



Great Falls Crime Task Force Agenda
2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT
Gibson Room , Civic Center
September 13, 2021
5:30 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_aOxN4WFaRT6o6AEjWjJUEQ 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](tel: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. 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.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Shane Etwiler – 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, August 23, 2021.
2. Task Force Discussion on Draft Recommendations.

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

Next Proposed Meeting Date, if needed, September 27, 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 4:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Great Falls Crime Task Force Members (TFM) participated electronically via Zoom Webinar: Nicole Griffith, Jeff Newton, Jesse Slaughter, Shane Etwiler, John Parker and Ex-officio TFM Rick Tryon. Dugan Coburn joined at 4:30 p.m. Sandra Guynn and Sara Sexe were present in the Gibson Room.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF: City Staff present in the Gibson Room were: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Attorney Jeff Hindoien, and Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea was present in the Commission Chambers.

TASK FORCE AGENDA ITEMS

1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 9, 2021, GREAT FALLS CRIME TASK FORCE.**

TFM Etwiler moved, seconded by TFM Sexe, that the CTF approve the meeting minutes of August 9, 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 FOCUS AREAS.**

Chairperson Guynn reiterated that the four categories recommended by TFM at the August 9, 2021 meeting included the following:

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

Chairperson Guynn read from a prepared handout listing Ex-officio TFM Tryon's draft recommendations that included resources for local criminal justice system, communication and education, consequences and partnerships/collaboration.

TFM Sexe's recommendations for resources included the following:

- Continue supporting the Crisis Intervention Collaborative (CIC) through the Police, Fire and Legal Departments; Municipal Court; and other City staff.
- Have the City Grants Administrator assist the Legal Department to investigate grant funding for victim/witness assistance for the Legal Department Criminal Division.

TFM Sexe's recommendations for consequences included the following:

- Municipal Court consider utilizing the Cascade County Sheriff's Office program options to reduce jail numbers.
- Misdemeanor Pretrial Services and use of Public Safety Assessment (PSA).
- Reduction in multiple extensions with regard to payments and fines. Municipal Court evaluate reasons for fine collection reductions and corresponding effect on accountability for misdemeanors.
- 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.

TFM Sexe's recommendations for partnerships/collaboration included the following:

- Support or enhance the support of CIC and Violent Crimes Task Force.
- Utilize United Way resources.
- Continue to work with Veteran's, Mental Health and Drug Courts.
- Improve information sharing with emergency service providers.
- Enhance utilization of principles of crime prevention through environmental design by Planning and Community Development.

Vice-Chairperson Newton commented that hiring additional police officers could have impact on the City Attorney's office, Municipal, Justice and District Court Judges, as well as the Cascade County Sheriff's Office and Probation and Parole. The Police Department staff is actively looking into grant funding options.

Chairperson Guynn received clarification that reinstating the K-9 program could be an option; however, currently there is a lack of resources and finances.

TFM Slaughter mentioned that the Cascade County Sheriff's Office has a K-9 program and is a resource that is available for the City to utilize.

TFM Sexe explained that the Legal Department has evaluated, through the budget and CARES funds, hiring additional staff and obtaining software services.

TFM Parker suggested that the TFM consider discussing the Pretrial Services idea; however, he announced that he would abstain from submitting policy suggestions because of a constitutional standpoint.

TFM Etwiler received clarification that Jurors normally will not convict with regard to truancy matters.

TFM Sexe suggested that TFM send their draft recommendations to Chairperson Guynn for consolidation, to allow for public comment and posting on the City's website prior to the September 13, 2021 CTF meeting.

TFM Griffith suggested that the City conduct a Community Impact Study similar to Billings.

Vice-Chairperson Newton responded that he read the Billings Community Impact Study; however, he has not seen a breakdown with regard to the hours and costs.

TFM Etwiler received clarification that if a resource assessment is performed with regard to the initial and ongoing costs for implementing the recommendations, the City Commission and City Manager could determine whether to fund them and how to do so.

City Manager Doyon announced that he would provide the handout of Ex-officio TFM Tryon's draft recommendations to the TFM via email now so that they could follow along.

TFM Slaughter explained that the Crime Task Force is a Task Force created to address public safety needs for the City. He stated that the Cascade County Sheriff's office fully supports the Great Falls Police Department with anything that it needs; however, he cautioned that the County has limited resources and jail capacity with regard to supporting felony cases from the City. He commented that the recommendations should be scalable, actionable and implementable.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon reiterated that top priorities from his list of recommendations include Pretrial Services, as well as collaborating with County, State and Federal Law Enforcement.

TFM Parker commented that at some point the Cascade County Commissioners should have an advisory voice with regard to the recommendations from the Crime Task Force because enhanced City enforcement will lead to enhanced County incarceration funded by the County.

TFM Slaughter responded that this is the City's Crime Task Force and expressed concern that including too many other entities would not make it a City Task Force. He explained that the City is the largest consumer of resources in the community and suggested first

establishing the City's needs and later including the County Commissioners to determine how to implement those needs.

