

RESOLUTION NO. 10449

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FROM MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 2021 GREAT FALLS CRIME TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, the Community of Great Falls, through its citizenry, has expressed deep concerns about the level of criminal activity in the community; and

WHEREAS, based on ongoing community concern about crime rates, the City Commission hosted a Public Safety Town Hall meeting on March 5, 2020. The meeting was very well attended and the public heard from representatives from the Great Falls Police Department, Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Educational Institutions, Social Services, and Legal Agencies about crime trends in Great Falls and Cascade County and the underlying factors that lead to criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission adopted Resolution 10395 establishing a Great Falls Crime Task Force on April 6, 2021, to study crime trends and make recommendations to the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls Crime Task Force, comprised of residents, business leaders, community partners, and City leadership were briefed on crime related issues from the Russell Country Drug Task Force regarding High Intensity Drug Task Force Areas; US Department of Justice, DEA Resident in Charge; Violent Crime Task Force; Probation and Parole; Montana Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; U.S. District Attorney's Office; Cascade County Attorney; City of Great Falls Chief Prosecutor; Great Falls Municipal Court Judge; District Court Judge; Lewis and Clark County Pre-Trial Services; Crises Response Team; Gateway Community Services, Blue Thunder Lodge Residential Treatment Center; Pre-Release Center; and, Project Safe Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls Crime Task Force learned that criminal activity in the community is primarily driven by the distribution, sale, and use of drugs in the state, and is a pervasive Montana problem in urban, rural, and tribal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls Crime Task Force understands that addressing criminal drug activity requires resources beyond the City's capability, including international cooperation and law enforcement inter/intra state collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, that the Great Falls City Commission respectfully requests support and resources from Montana's Congressional Delegation to address recommendations and action items from the 2021 Great Falls Crime Task Force by:

1. Working together to pursue resources for the State of Montana and the City of Great Falls toward better managing the state's illegal distribution, sale, and use of illicit drugs;
2. Enhancing the Drug Enforcement Administration's strength with additional agents assigned to Montana;
3. Enhancing the Federal Bureau of Investigation's capability with more agents to coordinate federal drug enforcement efforts in the state of Montana;
4. Bolstering the United States' Postal Inspector presence for tracking illicit drug activity through the country's mail system and private package services;
5. Providing training, equipment, and technology to local law enforcement to better detect and prevent drug distribution in Great Falls.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this ___ day of _____, 2022.

Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Jeffrey M. Hindoien, City Attorney