts and Music to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Create well-rounded human beings that can forge their own innovative paths through self-reliance, critical thinking, gumption, and E Pluribus Unum.

Forward ever on behalf of Civic Arts Public Language,  
Doug Wendt - Great Falls, Montana

Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:53 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Replying to public impute regarding Neighborhood Watch Program

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Ann Hampton <nancyannhampton@gmail.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 9:19:43 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>, nancyannhampton@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Replying to public impute regarding Neighborhood Watch Program

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Nancy Hampton <nancyannhampton@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 13, 2021, 9:12 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Replying to public impute regarding Neighborhood Watch Program  
**To:** <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Ann Hampton <nancyannhampton@gmail.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 2:29:51 AM MDT  
**To:** Nancy Ann Hampton <nancyannhampton@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Replying to public impute regarding Neighborhood Watch Program

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Nancy Ann Hampton <nancyannhampton@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 13, 2021, 2:26 AM  
**Subject:** Replying to public impute regarding Neighborhood Watch Program  
**To:** <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>

To Greg Doyon and members of the Crime Task Force in Great Falls, Montana.

I highly discourage the reinstatement of the Neighborhood Watch Program again back into our community. I had a long history with Neighborhood Watch since 2004/06 up until 2017 when our watch was shut down.

It seems history of the program and how it fits into our community is only going to lead volunteers and citizens into a perception of "being safe", it creates divide and is not transparent.

If you would like me to meet with members of your task force to show and discuss this matter in person I would be happy to do that as well with further details.

My view is the community needs the education and resources, one being a Montana Code App, information available on how to look up their own particular situations and address them themselves. The citizens need to take responsibility to keep their family safe in a lawful manner, without drama and without tons of meetings and huge gatherings, right now especially.

Just how the Chamber made a map of our river system to keep people safe it is a reference that people will use as needed. The same concept could be used for writing up a reference guide on keeping yourself and loved ones safe. That way it is having everyone be responsible for their own actions. They could have that guide at their fingertips.

No one needs to know your personal information going into these Watch groups. That isn't safe anymore as you can witness across the country with Mental Health issues and LE agencies short staffed and on overload.

I feel starting NW back up will create risks to volunteers and divide further citizens and add more burden to LE not being able to address the needed followup. We need calm not pot stirring.

It takes a lot of time and man hours to put on unattended events for a few who usually end up being in the groups sometimes with different agendas.

Give it some deep thought please before you act on this again. LE will not always be able to be there for you and we need the people educated for an easy reference guide for different situations. #personalresponsibility

Thank you,  
Nancy Hampton  
Ex- Area Coordinator District 6 NW  
Great Falls, Montana 59405

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: additional comments on Crime Task Force recommendations

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Terry Bjork <tlbjork@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 9:32:52 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** additional comments on Crime Task Force recommendations

These are in addition to the previous comment I sent separately.

Thanks to all the CTF members and the presenters, for all their hard work.

- 1) Guns - There was a great deal of discussion about guns and their place in the drug-related crime that affects Great Falls, but no recommendation to do anything about guns. Guns stolen from vehicles and storage lockers was mentioned as a particular problem. Could that be addressed with some educational programs or outreach or advertising aimed at local gun owners, highlighting the link between stolen guns and our crime problems. Could the City require more robust security measures for commercial storage locker operations. The lack of state guns laws with teeth was also mentioned by some of the law enforcement presenters. Could the City lobby the legislature to remedy that.
- 2) Environmental Design - There was a presentation about it, but no resulting recommendation for the City to do anything aside from educating citizens. For instance many streets and alleys in Great Falls are very poorly lighted and that is City responsibility.
- 3) Housing for people released from jail - The lack of housing for those recently released from jail was mentioned as a problem, but the Task Force recommendations do not address the issue.
- 4) Jail space - Many of the recommendations seem to point in the direction of more people spending time in jail, and more time/stiffer sentencing to remove habitual offenders from the community. But jail space and any additional costs aren't addressed.

Terry Bjork

3622 4th Ave S

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: crime taskforce comments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Shyla Patera <shycpat@icloud.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 6:40:07 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** crime taskforce comments

My name is Shyla Patera. I wish to submit the following comments to the Great Falls crime task force. I was just thank you as commission members for your due diligence and work that you do for our community. The first recommendation that I would make and support is increasing presence of not only law enforcement presence but also community organizations presence in our neighborhoods. I am pleased that we have been and will be looking at our community ordinances overtime.

Because Great Falls is utilized as a stop in our crime / drug network our region needs to focus on upon keeping our relationships between law-enforcement and community agencies at the forefront of crime fighting and community building as well. Community members need to know the impact that potential and reported gang related activity has on our neighborhoods and communities. I believe that our communities must focus on victimless crimes and scams!

Many aspects of crime prevention, victim assistance, crime restitution and offender recovery have a civil rights aspect. Because Great Falls is a natural hub for our region ,I believe that our city needs to strengthen mental health services ,disability services, housing services. I believe that we, as a City, me too take it vantage of our home and communities waiver system for mental health services particularly the state of Montana's draft Heart Waiver. The state of Montana and the city of Great Falls need to strengthen employment services and housing services for all particularly making sure that once someone has serve their sentence they can access Housing ,Employment and services and which will provide opportunities for all. The city needs to increase it's accessible affordable housing stock and work with HUD to ensure that all who want and seek housing as well as employment can find options where needed . It is my hope that our city and state will invest in substance abuse and use disorder services. Thank you for the opportunity to attend the crime commission meetings and to comment on the recommendations presented .