TFM Sexe reiterated that the idea of the TFM recommendations is to enhance collaboration so that there would not continue to be capacity issues for the County.

Vice-Chairperson Newton explained that the Neighborhood Watch Program is already in place and that five ambassadors are Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinators. He further explained that the education component is an ongoing process that the Police Department currently works on with other entities. He added that the City educates the public about information with regard to crime; however, citizens in the community also have a responsibility to educate themselves by seeking that information.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon received clarification that Vice-Chairperson Newton and TFM Etwiler are unaware of any government-funded grants that assist individuals with regard to purchasing security cameras for private residences.

Chairperson Guynn inquired if sending out public safety information to the community should be done by the City Communication Specialist Lanni Klasner or to consider another resource.

TFM Slaughter responded that the City does a good job with regard to communicating to the community.

TFM Etwiler reported that there is an Environmental Safety TIF Program for businesses in the Downtown Urban Renewal Districts to submit a TIF Grant application with regard to assisting with funding security cameras and lighting.

TFM Parker requested removing Ex-officio TFM Tryon's recommendation about the "one way bus ticket out of town." He explained that if other communities in Montana fund bus tickets to send individuals with life challenges to Great Falls, the City would not be happy about it. He added that sending individuals to other communities is not the solution and there are other productive ways.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon responded that he included the bus ticket recommendation as a consequence because citizens in the community reached out to him, inquiring about sending troubled individuals to other communities.

TFM Slaughter added that the bus ticket concept is controversial; however, worth public comment and that banishment from a community is an effective way of curbing criminal behavior.

Referring to Ex-officio TFM Tryon's recommendation about consequences for violations including drug paraphernalia, TFM Slaughter suggested that the City Commission create an Ordinance that prohibits needle exchange.

Vice-Chairperson Newton urged the TFM to consider resources and priorities with regard to its recommendations.

TFM Sexe explained that a few years ago, the City did enhance the nuisance ordinances and it may be worth exploring enhancing enforcement of those ordinances. She mentioned that some of the TFM recommendations might not be enforceable.

Ex-officio TFM Tryon explained that some of his recommendations with regard to consequences address the low-level violations, which could help prevent the higher-level violations.

TFM Etwiler suggested collaborating with the Montana League of Cities and Towns with regard to working with the legislature to address the unintended consequences of the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act. He expressed support with regard to having consequences tightened for minor offenses.

TFM Parker responded that the legislature has already established several sentencing factors.

Vice-Chairperson Newton recommended having elected officials reach out to the legislators with regard to determining the effect bills passed by the legislature has on the community.

TFM Griffith commented that staying focused on partnerships and collaboration is important. She added that statistics indicate that if victims have access to services and support they are more likely to participate in the criminal justice process.

TFM Slaughter commented that since the recreational marijuana bill was passed, it is law and not going away. There are opportunities to make recreational marijuana safe by supporting Senator Steve Daine's Safe Banking Act, as well as exploring a local taxation for recreational marijuana and utilize the funds for the CTF proposed public safety efforts.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TASK FORCE.

Chairperson Guynn reiterated that the TFM provide their list of draft recommendations to her so that she can incorporate them with Ex-officio TFM Tryon's list by August 30, 2021. The CTF will release the official draft recommendations on August 30, 2021, allowing for public comment two weeks prior to the September 13, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

None.

DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING MEETING DATES.

Chairperson Guynn announced that due to Labor Day Holiday, the next scheduled CTF meeting would be on September 13, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the CTF, Vice-Chairperson Newton moved, seconded by TFM Slaughter to adjourn the **regular meeting of August 23, 2021, at 5:45 p.m.**

Motion carried 8-0.

Sandra Guynn, Chairperson

Acting Secretary – Deputy City Clerk Darcy Dea

Minutes Approved: September 13, 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.
 - If items a and b were to be approved, Sheriff Slaughter recommends bringing back the Downtown Officer – not the BRICK Officer – but the downtown officer assigned to the Great Falls downtown business district.
 - If this were to be approved, Sheriff Slaughter also recommends the addition of an elementary SRO (School Resource Officer), which has been in discussion for several years. This would help balance caseloads, and establish relationships with youth at an earlier age.
 - 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 Response Team 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. Recommend that the GFPD deploy foot patrols, 'beat cops', in high crime areas and neighborhoods starting January 2022.
3. Non-uniformed code enforcement officers (2 – 3?) to free up uniformed officers to deal with more serious violent, property, and drug crime.
4. 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 recently conducted 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.

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) Truancy Officer, or perhaps SROs can do the same thing, such as write letters to the families of absent children
- c) Pre-trial services
- d) Drug K-9 units at USPS, UPS and FedEx
- e) Mental health services
- f) Code Enforcement Officer to focus on problem properties where criminal activity is taking place and less on non-criminal or non-legal complaints
- g) Education program for criminals that will teach them ways to make decisions that will help improve their lives

7) We recommend the City Commission use **all** of the Recreational Marijuana 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.

