



**Great Falls Crime Task Force Agenda**  
**2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT**  
**Gibson Room, Civic Center**  
**September 27, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**

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

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

- Attend the virtual meeting utilizing Zoom Webinar. Attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Q\\_8ukJOfTViN9HuHbnOy7w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q_8ukJOfTViN9HuHbnOy7w). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar by Zoom.
- Attend in person. Public may view and participate in the meeting from the Gibson Room. Please refrain from attending in person if you are not feeling well.
- Call-in. The public may call in during specific public comment periods at 406-761-4786. All callers will be in a queued system and are asked to remain on hold and be patient. Calls will be taken in the order in which they are received. Callers will be restricted to customary time limits. We ask for your patience in the event there are technical difficulties.
- Provide public comments in writing. Comments may be sent via mail to City Manager's Office, PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT 59403 or by email to: [kartis@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:kartis@greatfallsmt.net). Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Please ensure that comments arrive before 12:00 PM on Monday, September 27, 2021. Due to tracking and dissemination requirements, written communication must be received by that time in order to be shared with the Task Force and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item and before final vote on the matter; and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL**

Shane Etzwiler – Chamber of Commerce  
Nichole Griffith – Victim Witness Program  
Sandra Guynn – Chair of Neighborhood Councils and President of Crime Stoppers  
Dugan Coburn – Great Falls Public Schools  
Jeff Newton – Chief of Police  
John Parker – District Court Judge  
Sara Sexe – City Attorney  
Jesse Slaughter- Cascade County Sheriff  
Commissioner Rick Tryon – Ex-officio member

## **STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

## **TASK FORCE ITEMS**

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2021, Great Falls Crime Task Force.
2. Task Force Discussion on Draft Recommendations, Continued Discussion from September 13, 2021 Meeting.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*(Public comment on agenda items or any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the Task Force. Please keep your remarks to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Speak into the microphone, and state your name and either your address or whether you are a city resident for the record.)*

### **DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING MEETING DATES, IF NEEDED**

Next Proposed Meeting Date, if needed, October 11, 2021

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Great Falls Crime Task Force Meetings are televised on cable channel 190 and streamed live at <https://greatfallsmt.net>. Meetings are re-aired on cable channel 190 the following Friday morning at 10 a.m.*

*Wi-Fi is available during the meetings for viewing of the online meeting documents.*

Regular Crime Task Force Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

- Attend the virtual meeting utilizing Zoom Webinar. Attendees must register in advance for the Commission Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aOxN4WFaRT606AEjWjJUEQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aOxN4WFaRT606AEjWjJUEQ). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar by Zoom.
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- Provide public comments in writing. Comments may be sent via mail to City Manager's Office, PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT 59403 or by email to: [kartis@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:kartis@greatfallsmt.net). Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Please ensure that comments arrive before 12:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021. Due to tracking and dissemination requirements, written communication must be received by that time in order to be shared with the Task Force and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item and before final vote on the matter; and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

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

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

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

Motion carried 7-0.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion carried 8-0.

The TFM discussed the following categories:

**Resources for Criminal Justice Systems:**

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

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

TFM Slaughter requested to strike both sections under subcategory b.

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

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

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

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

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

Vice-Chairperson Newton recommended striking 6b.

TFM Sexe recommended inserting the following to 6:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Communication and Education**

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

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

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

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

### **Consequences**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT.**

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

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

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

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

### **DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING MEETING DATES.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

Motion carried 8-0.

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Sandra Guynn, Chairperson

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Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: September 27, 2021



# Great Falls City Crime Task Force

## Draft of recommendations for public review and comment

Recommendations are presented in no particular order. Some could fit under more than one category.

### Resources for Local Criminal Justice System

**1)** We recommend that the City Commission and City Manager task the GFPD, the City's Legal Department, and the Municipal Court administration with providing an assessment of the additional personnel/resources they will require in order to most effectually address the current level of crime and civil/criminal cases in our local legal/court/law enforcement system. Recommendations include, but are not limited to:

1. More police officers and support staff for GFPD:
  - a) Estimated cost for eight (8) patrol officers is \$800,000, and would require funding outside of what the city is able to finance. Additional presence in the patrol bureau increases visibility, presence, detection crime response, and investigation. The department has done everything possible to schedule existing personnel to handle call volume.
  - b) Estimated cost for four (4) sergeants is \$550,000, and would require funding outside of what the city is able to finance. Patrol Officers require field supervisors for the reduction of risk management, training, accountability and discipline.
  - c) Estimated cost for one (1) crime analyst is \$70,000 and does fall within the city's ability to finance. This position would provide needed technical capability/skill to assist with investigations using modern technology to gather, compile, and interpret data from crime reports to determine trends in a particular geographic area.
  - d) Estimated cost for one (1) Task Force Officer – an officer from the GFPD - assigned to Safe Trails Task Force is \$96,000 and does fall within the city's ability to finance. This position would work in partnership with the FBI and other federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement to combat the growth of crime in Indian Country. Great Falls is in close proximity to two reservations.
- 1A)** Address detective case load (use closure rates and conviction rates as guides)
- 1B)** Support Crisis Intervention Collaborative with Alluvion.
  - This partnership will assist GFPD with responding to the increasing frequency of mental health calls. The estimated cost of this program is \$80,000 and would require funding outside of what the city is able to finance.