Shyla Patera  
1013 7th Avenue Northwest  
Great Falls, Montana59404  
406 781-1885

shycpat@icloud.com

Sent from my iPhone

**Darcy Dea**

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Crime Task Force  
**Attachments:** Comment on Crime Task Force Recommendations\_9\_12\_2021.docx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** bill.bronson@bresnan.net  
**Date:** September 12, 2021 at 9:35:09 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Cc:** bill.bronson@bresnan.net  
**Subject:** RE: Crime Task Force

Krista:

Please see attached my comments on the Crime Task Force's recent recommendations. Thank you.

***/s/ Bill Bronson***

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***Mailing Address:***

**P.O. Box 3485  
Great Falls, MT 59403**

***Street Address:***

**733 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE  
Great Falls, MT 59404**

**Telephone: (406) 799-9373**

**E-Mail: bill.bronson@bresnan.net**

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September 12, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent recommendations of the Crime Task Force. The list of recommendations provided is quite extensive. My comments will be limited to some of the major components of the proposal.

My comments here are informed by my years of experience on the Great Falls City Commission (which included my interactions with the Great Falls Police Department), as well as my current tenure on the Great Falls Public School Board, as also my participation in non-profits associated with mental health treatment, and substance abuse counseling. The comments expressed here are solely my own, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of either the school board or various organizations with which I am or have been affiliated.

### **Resources for Local Criminal Justice System**

-I am pleased the task force acknowledges that funding for additional law enforcement or law enforcement-related personnel can only come from a special levy voted on by the eligible voters of the City of Great Falls (assuming there are no other new and significant sources of revenue). This should not be surprising; we have known for years that current tax levies are simply insufficient to raise the type of funds critical for providing additional law enforcement personnel.

-This section of the recommendations, as well as others, frequently proposes specific directions to the Great Falls Police Department with respect to staffing, the type of criminal case to be addressed, and how Police Department personnel are to be assigned. Respectfully, it is not appropriate for the City Commission to make these decisions. These decisions are best made by the chief of police in consultation with his staff. The City Commission does not possess the requisite knowledge or expertise to determine how best to place and utilize law enforcement personnel. These decisions are also out the purview of their authority under the City Charter.

As an example: placement of patrol officers “on the ground” sounds appealing to many, but the chief and his officers, who have a better

understanding of what constitutes the most effective and efficient use of personnel and resources, should be deciding what is the best placement for limited personnel. If the chief believes that more “boots on the ground” is necessary and would be effective, fine. If the chief believes that we need more personnel focused on Internet-related crimes, then we should support that decision regardless of what our limited perspectives may think necessary.

-Likewise, any suggestions regarding direction to the Municipal Court must be made with the understanding that the municipal judge is independently elected and ultimately decides what is the best course of action as to matters under his control or jurisdiction.

-As to the suggestions from the sheriff to secure another school resource officer: I have been a strong supporter of the school resource officer program for many years, both as a City Commissioner and as a school board trustee. I note, however, that the task force did not include any representatives from the Great Falls Public School System. It would be appropriate to engage the Superintendent, his staff, and the school board as to whether and how to implement additions to the current SRO program. Enhancements to that program will involve a significant budgetary commitment. More conversation on this point is necessary before making any final decisions.

-The recommendation that federal law enforcement become more significantly involved in mitigation of criminal activities in our area is very sound. We recognize that, over the past few years, our local drug problems involved to a large extent interstate and international activity. Only the involvement of the federal law enforcement agencies will help this community crackdown on our drug problem.

-I concur with the recommendation that we continue to support crisis intervention collaboratives with all relevant law enforcement and judicial agencies. Many types of criminal activity are associated with mental health and substance abuse problems. Although the City itself is not directly responsible for dealing with these problems, it's important that the city collaborate with the various mental health and substance

abuse agencies to address the problem. That includes to the maximum extent feasible, various diversion programs, and enhancement of sentencing options in our court system, both state and municipal.

### **Communication and Education**

-No one disagrees that appropriate levels of communication and education about crime issues are important. However, we must be mindful of the time constraints that exist on our law enforcement personnel. These folks should not be taxed with excessive obligations for providing information when their principal job is dealing with crime in our community. It's appropriate that we consult with our police chief, sheriff, and other law enforcement department when asking them to provide information.

-One portion of this section (2a and 2b) references allegations by unspecified members of the public concerning activities of the local police department. No evidence has been provided to support whether these allegations are true. We must always be careful to not give credence to unsupported perceptions of police conduct.

-The local business community is also responsible for taking steps to avoid or limit the consequences of criminal activity within their premises. We have local resources available to help educate the business community where necessary to help them in efforts to mitigate criminal activity

-I appreciate that the task force recognizes problems imposed by the Montana legislature's 2017 justice reinvestment act. We saw the problems coming, but we must remember that legislators on both sides of the aisle supported these changes. While holding forums with local legislators on the problems posed by that act are important, it is also critical that this community, along with other cities and counties around the state, engage the current gubernatorial administration on the problems that were created by that legislation.

There will probably always be a tendency by the state of Montana, both through the Department of Corrections and whoever is governor, to try and shift the costs of incarceration and other aspects of law

enforcement-related programming back on local communities. The reason for this is simple: the state, like local governments, has limited financial resources. It was evident that the previous governor was heavily influenced by his corrections department to resolve funding issues by trying to put the onus for dealing with these issues back on local communities. It was also influenced by "consultants" from outside Montana who did not understand how our corrections system worked in practice. Don't be surprised if you potentially run into the same issue with the current administration, as well as future administrations. My point is that this is a subject that will require constant vigilance by local governments to ensure that we are not bearing inappropriate burdens for these expenses.