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.

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

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>
 - o 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 GFPD produce and present a report by January 2022, and provide regular updates, detailing policies and priorities considered in responding to calls from the public and public safety issues in general, in order to foster greater support for local law enforcement, to have a clearer understanding of what public and LE expectations of each other are, and to gain greater citizen participation in local crime prevention measures.

Some of the citizen concerns and questions to be addressed would include but not be limited to:

- a) Why are some calls not responded to in the same way as others?
- b) Why is LE time spent with cell phone violations and speeding tickets etc. while other crimes don't get the same attention?

- 3) 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 not be 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

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

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

- 4) 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
- 5) We recommend law enforcement 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
- 6) We recommend hiring a specific person to be a Crime Safety Communications and Education Coordinator who could help communicate the following programs and events:
- a) “If You See Something, Say Something” Awareness Day, Sept. 25
- b) National Night Out, first Tuesday in August
- c) Neighborhood Watch Program
- d) Downtown Safety Alliance
- GFPD will continue to partner with the Downtown Safety Alliance regarding the Downtown Safety Master Plan, and provide input from the law enforcement perspective.
- 7) 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 strengthen enforcement and consequences for violations including but not limited to:
- a) Panhandling
- b) Loitering
- c) Public nuisance
- d) Drug paraphernalia
- The city should never allow safe injection sites, needle drop or needle exchange.
- e) Theft

- Due to the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act, misdemeanor 1st offense theft is no longer a jailable offense. The city should look at a jailable 1st 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.

2) We recommend that the City Manager task the City Legal Department with presenting the Municipal Court/Judges by January 2022 with the legal options for alternative sentencing for low-risk criminals in order to free up resources for high-risk criminals.

Alternative sentencing options could include but are not limited to:

- a) Work crews cleaning parks, graffiti, and empty lots around town, washing windows, etc.
- b) One way bus tickets out of town.

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 and 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.
 - 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) 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.
 - 6) 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.
 - 7) We recommend enhancing utilization of *Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* by Planning and Community Development (P&CD) in evaluating development.
 - 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.

- 8) 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?
- 9) 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.
- 10) We recommend continuing to work with Veteran’s Court, and Mental Health and Drug Court to reduce reengagement with the criminal justice system.
 - 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.
- 11) 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”.

From: [Terry Bjork](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: comment on Crime Task Force report, "Partnerships and Collaboration"
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:55:41 PM

This comment is in regard to the "Partnerships and Collaboration" section of the Crime Task Force report, Item 1,

"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."

The voters of Cascade County and Great Falls voted 55%-45% to approve commercial sales of recreational marijuana. That wasn't just voters outside the City limits.

The Crime Task Force recommendation appears to be a transparent attempt to end run the clear will of the voters and ignore their mandate in favor of the personal morals of one or more members of this unelected task force, without even presenting supporting evidence of how it is related to the ostensible mission of the Task Force, coming up with ways to reduce crime in the city.

Additionally, while the enabling State law HB 701 is a confusing mess, it is not really clear how a municipality within a "Yes" county can opt out of commercial sales without a special election.

Therefore my comment to the City Commission would be to reject this recommendation, based on ignoring the clear will of voters, possible conflict with State law, lack of supporting evidence or statistics for current crimes related to marijuana, or any clear cause and effect relationship for how the recommendation would reduce or prevent crime in the City.

Terry Bjork

3622 4th Ave. S

From: [Harry Nusser](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Crime in gt falls
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 3:03:49 PM

One of the problems is the lack of in person contact between the police officers and the people. As a kid where I grew up we had officers patrolling the neighborhood on foot as well as in cars. The people knew the officers and the officers knew the people. They could talk to the officers about problems in the neighborhoods and the officers often took part in neighborhood activities. This can not be done now because the officers are isolated in their patrol cars and leave them only if they have to. You need to get back to this type of enforcement. It can be a very effective method if done properly. Let the people get to know the officers and the officers can get to know the officers

Sent from my iPhone

From: ncarroll@bresnan.net
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Crime Task Force
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:39:42 PM

Hello ~ I appreciate your accepting public comments and wish to offer mine on an area of concern I have.

Last September my daughter went to the Salvation Army store on her lunch hour. Coming out of the store she was grabbed and assaulted by a woman who was naked of clothing except for a tube top. The woman was high on drugs. She dragged my daughter across the parking lot by her hair and kicked her when she was on the ground. What troubles me is that police had multiple calls on this woman in the days prior and did nothing, I guess because of covid. She was left to continue to roam around naked until she made my daughter a victim. Charges were pressed on this woman but were dismissed because the state didn't get a mental evaluation in a timely manner. So, she is not held at all accountable while my daughter gets to deal with the emotional trauma left her.

In the spring of this year, the same daughter was jogging in Gibson Park on her lunch hour when she was accosted by a woman, whose appearance reminded her of her prior situation. She called the police and watched this woman accost another woman sitting in her car, banging her fist on the car. When the police arrived and were given the details, one of them exclaimed "oh that's just Anna". Again, her behavior seems acceptable.