2. Increased personnel for the City Legal Department and Municipal Court in order to more thoroughly and expeditiously process cases and ensure fairness and consequences for 'low level' crime.

- a) Better understand impact and effect of deferred prosecution agreements.

**2) We recommend by City Commission Resolution(s) to our Federal Delegation and possibly to the MT Department of Justice that we:**

- a) Request more DEA agents, recognizing the statewide drug problem from Mexico, so that local officials can communicate with Congressional delegates the need for additional federal resources to mitigate multi-state narcotics and firearm crimes.
  - b) Request an FBI representative be assigned to the Safe Trails Task Force.
  - c) Request an additional U.S. Postal Inspector, recognizing that two for the entire state of Montana is not enough.

**3) We recommend a Community Impact Study, similar to the one conducted recently by the City of Billings, after determining the cost. This could help increase collaboration with local services, and assist in providing a clearer picture of some of the issues we have already discussed as well as identify areas we have not addressed.**

**4) Continue to support Crisis Intervention Collaborative (CIC) through GFPD, GFFR, Legal Department, Municipal Court and other city staff members, and in the future consider allocating funds to the CIC program to assist with mental health diversion from jail and the enhancement of Mental Health Treatment Court.**

**5) We recommend that the City Grants Administrator assist Legal Department with investigating grant funding for victim and/or witness assistance for the Legal Department Criminal Division, and also work in collaboration with Victim-Witness Assistance Services.**

**6) Considering the City's financial limitations' effect on law enforcement, we recommend budget amendments and/or evaluate a public safety levy, identifying specific uses of funds if approved by electors. Areas of funding to consider, but would not be limited to:**

- a) Additional police officers and support staff (see #1 for details)
  - b) Pre-trial services
  - c) Drug K-9 units at USPS, UPS and FedEx
  - d) Mental health services (see #4 for details)
  - e) Code Enforcement Officer to focus on problem properties where criminal activity is taking place and less on non-criminal or non-legal complaints
  - f) Legal Department case management software, estimated cost of \$50,500
  - g) Legal Department staff, including Paralegal/Investigator for an annual cost with benefits of \$61,000 to \$76,000. Prosecutor for an annual cost with benefits of \$86,000 to \$107,000, in order to keep up with current caseload. Additional PD resources would further enhance the shortage.

#### h) Municipal Court additional elected judge and staff

Once a resource assessment is made of the initial and ongoing costs for implementing the recommendations, then the City Commission and City Manager can determine whether or not to fund them and how to do so, whether through the regular budget process, a community safety levy or through grants.

We recommend that if the city were to receive recreational marijuana tax revenue, that the City Commission use **all** of this tax revenue to support public safety. The legislature allows cities and counties to tax these funds for local resources. This can provide a revenue stream for various recommendations.

The Task Force recommends that the proposals and funding options be presented to the City Commission and the public for deliberation by the beginning of the 2022 budget process.

### Communication and Education

- 1) We recommend that the City Commission make public safety, as it relates to crime and the local criminal justice system, a top priority and agenda item for City Commission meetings and business in order to regularly reinforce that the City of Great Falls considers public safety it's number one priority. We recommend the following actions in order to carry this out:
  - a) Once monthly crime/safety updates from GFPD or CCSO at City Commission meetings (starting January 2022)
  - b) Once a month designate at least a portion of City Commission work sessions to collaborating, communicating and planning coordinated crime prevention strategies with partners like NPOs, local legislators, judges, State and County LE, DEA etc. (starting January 2022)
  - c) Revise the Annual Police Report to include needed metrics based on community and City Commission requests.
    - Provide a focused report to Neighborhood Councils.
  - d) Better advertise the Crime Mapping Software - <https://greatfallsmt.net/police/great-falls-crime-map-0>
    - Provide each Neighborhood Council the ability to access the boundaries of its particular council so that councils can regularly present statistics at individual meetings.
  - e) Retool use of Neighborhood Councils for crime prevention/training
- 2) We recommend that the City Manager task the GFPD and City Public Communications office with initiating an education, advocacy, communication program to help the public become more aware of and have better access to information and resources for personal crime prevention and personal safety measures. The GFPD indicates there would be \$0 cost to coordinate press releases and dissemination of information with the city.