### **Consequences**

-The task force recommendations propose that the city manager task our Police Department and city attorney with a review of local government ordinances, particularly in areas such as panhandling, loitering, "public nuisance", etc. I understand our current city attorney has already advised the task force that local government hands are largely tied in this area. Panhandling, for example, is recognized by our court system as a legitimate First Amendment activity. Recent attempts by local governments around the country to enact stricter regulations on this activity have uniformly been rejected by courts. There is no reason to believe Great Falls can influence a different direction here.

Local law enforcement is able now to utilize other sections of our local and state criminal codes, such as provisions dealing with disorderly conduct, to deal with the most significant consequences of activities many people deem inappropriate or anti-social.

-On the subject of sentencing alternatives: I believe the municipal judge and the city attorney's office have already informed the task force of the various options they currently exercise or can exercise in this area. Suggestions such as providing one-way bus tickets out of town are totally unrealistic and not worth the time of elected officials and others

to consider. Likewise, when suggesting about people who are incarcerated should be engaged in various public clean-up activities, one must be mindful of the various cost associated with these tasks. Some individuals who are incarcerated require supervision. Who will provide that, and at what cost?

-The publication of prosecution in sentencing records of local prosecutors and judges is also fraught with difficulty. Raw data of this kind requires substantial interpretation so that readers may fully understand all aspects of what went into the prosecution and sentencing. This is also an extremely time-consuming task. When you consider the amount of time our prosecutors spend in the courtroom and the amount of time our municipal judge spends presiding over cases, this recommendation imposed a regulatory burden that could be born very easily.

### **Partnerships and Collaboration**

-Personally, I share with our law enforcement the concern about how we manage our voting public's recent decision to allow recreational marijuana under certain conditions. Managing medical marijuana was and is difficult enough. Adding recreational marijuana to the mix only complicates the problem. Nevertheless, I question whether the City Commission can tackle these problems within the apparent time frame suggested (i.e., by January 2022). If it thinks it can, great. However, it goes without saying that our city legal department and planning staff are already tasked with a great deal of work, and the city manager must also spend time over the next few weeks with the hiring process for a new city attorney. If the Commission, the Manager, Planning and Community Development, and GFPS are going to be tasked with addressing recreational marijuana issues for the next three months, then something else is going to have to give.

-This section also discusses once again the importance of greater involvement with our federal law enforcement partners. I heartily agree that these avenues need to be explored. Once again, our drug problem is now largely tied to interstate and to some extent international forces.

Dealing with the problem requires a collaborative effort by all levels of law enforcement at all levels of government to resolve this problem.

-Regarding the recommendation or comment that some businesses are telling their employees not to interfere or stop shoplifters: I can offer some insight here, based on many years of experience advising businesses in litigation matters. Many businesses are very concerned about being challenged or sued for making what are essentially considered in the civil law to be "false arrests." Major national corporations and chain stores typically have well thought-out internal crime prevention programs sponsored by and developed by their respective risk management departments. These entities are usually better positioned to engage in shoplifting control on their premises. However, we have noticed in recent years a trend even among these entities about how far they can enforce or control shoplifting on their premises. You should engage the business community a bit further on this subject before making judgments about why they do the things they do.

-Through my work in the legal community, I have seen the many successes obtained through our specialty courts involving veterans, mental health issues, and drugs. I believe there is now a consensus among state officials as well as our local law enforcement personnel and district courts, and also among people of different political persuasions, that these specialty courts are, and can continue to be, successful in dealing with crime-related issues. I'm pleased the task force recognizes this, and obviously we should continue to support these programs.

-I'm not sure I understand the ending comment by the sheriff about maintaining local control over law enforcement. Federal law enforcement authorities only have that jurisdiction that is specifically granted to them by congressional enactments. Likewise, the US district attorney's office has limited jurisdiction, time, and resources. One of the most successful aspects of joint city, county, state, and federal law enforcement cooperation is that in some instances, particularly in the area of drug trafficking, the most thorough prosecutions and the strictest sentencing options are typically best handled by our federal

law enforcement partners. I hope that we will continue to recognize that advantage and continue the types of relationships that we've had in the past with these partners that at times have resulted in much better resolution up crime issues.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

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## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: [PROBABLE JUNK MAIL] Great Falls Crime Task Force Recommendations Comment

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rae Grulkowski <rae@carpsinc.com>  
**Date:** September 12, 2021 at 9:28:32 PM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Cc:** rae@carpsinc.com  
**Subject:** [PROBABLE JUNK MAIL] Great Falls Crime Task Force Recommendations Comment

Ladies and gentlemen:

My husband and I own commercial and residential properties within the city limits of Great Falls and our home is located in the rural Stockett area. I write today to comment on the Draft of Recommendations by the Great Falls City Crime Task Force.

It is my perspective that adding more manpower and/or programs should come secondary to enforcing what is already in place. Our County and City of Great Falls currently has many agencies and resources to curb crime and enhance public safety. However, I feel we do fall short in enforcement and accountability for adherence to current ordinances, laws and programs/protocols. It would seem reasonable to review current processes a bit more thoroughly and correct inadequacies, before adding more taxpayer funded programs, in general. I also, wholly agree with a statement by Sheriff Slaughter cautioning federal (and State) partnerships. Ideally, local government (city and county) should be a well-greased machine, utilizing transparency with inclusion of the community members it serves. The best solutions are found by and for those at the local level. Federal, and often State government should be the non-typical "reach", not the first solutions offered.