Apparently these are just misdemeanor crimes but isn't there something that can be done to offer residents of Great Falls a sense of any kind of safety while going about our activities of daily living. Can we go for a walk, a jog, or walk in a parking lot without having to look over our shoulders all the time. I suggest you have a presence... and make your presence known so that people up to no good know there are consequences of their behavior. Don't protect criminal rights more than the citizens you are employed to serve.

Thank you for your attention.

From: [Ed Caffrey](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Crime Task Force Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 12:21:58 PM

To: Comments/Crime Task Force Recommendations

I find myself shaking my head at this entire "crime task force" thing. Throwing money at the problem, in terms of more Police and supporting positions will accomplish little to nothing in terms of curbing crime.

The "white elephant" that nobody wants to speak of, and that must be addressed before any meaningful crime reduction can be realized, is/are the sources of GF crime, and the punishments for crime. In this case, some of the more conspicuous sources being the GF pre-release center, the County Jail, and the one that everyone gasps about when mentioned in terms of crime, the GF Mission, where, like it or not, a portion of our local crime originates, and in fact, all of which draw and promote crime in GF.

Let's be honest, crime is big business in that it supports not only Law Enforcement, but also the myriad of other agencies and positions that receive untold amounts of federal, state, and local support dollars. From the aforementioned Pre-Release, County Jail, and GF Mission entities, to Law Enforcement, lawyers, and all the "rehab" and associated facilities/entities.

Unless, and Until those are examined, and dealt with in a fashion that makes punishments for crime not worth committing the crime, nothing will change. It has been proven time and again that deterrence in the form of more Police and/or supporting staff simply does little to nothing for curb crime. If the recommendations of the crime task force are allowed to pass, the ONLY things it will do is enlarge local government, increase the tax burden on citizens, and have little to no effect on crime.

I find myself angry as to the wording used to present some of the recommendations..... particularly those that state "**would require funding outside of what the city is able to finance.**" Why use that wording, unless it is an attempt at deception as to where the funding would come from? Admittedly, I suppose it is possible to find grants or other sources, but even those would eventually be exhausted or expire, and then the financial burden would fall to local taxpayers. So again.... why use that wording, unless it is an attempt to mislead? Why not just be honest, and say in plain English, that it would require a tax increase? That in itself creates suspicion and distrust.

In conclusion, I supported and voted for Mr. Tryon. I did so because I believed his campaign statements about Supporting/helping the average GF citizen, and curbing the waste of our tax dollars.

In a previously publicized statement, Mr Tryon said: "This task force will not recommend anything that raises taxes."

Now, as a direct result of his actions in the creation and/or support of this "crime task force"... in one way or another, it is recommending \$1.3+ MILLION ANNUALLY in NEW TAXES?? NO!

At the very least I feel that Mr Tryon mislead us, and at worst, flat out lied. I cannot support any "elected" individual in what appears to me as an endeavor to create some type of legacy, or whatever he's trying to do. In this case, at the expense of GF taxpayers. Although this "crime task force" might have conceived/created with good intentions, it's recommendations seem very self serving, and fall utterly short of having any meaningful impact on local/GF crime. I cannot and do not condone or indorse it's recommendations.

Ed Caffrey
A concerned local taxpayer

From: [Jesse Oldham](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Crime Task Force Public Comment by Jesse Oldham
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:47:40 PM

I am commenting on the Crime Task Force report as a private citizen of Cascade County. First, I would like to thank not only everyone involved in this initiative, but also our County and City Law Enforcement Officers for all they do in keeping us safe. With that said, I would like to offer the following comments.

1. I have been told by a senior law enforcement official from another Montana county that Great Falls doesn't post people with outstanding warrants in a state database that is used by law enforcement statewide to check outstanding warrants during a contact with a suspect. Officers/dispatchers then have to check the State site along with Great Falls own registry to determine if an individual has an outstanding warrant. I can see this being cumbersome and possibly detrimental to Great Falls being able to locate people with an outstanding warrant. If this is the case then Great Falls needs to participate in the Statewide database.
2. Our outstanding warrant list is embarrassing. Over 800 names the last time I checked. If there are no repercussions for being on this list, then why are we even bothering?
3. I have been privileged to sit on the current session of the Federal Grand Jury here in Great Falls. It has opened my eyes to the outstanding cooperation between Federal and Local Agencies in the fight against crime, in particular, drug crimes. However there is one thing that has intrigued not only myself, but other members of the Grand Jury. That is when a testifying investigative officer makes a statement such as "John Doe has been known by law enforcement to be a drug dealer for years". Say what? Exactly. If they've been known to be involved in the drug trafficking underworld for so long, then why aren't they already behind bars. As such, I fully support the addition of both local and Federal Officers to help prosecute the interstate drug trafficking in and around Great Falls. I believe the Russell Country Drug Task Force is an effective vehicle to attack the drug traffickers in our local community and should be fully supported and funded.
4. Consequences: In my job for the local office of an international non-profit I have had the opportunity to be a community service location for individuals performing court-ordered community service. I will say that I have been hugely disappointed in our local judiciary (especially the City) as a result of this. I've seen offenders receive extension after extension on the time allowed to complete their community service. I've seen people given an inordinate amount of time to complete their community service, and even then, still need an extension. There seem to be absolutely no consequences for failure to complete community service in a reasonable amount of time. This lack of accountability only reinforces the lack of personal responsibility which is often what landed people in this position to begin with. I would like to see some oversight of our judiciary with a goal of reinforcing personal responsibility for minor offenders,
5. I fully support the bus ticket out of town. It must be accompanied though by consequences if that person returns to Great Falls/Cascade County within a certain amount of time.
6. Pre-trial confinement. The Great Falls Pre-Release Center could be used by judges to house some pre-trial offenders that are at a smaller risk of reoffending. They would be able to check