Some of the related resources and information could include but are not limited to:

- a) Safety lighting
- b) Security cameras
- c) Utility bill reminders about keeping vehicles locked and valuables out of sight; crime trends, yard clean-up; tax time phishing scams, etc.
- d) A revitalized, coordinated Great Falls Neighborhood Watch program working in collaboration with Neighborhood Councils.

**3a) Utilize other social media in addition to Facebook:**

- Instagram and Twitter
- More Q&A opportunities for the public using Facebook, Instagram and live sessions.
- More town hall meetings where the community can directly ask questions. Crimestoppers is willing to help with this.

**3) We recommend holding one or more Legislative Forums focused on the negative impacts of the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act with local legislators.**

**a) Ask appropriate parties to provide direct and specific testimony on negative impacts to the community. Those invited would include, but not be limited to:**

- Montana League of Cities and Towns
- The courts
- City Attorney
- County Attorney
- Law Enforcement
- Probation and Parole
- Great Falls Pre-Release

**4) We recommend potentially re-aligning one of two annual Citizens Academies specific to crime related topics and strategic planning with Neighborhood Council members. The estimated cost of this is \$1,250 and would be part of the annual budget.**

## **Consequences**

**1) We recommend that the City Manager task the GFPD and City Legal Department to conduct a review and assessment of Title 9 Public Peace, Morals and Welfare section of City Code and recommend revisions and/or amendments where necessary to legally address issues regarding:**

- a) Panhandling
- b) Loitering
- c) Public nuisance

- d) Drug paraphernalia – the city should never allow safe injection sites, needle drop or needle exchange. (Jesse will clarify at our Sept. 27 meeting what he means by ‘needle drop’)
- e) Theft - due to the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act, misdemeanor 1<sup>st</sup> offense theft is no longer a jailable offense. The city should look at a jailable 1<sup>st</sup> offense theft ordinance, which would hold offenders more accountable. The downside is that the city would have to pay for the jail stay, but the upside is that the city would receive the theft fine revenue, which would offset the incarceration fees.
- f) Use of city ordinance codes for some minor traffic offenses. This penalizes the driver for the infraction and hopefully changes their driving behavior. It is also a simple fine and not a violation that affects their driving record and insurance. This would **not** be used for DUIs, Reckless Driving or traffic accidents.

DISCUSSION WILL RESUME HERE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2021.

**3)** We recommend that the City Manager task the City Legal Department and City Public Communications office to release the sentencing and prosecution records of local prosecutors and judges on the city’s website, social media, and newsletters starting January 2022 so that the public is fully informed as to how our local criminal justice system is being managed by those with the responsibility of ensuring public safety.

**4)** We recommend to Municipal Court that it consider utilizing the CCSO Program options to reduce jail numbers:

- a) Clearing out Failure to Appear warrants on a monthly/periodic basis and advise defendants to come in without being arrested, and that they can be released on their own recognizance.
- b) Put defendants in detention for a short period to impress the need to follow the law, and to try to stop repeat defendants, because Criminal Division deals with repeat offenders on a regular basis. Mental health and socioeconomic status are factors.

**5)** We recommend County and City Judicial and other departments work together with regard to changing the behavior of offenders and implementing more of an impact for first time, non-violent offenders.

**6)** We recommend Municipal Court evaluate reasons for fine collection reductions and corresponding effect on accountability for misdemeanors, considering the collection numbers:

a. 2012 \$1,221,472

b. 2013 \$1,089,955

c. 2014 \$833,447

d. 2015 \$860,714

e. 2016 \$828,763

f. 2017 \$894,261

g. 2018 \$812,902

h. 2019 \$705,667

i. 2020 \$627,765

j. 2021 \$753,719

**7)** We recommend evaluation of misdemeanor pre-trial services and use of public safety assessment tools to enhance accountability, in-court appearances, reduction of notices to appear for failure to pay, and reduction of multiple extensions in payment of fines. If the city uses SCRAM and other monitoring services, these can be funded by the offenders.

## **Partnerships and Collaboration**

- 1)** We recommend that the City Commission begin taking the necessary steps, starting before January 2022, through zoning, public referendum or other measures to prevent the coming proliferation of recreational marijuana shops in Great Falls. Preventing easy, widespread access pot products will help prevent further addiction and drug related crime in our community, especially among school age children.
  - a) Prohibit the establishment of marijuana shops within the city limits.
  - b) By resolution, the City Commission states its position regarding recreational marijuana sales in Great Falls, and state a position of no recreational marijuana. Work with local organizations to repeal allowance of recreational marijuana in its jurisdiction using existing state law.
- 2)** We recommend that the City Commission and City Manager identify and assign a city employee or department, by January 2022, to devise and implement an ongoing lobbying and communications strategy with State and Federal elected and other officials to coordinate state, local and federal crime prevention measures.