To speak to a specific topic in the draft of recommendations, I express passionate concern for the 54%-45% vote for I-190 regarding legalizing possession and use of recreational marijuana. The difference in "yes" votes was 3761. I lean toward crediting the "confusing and lack of" education on the proposed initiative. The State's initial expense of 7 million dollars for employees toward the I-190 initiative start up is the tip of the iceberg. Upfront costs to taxpayers in our county, to legalize recreational marijuana, will reach 10's, if not 100's of millions. All before Cascade County sees any federal monies through appropriations declared to benefit specific programs. (It is still unclear if this initiative is truly legal. Article III, Section 4, of our Montana State Constitution declares, "The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriation of money and local or special laws".)

Cascade County is set to receive just 3% of the appropriation from "legal" sales. Let's realize that legal, taxed pot is now sold for approximately \$375/ounce, whereas pot purchased "illegally" is approximately \$275/ounce. As long as there are alternative markets, the customer

will go to the lower, competitive product. What does Cascade County stand to gain by legalizing recreational marijuana?

Legalizing recreational marijuana will be devastating to our communities. Some impacts to bear in mind are increased insurance rates and operating expenses for business owners like myself, increased real estate taxes, chronic regulatory battles, increase in drug-related crimes, influx of tent communities, higher unemployment rates, increase in human trafficking, increase of emergency rooms activity and increase in deaths. Non-tangible impacts include increased campaigns to shield our young population from exposure to this now legalized drug. Drug addiction does not discriminate. Today's marijuana is not the marijuana of years passed. And, white stuff always follows green stuff.

In legalizing drugs, lines tend to go grey and none of us want to encourage bad behavior from our community members. The best regulation is no regulation and it is my opinion Cascade County should opt out of legalizing recreational marijuana before any more resources are used to establish it.

As the Great Falls Crime Task Force recognizes, Section 59 of HB 701 allows Cascade County an opportunity to opt out of legalizing recreation marijuana. I express gratitude for this awareness and I encourage the move forward to get a simple "yes"/ "no" vote on our next qualifying ballot, with a push for more education on clearly defining this initiative and informing our community members where the money comes from, where it goes and when it is actually available.

To that end, I will attach a link to Safe Montana, in Billings. These people are well versed in drug-related issues and share their research on the negative effects of legalized marijuana.  
[www.safemontana.com](http://www.safemontana.com)

A sincere thank you to the board members of the Great Falls Crime Task Force for presenting a whole-hearted effort to initiate steps toward a safer and healthier Montana.

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TRUTH WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL WHERE PAIN IS TAKEN  
TO BRING IT TO LIGHT.

George Washington

CANNABIS AND VIOLENCE

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INTRODUCTION-

Violence is becoming a major concern for those Montana citizens who are aware of the consistent danger to thousands of our citizens it has proven to create. In the winter of 2020, the Cascade County sheriff, the Great Falls Police Chief, and several other local dignitaries held a public meeting to highlight and complain about the documented major increased occurrence of local aggravated assaults and murders and what that is doing to our communities, law enforcement, and beneficial social services. One cause of the maladies that was recognized is the contribution of marijuana and its harmful psychoactive chemical-THC.

Massive volumes of factually sound scientific studies, world-wide, find that an unusually large number of violent problems are related to the higher potency of moderate or long-term use of THC. When those studies are applied to local, and national, violent incidences, it is obvious that THC is negatively affecting our local quality-of-life, social efforts, medical concerns, education, and economics. In the public meeting last year, this concern was statistically referred to by sheriff Jess Slaughter when he said that violent assaults had increased in Cascade County 176% in seven years. The police chief, Dave Bowen, commented that from his years of experience, "marijuana use was a bad idea on steroids."

The average citizen in our county and towns is poorly informed about THC, the problems it creates, how it is associated with many difficulties, and what citizens can do to stop its ever-growing harms. They do not comprehend in detail how THC causes many of the harms affecting their lives and what to do about it. They can correct many THC harms. With minor adjustment of existing laws, they can meet the stipulated requirements of the initiative the voters approved in 2020 to legalize recreational cannabis and reduce the effects of those harms.

This paper is designed to help the average citizen understand how THC creates those problems, offers undeniable historical proof that THC those harms, and talks about how we can, as a community, legally reduce related, proven suffering..

## UNDERSTANDING THE SCIENCE OF CONTROLLING VIOLENCE CAUSED BY DELTA9TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL(THC)

- After studying 1,136 patients, ages 18 to 40, researchers at the University of Montreal have scientifically proved that “sustained use of cannabis is associated with an increase in violent behavior in young people. Users who reported ...that they continually smoke cannabis presented a 144% increase of violent behavior.” (Dumais, 2017)
- “...the association between persistent cannabis use and violence is stronger than that associated with alcohol or cocaine.” (Dumais, 2017)
- “...neuroimaging studies demonstrated that chronic cannabis users have deficits in the prefrontal cortex, a part of the brain that inhibits ( control of) impulsive behavior.” (dumais, 2017)
- “Persistency of cannabis use predicts violence.....” (Dugre,2017).
- “Frequent, persistent, and long term (marijuana) users (i.e. early onset cannabis users) have been shown to experience more mental health and behavior problems, such as aggression and delinquency.” (Schoeler, 2016; and Windle,2004)
- “Globally, there was a 45% increase in the odds of intimate partner abuse (IPV) in cannabis users.” (Johnson, 2017)
- “It has been generally found that studies using smaller doses of THC /cannabis have been less likely to report the emergence of aggression, whereas studies using higher doses and more chronic exposure have led to an increase in aggressiveness.” (Miczek, 1994)
- “Continuous use of cannabis causes violent behavior as a direct result of changes in brain function caused by smoking marijuana over many years....Studies have linked marijuana use to increased delinquency, aggression, and other psychological disorders.” (Fields, 2016)
- “...long term use of cannabis, especially in adolescent years, can cause long-term changes in brain development, including an increased risk of schizophrenia. One fifth of those who were pot smokers (22%) reported violent behavior that began after beginning to use cannabis, whereas only 0.3% reported violence before using weed.” (Fields, 2016)
- “Continued use of cannabis over the life-time of the study was the strongest predictor of violent convictions in later adulthood. Continuous cannabis use is associated with a 7-fold (700%) greater odds for subsequent commission of violent crimes.” (Fields, 2016)
- In a sample of 9400 subjects, “Consistent use of marijuana during adolescence was predictive of committing intimate partner violence in early adulthood and made being a victim 20X more likely.” (Reingle, 2012)
- A study of 43 subjects found marijuana, but not alcohol, use increased interpersonal hostility and impulsivity in daily life.” (Ansell, 2015)
- “Marijuana users are nearly as likely to engage in violent behaviors as crack users.” (Freidman, 2001)
- “Findings demonstrated marijuana use is associated with psychological, physical, and sexual abuse.” (Shorey, 2018)
- “Research clearly indicates that marijuana use can cause lasting harm to the teen brain.” (Maidenberg, 2021)
- In 2018, Dr Daniel Amen, with assisting efforts from Amen Clinics in Costa Mesa, California, John Hopkins University in Pennsylvania, and the University Of California, San Francisco, conducted the largest brain scan study in history (62, 454 subjects 9 months old to 105 years)