out to go to their job every day and report back to the center at the end of the day. I believe the center also has programs that might help offenders that could be made mandatory by the courts. Direct sentencing to a pre-release center, either local or out of county, is also a huge option to help reduce jail crowding and at the same time put an offender into a center's alcohol, drug treatment programs, anger management, life skills, etc....

7. There should be a way for local law enforcement to work with local non-profits to help identify human trafficking, as well as identifying vulnerable people at risk of exploitation, such as a young girl trading sex with an older man in exchange for a place to stay. Another is giving vulnerable individuals a place to live in exchange for their benefits. One example is the sale of EBT benefits so a person can buy drugs. Working with local retailers to identify such abuse would be one start. Another option is to lobby our Federal Delegation to assign Federal USDA enforcement officers to Cascade County to combat Electronic Benefit Card fraud, which is usually drug fueled.

In closing, I would just repeat my sincere thanks to all of our law enforcement community (Federal, State, County, Municipal) in protecting us. I've got your six.

Jesse E. Oldham, Jr.
6100 Buckboard Lane
Great Falls, MT 59404

406-788-1709

From: [Diana Laughlin](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Great Falls Criminal task force
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:10:05 PM

I think it is time that gangs like the MS13 need to be removed. We need to quit letting these people who are on parole into our state. I think that the city should have a say on which people on parole should be allowed to be in Great Falls. I went into the grocery store downtown and listened to a girl threaten another girl for looking at her and then her gang member boyfriend (it was written on his throat)once again threaten the person. I also seen a car with a personal license plate that said MS13 on it.

Places like Colorado who have 10 times the about of people have better control then we do. People on parole there have to do drug tests. They have to respond to a drug test via phone. Each person is given a color and when their color comes up the have 4 hours to go take a test and they also have to pay a flat rate for their test. If they do not comply off to jail they go and possibly prison..I tell you those people find a way to keep their freedom. They are able to pay because they have job.

We are pretty lax when it comes to this.

We also need to start to control this theft ring in Great Falls, If a trailer is seen parked around town the plate needs to be ran, questions need to be asked in the neighborhoods about all trailers. Maybe a group that investigates ,checks neighborhoods or alleys and runs plates. The theft is getting ridiculous and when you report something the reply is it will be investigated. People are told they can not protect their property or there is nothing that can be done. These people know they can not be touched, and they know we are easy pickings. If the police are driving around and see a trailer how hard is it to run a plate?

We need to think outside the box Great Falls,I know that we have limited space in jail so maybe work crews that meet everyday would work. You get in trouble you do community time daily, and you have a job at the same time then you have no time to get in trouble, and you could also impose a monthly fine to pay for the people who have to babysit.

Just a few ideas..time to change Great Falls, time to make these uncomfortable so they move elsewhere, maybe no food stamps,free rent, free medical, only responsibility. Thanks for reading my thoughts Diana.laughlin

From: [Nick Jung](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 2:15:20 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Robert Nick Jung I am a proud graduate of adult treatment court and proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous. In which I continue community service work . January 2nd 2018 was my very first dual diagnosed treatment with Michelle Vaille and Jill Donaldson Benefis treatment center . Every month I meet with my counselor and every six weeks my psychiatrist Jill Donaldson which has continued 1,381 days . This I know for fact since 1988 my first Dui till January 2nd 2018 my first mental health evaluation my sobriety has and continues to be maintained. Many are not getting the opportunity of dual diagnosed treatment consequently many are relapsing !

The other area which I currently take part in is volunteering time to those in adult treatment court giving rides to a.a meetings and u.a it has been mentioned numerous times a mentor program within v.a treatment court and adult treatment court reducing sanctions and incarceration.

The other area in which I also have had involvement with the anonymity among treatment centers. In my own experience I was to give up my counselor Michelle Vaille whom certainly has PhD in her fields and Jill Donaldson (mental health)in which I currently see regularly no other counselor through any other of the treatment centers I was involved with have ever contacted me or any type of follow-up knowing that they care has certainly proved vital to my recovery!