Some of the agencies/offices to lobby and coordinate with would include but not be limited to:

- Cascade County state legislators
- Cascade County Commission
- MT Governors and AG offices

- Senators Tester, Daines and Rep Rosendale offices
  - Billings DEA office, Stacy Zinn
- 3) We recommend that the new city grants coordinator begin immediately to continually monitor and regularly report to the City Manager and City Commission on all available grant opportunities for local law enforcement and criminal justice system resources.
  - 4) We recommend requesting state funding for a pilot project for the Pre-Trial Services program. This can assist in the need for holding offenders accountable and keeping them involved in the system to provide identified services if able/necessary to potentially reduce recidivism. This program has been a success in Lewis and Clark County.
    - a) If state funding is approved, we recommend that the City Manager task the GFPD and City Legal Department with assessing and reporting to the City Commission on the details and options for implementing the Pre-Trial Services Program.
  - 5) Education program for citizens that will teach them ways to make decisions that will help improve their lives. This program could be part of pre-trial services.
  - 6) We recommend working with the Department of Justice and Project Safe Neighborhoods, the cost of which is grant dependent. This is a U.S. Dept. of Justice grant, which includes working with the U.S. Attorney's Office to establish a collaborative team of federal, state, local and tribal partners to implement a strategic plan for investigating, prosecuting and preventing violent crime.
  - 7) We recommend that the City Commission continue to pursue and work with local non-profits to form and expand on partnerships surrounding mental health, addiction, and homelessness projects to free up law enforcement and CJS resources for public safety. This can include, but not be limited to related education to the following groups:
    - a) Schools (intro to law enforcement)
    - b) Community training, to include but not be limited to:
      - Business crime deterrents
      - Child abuse detection
      - Human Trafficking prevention
      - Emergency Room abuse detection
  - 8) We recommend enhancing utilization of *Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* by Planning and Community Development (P&CD) in evaluating development.
    - a) Incorporate or provide basic fundamentals into P&CD Design Review for permits in elevated crime areas.

Currently, the GFPD does not have staffing resources to engage specifically in this program. SROs have conducted these assessments on an annual basis, during summer months, specific to local public schools. Great Falls Public Schools pays a significant portion of SRO salaries per an Interlocal Agreement.

- 9) We recommend meeting with business leaders to understand business trends as they relate to crime prevention.
  - Why are some businesses telling employees **not to** interfere or stop shoplifters?
- 10) We recommend supporting or enhancing support of the Crisis Intervention Collaborative Violent Crimes Task Force, including TFOs, (Task Force Officers) and Big Sky Safe Trails Task Force. Continue to support HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children), and others.
- 11) We recommend continuing to work with Veteran's Court, and Mental Health and Drug Court to reduce reengagement with the criminal justice system.
  - a) Improve information sharing with emergency service providers, including hospitals, and DPHHS (Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services) to receive drug statistics in a timely manner.
- 12) Consider utilizing the city's current communications specialist position or hiring a specific person to be a Crime Safety Communications and Education Coordinator who could help communicate the following programs and events:
  - a) See It-Report it campaign
  - b) "If You See Something, Say Something" Awareness Day, Sept. 25
  - c) Neighborhood Watch Program
  - d) National Night Out, first Tuesday in August
  - e) Downtown Safety Alliance
    - The GFPD will continue to partner with the Downtown Safety Alliance regarding the Downtown Safety Master Plan, and provide input from the law enforcement perspective.
- 13) We recommend continuing to encourage and help to facilitate and/or provide resources for partnerships that will help alleviate the rate and continuation of crime by certain individuals/repeat offenders.

Sheriff Slaughter recommends the GFPD use extreme caution with federal partnerships:

*"We have many great federal partners; however, to solve many of the issues we are faced with, I would encourage local control. Many of the crimes we have discussed during our task force meetings do not rise to the level of federal prosecution. If the GFPD can maintain local control but receive the benefits of our federal partners, then I would recommend those relationships".*



## New Recreation Center Updates and FAQ



## Check the Status of Your Ticket

**Ticket ID**

2755966ab

Apply

Update Ticket/Add Comment

### Crime Task Force

**Status:** Open**Assigned To:** kartis (City Manager)**Ticket ID:** 2755966ab**Email:** gwhirry@gmail.com**Name:** Gordon Whirry**Phone Number:** 4067617031

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

Open

**Updated By:** lkunz**Assigned To:** kartis (City Manager)

09/15/2021 - 11:52am

New

**Assigned To:**

Citizen request/question created.

09/13/2021 - 11:01am

### Disclosures

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City of Great Falls | P.O. Box 5021 | Great Falls, MT 59403

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