and found marijuana use can age human brains faster than either alcohol abuse, ADHD, or bipolar disorder. (Maidenberg, 2021)

- Frequent marijuana users were almost five times more likely to participate in property crimes such as vehicle theft, breaking and entering, receiving or selling stolen goods, and shop lifting items worth more than \$20.00. (Baker, 1998)
- Frequent marijuana use was found to have a larger effect on participation in property crimes than frequent alcohol use or any other illicit drug use. (Baker, 1998)
- "...Decreases in marijuana prices (creating an increase in use) are closely associated with increases in particular types of crime." (Pacula, 2004)
- "Marijuana use is positively associated with the probability of getting arrested for a property crime" (Pacula, 2004)
- "... marijuana prices are negatively associated with violent crime arrest rates, suggesting that marijuana use may be positively associated with violent crime. (Pacula, 2004)
- "Marijuana use might be positively associated with the number of violent arrests." (Pacula, 2004).
- "...the National Research Council concluded that the long-term use of marijuana may alter the nervous system in ways that do promote Violence." (Miczak, 1994)

#### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CONCERNING MARIJUANA AND VIOLENCE

For several years I have collected dozens of published articles relating marijuana to violence of various types. To me, these articles are historical proof that long-term, higher potency, frequent use of THC creates a lot of the violence we are seeing today in the US and across the world. I do not claim to have more than a small fraction of such articles.

1.] February 13-14, 2019, Camden Nicholson, age 27, killed his parents and their house keeper in a gated community in Newport Beach, California. According to police reports, Nicholson had smoked excessive amounts of cannabis for years and had caused considerable fear in his family.

2.] A 22- year-old, Dakota Theriot, killed his family in Louisiana along with his girlfriend and her parents. He had been a marijuana smoker since middle school.

3.] In January, 2019, an Oregon pot farmer named Gregory Gago, twenty five years old, killed four family members including his 9-month old daughter, with an axe.

4.] Kevin Johnson Neal, also a cannabis grower, went on a shooting spree firing bullets at an elementary school. He killed five people. His parents admitted his long-time cannabis use and his accompanying mental problems.

5.] A Maine college graduate named Orion Krause killed his parents, grandmother, and a grounds caretaker after graduation. Earlier, his parents had admitted that he had learned to use marijuana in college. He was known to acquaintances as a very heavy user.

6.] A 19-year-old Washington state resident named Ashton Sacks drove 1200 miles to southern California to shoot his parents and other family members. Acquaintances say he had spent long hours playing video games and smoking pot.

7.] Malik Murphy, 20, of Colorado Springs, murdered his 7-year-old brother and 5-year-old sister as the family was sleeping. He tried, but failed, to also kill his parents. He is noted by school friends for consistently smoking cannabis from a pen in his backpack.

8.] David Dauzat, 24, Texas, killed his wife in front of their children after sharing marijuana cigarettes. The only drug found in his system was THC.

9.] In Palos Hills Illinois, a seventeen-year-old named John Granat, and his pot smoking friends, murdered John's parents because his dad had been chastising him for heavy pot smoking.

10.] Kamil Dantes, 29, of Great Britain, murdered his parents with a knife in 2015. In court, the presiding judge named Charles Haddon-Cave said, "Your deteriorating mental health had much to do with your cannabis habit."

11.] On February 1, 2018, Nikolas Cruz killed 17 students and staff at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and injured 17 others. From a young age, he had started to use marijuana heavily. He had also attempted suicide. After his mass shooting, he publicly stated that he used "a lot of marijuana."

12.] On November 5, 2017, Devin Kelley carried out the deadliest shooting in Texas history, resulting in the death of 27 people and injures to 20 others. His shooting incident took place at Sunday services of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs. Kelly was wounded by bystanders and killed by police in a high-speed chase. A later autopsy found considerable THC in his blood. He was a long-term user of cannabis and post-incident investigations found numerous incidents where Kelley had problems related to marijuana.

13.] On May 22, 2017, a suicide bomber named Salaman Abedi detonated an explosive device in Manchester, England. The blast killed over 20 people and injured another 100. Follow-on investigations showed that, from a very early age, Abedi was a "party animal" who consumed marijuana heavily.