Every mistake we get to see the Judge ! Numerous attempts have been made just to be able to appear in front of the Judge's that certainly played a major role in my sobriety in hopes it will encourage other's as of yet no response? The negatives are televised very rarely the positive?

From: [Beth Morrison](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Great Falls Crime Task Force input
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 9:19:28 AM
Attachments: [Marijuana Position Statement Great Falls Crime Task Force.pdf](#)

Hello Krista,

I am a resident of Great Falls, but also serve as the Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist for Cascade County under a SAMHSA grant through Montana DPHHS. I also co-chair the Cascade County Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance (SAPA), which falls under the Community Health Improvement Plan. Finally, I am the Prevention Program Manager with Alliance for Youth.

I wish to submit the attached informational paper as input to the Great Falls Crime Task Force about how to more effectively address crime in Great Falls.

I do plan to attend next Monday's Great Falls Crime Task Force Meeting.

Warm Regards...Beth

Beth Price Morrison
Cascade County Prevention Specialist & Prevention Program Manager
Alliance for Youth
406.952.0468
allianceforyouth.org
P.O. Box 2982, Great Falls, MT 59403
Substances don't stay in their own lane.

MARIJUANA & YOUTH

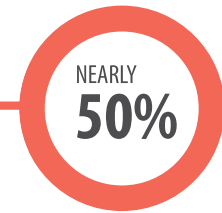
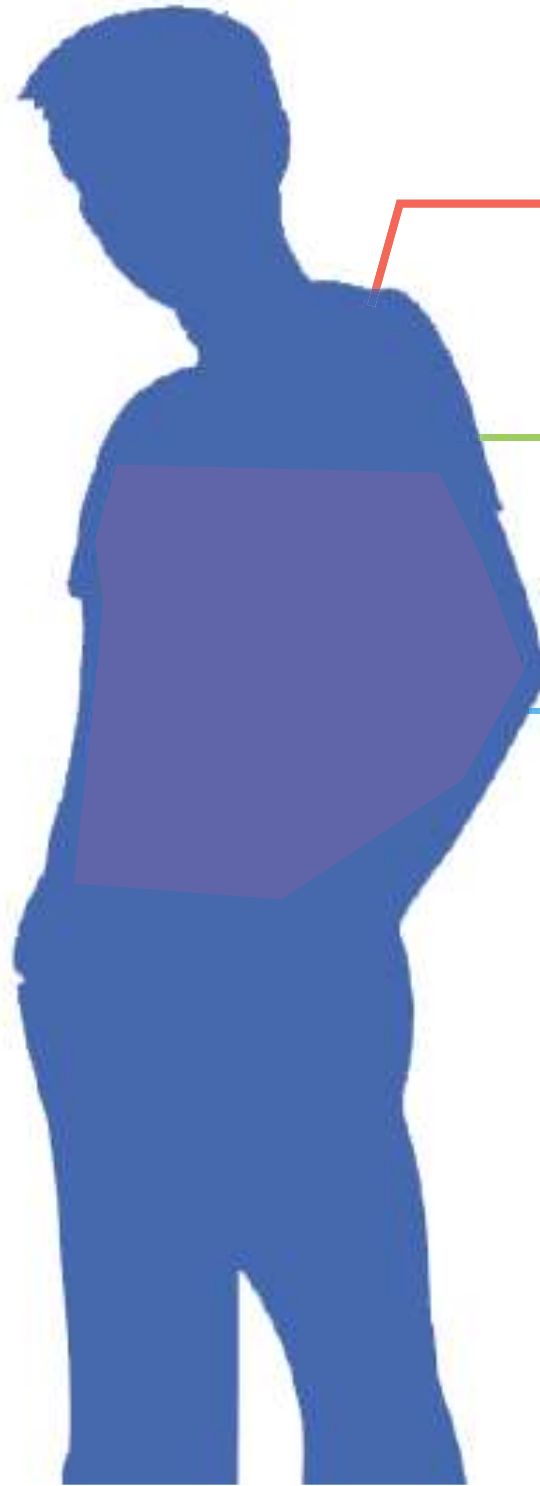
The Cascade County Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance (SAPA) has reviewed the research and data on the effects of marijuana use on youth and local communities. This document presents key areas of concern and recommendations to limit harm related to the health and safety of our youth.

We ask the Great Falls Crime Task Force to consider **OPTING OUT** of marijuana legislation as a strategy to reduce crime and limit harm to our youth and communities.

Adult use marijuana legalization only passed by a 54% margin in Cascade County. Considering that voters were clearly promised that veterans and schools would receive funding if the initiative passed, we believe we were all misled. These promises were quickly proven to be unconstitutional, but not before people had voted.

By asking Cascade County voters if they wish to **OPT OUT** of marijuana legislation (without the misleading promises), we would get a true reflection of what we as a community really want. It would also serve to give us time to see what happens in other communities across Montana first.