14.] On May 18, 2017, Richard Rojas drove a car along three blocks of bicycle paths and sidewalks at New York's Time Square, killing a teenager and injuring 22 other people. Follow-on investigations uncovered evidence that Rojas was a heavy marijuana user. Rojas testified that paranoia and hallucinations caused him to "hear voices" (sometimes caused by THC) telling him to commit the attack.

15.] On November 23, 2017, Arcan Cetin drove to the Cascade Mall near Seattle and shot to death five people he did not know personally. Records indicate that Cetin was a heavy cannabis user and had been convicted in the past of marijuana connected violence.

16.] On July 26, 2016, Satoshi Uematsu stabbed to death 19 people and injured 26 others at a care facility in Sagamihara, Japan. Uematsu tested positive for marijuana and was diagnosed with cannabis use disorder, psychosis, and paranoia.

17.] In Colorado Springs, Colorado, Robert Dear invaded a Planned Parenthood Clinic, killed three people, and injured nine others. Records show that Dear moved to Colorado because that state had

legalized recreational marijuana making it cheaper, easier to acquire, and use. Dear proved to be a heavy user who was described by family and friends as “angry, occasionally violent, and deeply disturbed psychologically. His treating psychologist says he suffered from paranoia and extreme mood swings. Family members contend that he was a lonely religious extremist with a history of domestic violence against his ex-wives.

18.] Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez drove by a military recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 16, 2015, and shot five people to death and injured several others. He started smoking marijuana heavily in high school and was prone to depression and manic episodes. His cannabis use disorder continued on for many years and led to further deterioration of his mental state. Up until the shooting, he had a hard time keeping a job because of his manic/depressive disorder and drug use on the job.

19.] In one of the most publicized shooting incidences in US history, on June 17, 2015, a 21 year-old-caucasian, Dylan Roof, attended an elderly black women’s prayer meeting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina where he shot nine people to death in an effort to start a race war. Roof’s drug use began when he was 12 and led him to smoke a “joint” an admitted three times a day (very heavy use). Multiple professional records indicate that he kept smoking marijuana and started abusing other drugs and alcohol.

20.] On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown was fatally shot while attacking a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Tests showed that Brown had five nanograms of THC in his blood. Research has proven that much THC, used consistently over time can lead to anxiety and paranoia and can contribute to follow-on violence.

#### CONSIDERATIONS-

Meth addiction is very prevalent in Montana county and towns. Bryan Lockerby from The Montana Department of Justice says we are experiencing a very serious meth epidemic across our state. The professional staff at a respected Great Falls drug treatment program claims there are 600 to 700 seriously meth-addicted addicts just in the city of Great Falls. A local hospital supervisor says that number is “...very, very, very low.” Her experience doubles or triples that estimate. Nationally recognized professionals postulate that only about 10% of meth addicts will ever completely conquer their illness and that marijuana is the precursor for about 95% of the initial use of meth.

Professional scientific studies prove that cannabis feeds not only seriously violent aggression and psychological problems, it is related to many murders. The Great Falls Tribune has reported eleven horribly violent murders in the last 4-5 years in Cascade County. Deputy County Attorney, Susan Weber says one of them involving a 69-year-old women is “one of the most brutal murders I’ve ever seen.” Although official police reports are not always available, through local contacts with people who knew the accused and some police-based information, I have been able to positively attach heavy marijuana

use to three of those seriously violent acts. All the other eight have obvious traits of THC-created psychological involvement, but facts from police reports will not be available for at least a year.

Reducing the availability and potency of THC will improve our quality of life, reduce our law enforcement and treatment expenses, allow our governments and economy to run more efficiently, build our financial viability, and produce better safety in our daily lives.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS-

1. Existing laws (Montana Code Annotated Chapter 45, section 5) relating to methamphetamine control its and exposure for underage users, must be extended to include delta9tetrahydrocannabinol with serious punishment for proven providers. Punishment should include therapy and consultation on the harms of THC, fines, and jail time for repeated offenders.
2. State government, counties, municipalities, and school districts should engage in assembling factual testimony and statistical information on the scientifically proven problems with THC that should also include paid testimony from some previous users.
3. With the assistance of municipal and county officials, existing forms from state agencies that gather information on state-wide medical conditions, should be extended to include THC related information and approximate costs of psychological and physical treatment.
4. Based upon proven and estimated information from quality statistics, the state's marijuana industry, and related growing, production, and sales efforts, should be taxed, over and above existing cannabis related taxes, to cover massive government, public, and private treatment, counselling, and other expenses related to servicing the harms science has proven are related to marijuana. Current taxes on this problem are proving very inadequate. State, local, educational administrations, private agencies, and non-profit services must be reimbursed for their documented handling of cannabis related correctional and preventive efforts that must be provided by marijuana taxation.
5. Current Montana law established by section 5, subsection (8)(b)(i), and section 16 (1)(ii) of House Bill 701.4, passed in March of 2021, allows a legal marijuana card holder to purchase one ounce of marijuana per day. According to users in various parts of Montana, the average cannabis joint (cigarette) is an eighth of an ounce. That law allows each individual user to smoke up to eight marijuana cigarettes per day. That is extremely heavy, destructive, and addictive use and is allowed by law. Section 16(1)(b) provides for any heavier use through an approved petition from the state and (section 16(1)(b)(i), and section 5(8)(c) allows legal dispensaries to sell even higher THC levels to any registered card holder. These laws must be changed to prevent the horrible THC-related suffering evidenced in other states that have legalized heavy use. Montana's citizens should not have to pay higher taxes so that the state's marijuana industry can make huge profits, enjoy the tremendous highs, and create serious suffering, at the expense of the tax payers.



Because Initiative I-190, approved by the people in November, 2020, does not stipulate approval of any level of THC potency, and because that voter-approved I-190 says, in five different places, that it does support the health, safety, and welfare of the people, laws must be created to control harmful THC levels in any marijuana product grown, produced, and sold in our state. That is the only way our legislature can protect our citizens and abide by the will of the people to support the health, safety, and welfare of the people as established in the voter initiative.

We strongly recommend the legalization of a type of marijuana called cannabis ruderalis as the only legal variety of marijuana allowed in Montana. In its original form, that strain contains only a third of one percent THC, grows extremely well in northern climates, and has a perfect scientific record of not hurting humans. Because I-190 does not support any level of potency, cannabis ruderalis, and its lower level of THC, could legally be accepted as complying with that voter-approved initiative. The one difficulty we can see with cannabis ruderalis is that there are several hybrid, look-alike strains that have between 14% and 27% THC. Constant product sampling would be essential. The expense of that needed control could be paid for with new marijuana taxes.

In the informed opinions of many Montana teachers, medical experts, economists, business owners, and others whom we have consulted, these legislative efforts and local laws are essential to providing a safe, logical, legal, productive, and livable existence for all Montana citizens and still meet the stipulations of a majority of the voters written on Initiative 190.

Ben Forsyth

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Email: brforyth@msn.com

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## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 10:46 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime task force recommendations

Charles D Jennings ([317charlesjennings@gmail.com](mailto:317charlesjennings@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I don't see enough recommendations devoted to rehabilitation and poverty, both fundamental causes of crime. Taxing our citizens to pay for more police officers will only overload our overcrowded jails, and will unfairly target people of color.

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Police Safety Plan Comments

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

Great Falls should invest in solutions that actually address public safety issues, such as affordable housing, mental health, and addiction treatment. Taxing residents to hire more police officers doesn't address those issues.

The Downtown Safety Plan was approved by the GFPD and includes several educational programs that address a safer downtown with businesses and residents working together. Community members are working hard to implement high impact, low-cost strategies that are reducing crime in the downtown area. Let's focus on those in instead.

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Proposed Crime Task Force changes

Marcia Lauzon ([allmyrelations@charter.net](mailto:allmyrelations@charter.net)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Please do not enact this. Throwing tax money into more police officers is not the answer. A better effort would be support services for housing, addiction, mental health. This proposal is the wrong way to go, and likely to prove ineffective. Don't do this.

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime proposal

Janet Henderson ([janethend1@gmail.com](mailto:janethend1@gmail.com)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Dear Commissioners,

I object to an emphasis on policing things like loitering and panhandling. Seriously? That's not who Great Falls is, I hope. It would make much more sense to spend this money on providing the support and services people who are "loitering" and "panhandling" need. And sending people out of town on a bus????? You've got to be kidding. Please don't adopt this proposal. Why is the sheriff telling the police what to do? I support the parts of the proposal that aim to strengthen community services for mental health, etc. Thank you for your work on this matter.



## Create Ticket Comment

### Original Request Information

**Name:** Gordon Whirry

**Phone Number:** 4067617031

### Original Request

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I have some concerns that the Crime Task Force recommendations are not broad based and primarily reflect the personal agendas of Commissioner Tryon and Sheriff Slaughter. It seems that addressing mental health issues and drug treatment should be given greater priority. I do not object to more taxes for community safety if efforts can address root causes and not just a 'tough on crime' agenda.

### Email/Phone Number Verification \*

To prove you are the original ticket submitter, please verify your email address or phone number. This should be the email address or phone number you entered when you originally submitted this ticket.

### Comment

*City of*  
**Great Falls**  
MONTANA

## Check the Status of Your Ticket

**Ticket ID**

2755966ab

Apply

Update Ticket/Add Comment

Crime Task Force

**Status:** New

**Assigned To:** lkunz (City Commission)

**Ticket ID:** 2755966ab

I have some concerns that the Crime Task Force recommendations are not broad based and primarily reflect the personal agendas of Commissioner Tryon and Sheriff Slaughter. It seems that addressing mental health issues and drug treatment should be given greater priority. I do not object to more taxes for community safety if efforts can address root causes and not just a 'tough on crime' agenda.

Ticket History

New

**Assigned To:**

Citizen request/question created.

09/13/2021 - 11:01am

Disclosures

Certain messages sent through this form may constitute a public record and be subject to disclosure under state law.





## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 11:35 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Crime Task Force Proposal

Gary Owen ([Go@uwccmt.org](mailto:Go@uwccmt.org)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

I commend the Task Force for their work in addressing public safety in our community. I endorse the ideas of increased community partnerships to address the root causes of crime. I don't know the statistics on number of LE officers per capita, but don't think our issues will be solved by fining, arresting or putting more people in jail. So much of our crime is due to substance abuse and mental health issues - history has proven that the judicial system is not the best way to address either, investments in proven prevention and treatment programs should be prioritized. I oppose recommendations to fine or arrest people for loitering or panhandling - to include them diminishes the credibility of the work of this task force.

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** City Commissioners  
**Subject:** [All City Commissioners] Tryon/Slaughter recommendations to GFC Task Force

Erin Tropila ([erin@mt.net](mailto:erin@mt.net)) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Frankly, this document is such a behemoth and so scattered in so many areas I hardly know what to comment. Recommendations of this magnitude take substantial vetting and I would like to see it distilled into a few of the most critical issues before any further considerations. Also, a few of the recommendations are in violation of intended taxpayer/voter desires. Rightly or wrongly, the public has spoken about the legality of marijuana use and attempting to proactively inhibit legal business functions is not acceptable in this arena.