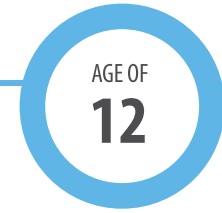
We would implore you to protect our youth and the landscape of addiction in our communities by moving forward with a ballot initiative to **OPT OUT** of marijuana legalization in Great Falls and Cascade County.



of Great Falls high school students have used marijuana (1 or more times), which is 20% higher than the state average.¹



Great Falls middle school students use marijuana on a daily basis at a rate of twice the state average.¹

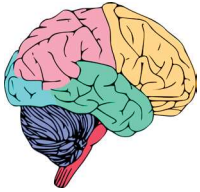


The percentage of Great Falls middle school students who began using marijuana before the age of 12 has nearly doubled over the past two years.¹

BACKGROUND ON MARIJUANA & YOUTH



THE YOUTH BRAIN PRIMED FOR ADDICTION



- The pre-frontal cortex of the brain—which controls judgment & decision making—is still developing through the mid-20s & is vulnerable to the effects of addictive substances, such as marijuana.²
- Repeated marijuana use during adolescence is associated with changes in the areas of the brain involved with attention, memory, decision making & motivation. Research also shows that it can also lead to addiction, relationship issues & long-term mental health problems, including suicide attempts.³
- Marijuana can also impair learning in adolescents. Students who use marijuana tend to get lower grades & are more likely to drop out of high school or be truant.⁴
- Edible marijuana products appeal to teens. The popularity of edibles also increases the chance of users having harmful reactions. Edibles take longer to digest & longer to produce a high; therefore, people may consume more because of the delayed effects, leading to dangerous results.⁵

POTENCY



Marijuana is a MUCH more potent drug now than in years past—today averaging three to seven or more times stronger than in the 1980s. Some samples of marijuana extracts exceed 80% THC.⁶

IMPACT ON SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

- Legalized marijuana leads to increased youth marijuana use & increased drug violations at school.
- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older in Colorado **increased 58%** and is **78% higher** than the national average.⁷
- The latest available Colorado drug violation data indicates that marijuana violations were involved in **77% of referrals to law enforcement, 71% of expulsions & 69% of school suspensions.**⁸
- In Anchorage, Alaska school suspensions for marijuana increased more than 141% after legalization was implemented.⁹
- For every dollar gained in tax revenue, Colorado spent approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization. High school drop-outs are one of the largest cost contributors.¹⁰

GREAT FALLS & CASCADE COUNTY



Youth marijuana use has significantly increased since 2017 in Great Falls and Cascade County, particularly among middle school students.¹

PUBLIC SAFETY



- Marijuana use impairs driving skills.¹¹
- The combination of alcohol and marijuana use has been shown to increase the likelihood of two vehicle fatal crashes by up to five times.¹²
- Regarding secondhand smoke, in that the artery recovery time for exposure to one minute of tobacco smoke is 30 minutes, exposure to marijuana smoke for one minute is 90 minutes of recovery time.¹³

Works Cited: ¹GFPS YRBS Snapshot 2019, ²NIDA, ³NIDA, ⁴CDC, ⁵NIDA for Teens, ⁶Rocky Mountain HIDTA, ⁷Rocky Mountain HIDTA, ⁸Anchorage Daily News, ⁹Rocky Mountain HIDTA, ¹⁰NHTSA, ¹¹Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, ¹²Journal of the American Heart Association (Works Cited page available upon request.)

GREAT FALLS • CASCADE COUNTY • MONTANA

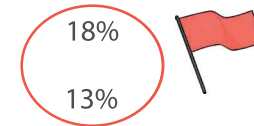
WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY?

Marijuana • High School

	2017 GFPS	2019 GFPS	2017 CASCADE COUNTY	2019 CASCADE COUNTY	2017 MT	2019 MT
During your life, have you ever used marijuana?	43%	49%	35%	37%	35%	40%
Used marijuana at or before age 14	22%	26%	19%	20%	20%	21%
During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana? (20+)	10%	9%	6%	7%	6%	6%

Marijuana • Middle School

	2017 GFPS	2019 GFPS	2017 CASCADE COUNTY	2019 CASCADE COUNTY	2017 MT	2019 MT
During your life, have you ever used marijuana?	14%	23%	10%	18%	13%	16%
Used marijuana at or before age 14	9%	17%	9%	13%	9%	11%
During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana? (20+)	4%	4%	2%	3%	N/A	2%



From: [Christina Wetzel Depaul](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:17:17 AM

Crime Task,. Sept 9, 2021

I believe there is a crisis with repeat offense. Revolving jail doors gives lead way to repeat crimes leading to more crimes & violence. Making for offenders to brag about how they will get a slap on the wrist, "those stupid courts gave us no time at all , my family will pay my fine." Same ole' same ole' "Because just underneath those traffic stops is later a violent/drug sales activity causing impulse crime. Thank God those Great Falls Police make traffic stops. Sometimes those small things everyone is bitching about gives law enforcement lead way to bigger drugs // crime.