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Shyla Patera Crime task force comments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Shyla Patera <shycpat@icloud.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 11:26:13 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Shyla Patera Crime task force comments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Shyla Patera <shycpat@icloud.com>  
**Date:** April 14, 2021 at 9:06:12 AM MDT  
**To:** Shyla Patera <ncils.patera@bresnan.net>  
**Subject:** Shyla Patera

Members of the Great Falls Crime Task Force: My name is Shyla Patera. I am submitting these questions and comments to the crime task force as well. It is my hope that questions as wellness thoughts will guide future discussions on crime and community participation by all. As a neighborhood council chair, I am and we have been dealing with and asking questions about gun safety and gun carry on the trails and in the parks. I really wanted to know their thoughts on certain ordinances like this and the proposed nuisance ordinance that Council of Councils has been discussing. I would've liked to have heard a little bit more from the Crime Task Force regarding public safety training specialties and training, particularly as it relates to gang issues or supposed gang issues. I know that several neighborhood councils had some previous presentations on these issues in the past.

As a disabilities advocate through North Central Independent Living Services, Inc., I have had police approach me while traveling on a non-continuous sidewalk or sidewalks especially in the evening when there is no or limited light or accessible way home without riding in streets! Is the crime task willing to engage with public works in community accessibility efforts? How will GFPD, GFFR, and public safety community to help the City of Great Falls monitor the accessibility of the built environment to protect pedestrians? How will we encourage partnerships between the city GFPD, Cascade County

Sheriffs Department as well the various disability groups in Great Falls ? Do you believe that GFPD , GFFR ,and the public safety community need more training not only in the mental health issues which were addressed throughout the Crime task force and its scope of work ,but also sensory awareness of those who are deaf ,autistic ,and more? How can we move beyond training when necessary? How is theCity of Great Falls engaging FEMA to ensure that there are accessible mobility vehicles which will help transport those citizens in both personal , neighborhood, and communities emergency disasters?

Shyla Patera  
1013 7th Avenue North West

Great Falls, Montana. 59404  
406 7811885  
shycpat@icloud. com

## Darcy Dea

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**From:** Krista Artis  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Darcy Dea  
**Subject:** Fwd: Crime Task Force Recommendations

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Joan Redeen <caredeen@aol.com>  
**Date:** September 13, 2021 at 11:30:38 AM MDT  
**To:** Krista Artis <kartis@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Cc:** Joan Redeen <caredeen@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Crime Task Force Recommendations  
**Reply-To:** Joan Redeen <caredeen@aol.com>

Please accept these comments on the Crime Task Force Recommendations...

As a resident of Great Falls, I feel that the Crime Task Force has been placed under a timeline that is unrealistic. The reality is that crime will always exist. Can we work actively and make progress toward reducing crime? Absolutely, but I believe that there should not be such a tight timeline placed on the folks tasked with the complicated task of reducing crime in our community. I believe that the members of the task force would benefit greatly from additional time that involves in-depth education on all things crime related in Great Falls.

It is my personal belief that having multiple 30-minute presentations on several topics is simply not enough information from which to provide helpful and useful feedback to the City Commission. I believe that every member of the task force should have a much more in depth look at all things related to crime in our community. Some opportunities that present themselves for the task force to partake in, GFPD Citizen's Academy, as well as the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy, in addition City 101. These community offerings provide great insight into how the police/sheriff's departments run, what they are tasked with and their limitations as well. The City 101 provides incredible insight into how our City functions, as a governmental entity - where the funding sources are and how they are currently utilized, etc. These citizen opportunities are year long and delve far deeper than the Task Force has been able with their limited 30-minute presentations. I realize this is asking that the timeframe on this task be extended, but I feel that these are valuable and very insightful programs that the members of the task force would benefit from - and their recommendations to the City Commission may change based upon their experiences and involvement in these programs. At the very least, if time is truly so important in this process, each Task Force member should spend a shift with a police officer.

I also feel very strongly that the Crime Task Force members need to reach out and work more closely with many organizations in Great Falls who are actively working on many of the recommendations presented in the draft document. United Way, Alluvion as well as the Downtown Safety Alliance, of which I am involved, need to be invited to the table and included in the discussion. These entities are already doing some of the work mentioned in the draft document.

I definitely support the recommendation, "We recommend the City Commission use all of the Recreational Marijuana tax revenue to support public safety." I think this is a great use of these funds, but I'd encourage that this fund be set aside and not placed into the General Fund and it's sole purpose is for public safety and used to implement these recommendations. It should be noted that recommendation

1.a. under Partnerships would cause the above recommendation to be a moot point, if the city prohibits these establishments within the city limits, there would be no revenue to collect and put toward public safety. I encourage the Task Force to be very familiar with this law and the parameters that may exist in regard to the City and prohibiting business locations, etc. You can't have the revenue without the businesses, so the Crime Task Force needs to decide which one they feel is priority and eliminate one of these recommendations - as they contradict each other as they are currently written.

I think the Crime Task Force needs to revisit their alternative sentencing options that are listed on page 6 and come up with some reasonable alternatives. That being said, I support the idea of a work crew, I've advocated for years that individuals who create graffiti should be tasked with cleaning up graffiti. In the interest of time, they may not be cleaning up their own, but they should be tasked with paying for the supplies and do the hard work of removal of graffiti.

Thank you for doing the hard work, but please do not feel pressured by a (perhaps) unrealistic timeline. These discussions need opportunity for education and digestion of information and time for consideration. Crime has no time line, the Crime Task Force should not either, it should be a constant work in progress that shows proof of value with reduction in crime over time.

**Joan Redeen, resident of Great Falls**  
(406) 799-5105