I believe from experience where I live, marijuana is a criminals passion ruling out law. They break the law, gateway to more, disrespecting others, pollute others with the smoke, they are police haters, they hang only with their pot-kin & they can be violent

*I take ibuprofen but I don't hang with ibuprofen users, I had knee surgery taking narcotics a year ago for a few weeks, I didn't go seek out other people that took narcotics. There is criminal pattern here with marijuana, needs to be addressed.

*My question is what is the drug schedule for marijuana?? What are the side effects?? what are the drug interactions?? Some side effects I see are disrespecting law enforcements, mood swings, unstable when walking, poor vision, poor driving, isolation, disrespecting others clean air violation, violence, leads to other drug activity // criminal thinking. When is it medicinal?? Or is it at all medicinal. Is medicinal a perverted way to commit crimes legally?? What's differentiates it, how does it help?? I believe marijuana "the drug" is a "core" for career criminals & future kids to be criminal.

**the police should get tax money from marijuana they are going to need it.

Thank you for allowing to share my concerns

Christina Depaul



Downtown Development Partnership of Great Falls, Inc.
 318 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401
 406-727-5430

September 7, 2021

Crime Task Force
 City of Great Falls
 PO Box 5021
 Great Falls MT 59403

RE: Crime Task Force Recommendations

The Downtown Safety Alliance (DSA), a sub-committee of the Downtown Development Partnership, has worked to make downtown Great Falls more safe, vibrant, and livable since 2009. At our meeting on 9/7/2021, we reviewed the recommendations presented by the Crime Task Force and found some correlations between the recommendations and the newly adopted Downtown Safety Plan. Those include support of the following:

1. The DSA strongly supports the Great Falls Police Department (GFPD) having a dedicated BRIC or downtown officer. (Reference Resources, Item 1, 1.b. on Page 1)
2. The DSA offers to continue our work with the Neighborhood Councils, the Great Falls Public Library, and other groups, to provide crime prevention training and education for all Great Falls citizens addressing many of the topics outlined in the draft recommendations. Those topics include, but are not limited to, crime mapping, Neighborhood and Business Watch, safety lighting, security cameras, keeping vehicles locked & valuables out of sight, yard clean-up, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and presentations from law enforcement regarding crime trends. (Reference Communication, Item 1, d & e on Page 4)
3. The DSA offers to support the City and GFPD in their use of social media by sharing crime prevention information via the Destination Downtown Great Falls Facebook and Instagram pages. We also will be sharing our educational events via the Downtown page, as well as NeighborWorks Great Falls and the Great Falls Public Library. (Reference Communication, Item 3a on Page 4)
4. The DSA will be continuing their Business Watch programs, which include crime deterrent education, are open to all citizens of Great Falls, and will be hosted at least six times per year. (Reference Communication, Item 5 b on Page 5)
5. The DSA offers to coordinate with the City in support of "If You See Something, Say Something", National Night Out, and Neighborhood Watch program. (Reference Communication Item 6 a, b, & c on Page 5)
6. The DSA encourages the City of Great Falls to sign on to the Charter for the Crisis Intervention Collaborative. (Reference Partnerships Item 9 on Page 9)
7. The DSA supports the efforts of the City to work with Veterans', Mental Health and Drug Courts. (Reference Partnerships Item 10 on Page 9)

Page Two
Letter to City of Great Falls Crime Task Force
September 7, 2021

The Downtown Development Partnership is a public/private partnership formed as a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. We were created with the endorsement of the Great Falls City Commission to bring the community together to revitalize downtown Great Falls by supporting implementation of the City's Downtown Master Plan. The Partnership includes the Downtown Business Improvement District, Downtown Great Falls Association, Downtown Neighborhood Council, NeighborWorks Great Falls, Great Falls Development Authority, Downtown Parking Commission, Great Falls Farmers Market, Great Falls Public Schools, City of Great Falls, Cascade County, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and many other community organizations, residents, businesses that support downtown revitalization.

Sincerely,



Joan Redeen, Community Director
Great Falls Business Improvement District

cc: Greg Doyon, City Manager
City Commission

From: [Pat Goodover](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: Crime task force comment
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:36:40 AM

I wanted to give you a concern that I would hope will be addressed. It is related to drug activity.

In the past I have called the Police regarding suspected drug activity at a given house. I have been told that they really don't do "anything", but for "me" to keep a list of cars, license plates, etc. That's not an acceptable response. Yet I am not the only person that has received these instructions.

So my question and concern is, How is this issue being addressed by the task force?

Recently I had the opportunity to try to evict someone from their property. It was through a Court Order. It was a drug house.

Come to find out, the police knew about this house, had numerous complaints about it from neighbors, and it was something they were aware of for 4 years. They actually had around 9 officers arrive to evict the occupant, because they knew how dangerous he is.

This is unacceptable! If we are to clean up our town and specific neighborhoods, we need some way to get rid of the offending people. How is this being addressed by the Task Force?

Thank you for your response and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat M Goodover II
406-799-2030