

Orange County

Citizens Safety Task Force Report

Countywide Health
Faith Neighborhoods
Prevention
Family
Mentor Youth Citizen-Led
Intervention
Community Engagement
Diversity
Communication
Enforcement
Media **Prosecution**
Education
Advocate



2023



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Letter from Mayor Demings

To: Members of the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your service and hard work in addressing gun violence and violent crime in our community through the efforts of the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force. I also want to thank the leadership of our Task Force, Co-Chairs, Pastor Jim Coffin and Dr. James Doggette, as well as the dedicated subcommittee co-chairs, Lisa Early, Candice Jones, M.D., Judge Daniel Dawson, and Jonathan Cox, Ph.D.

On February 22, 2023, Orange County experienced a tragic and senseless shooting by a lone gunman claiming three innocent lives, a nine-year old girl, a news journalist, and an adult female. Your willingness to volunteer your time, many of you serving on the task force for a second time, quickly began tackling this issue. The task force's charge was to review the 2021 Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force recommendations and make modifications that strengthen our roadmap to prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime.

These issues are not unique to our community, and Orange County Government cannot solve the problem alone. It takes the involvement of all sectors of the community to bring about the change our residents deserve. As our community continues to grow, the need to convene thought leaders and residents in the future may be needed as we continue to reduce violent crime.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve and for your commitment to making our community safer for the residents of Orange County.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor



Executive Summary

On February 23, 2023, Mayor Demings reconvened the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force after a lone gunman shot four innocent people. Three of these tragic and senseless shootings resulted in fatalities, a nine-year-old girl, a news journalist, and an adult female. The Task Force members led by Co-Chairs Pastor Jim Coffin, Retired Executive Director, Interfaith Council and Dr. James R. Doggette, Sr. Pastor, Patmos Chapel, were charged with re-examining and modifying, as needed, the 2021 Citizens Safety Task Force recommendations. The Task Force began its work on March 31, 2023, and met for three months and held 20 meetings.



Redeeming Light, Incorporated

The task force was comprised of 33 members representing diverse backgrounds to help identify solutions to longstanding community problems. The participants included young adults, mentors, houses of worship, behavioral health professionals, community advocates, law enforcement, education and prevention professionals, and service-based organizations. The Task Force subcommittees centered their work around the four pillars of Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Prosecution to prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime.

Mayor Demings said, "We have sadly continued to experience tragedy in our community. Although there has been marginal success in reducing the number of violent incidences, for those families' loved ones that fell victim to violent crime, there are too many. We realize every statistic represents a person, a human being, a life." The work of the task force and the recommendations developed will strengthen our roadmap to prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime.

The Task Force members received numerous presentations from small and large non-profit and faith-based agencies providing prevention and intervention services throughout the county. The agencies listed below are funded through the Orange County Citizen Safety Task Force and the Orange County Citizens Commission for Children focused on preventing and reducing violent crime. In 2021, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved \$2 million to support the task force recommendations

The agencies include but not limited to:

- Redeeming Light, Incorporated
- Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Incorporated
- Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida
- Fresh Breath International, Boys 2 Men Mentoring
- Mt. Zion Tabernacle Christian Church
- Stop the Violence and Embrace
- Neighborhood Center for Families Programs and Services



Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida

Community Crime Survey

The Orange County Community Crime Survey was relaunched on April 10, 2023, to gauge residents perception of crime and seek input and solutions. The survey was distributed through social media platforms, the Orange County webpage, the Citizens Safety Task Force webpage and numerous community stakeholders, neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce, faith-based leaders, and task force members. Approximately 2,508 residents participated in the survey representing 47 of the county's zip codes. A summary of the Community Crime Survey is included in the report, and the complete survey results can be found at the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force webpage - www.ocfl.net/citizensafety.

Subcommittees:

The Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Prosecution subcommittees met frequently over a three-month period. The subcommittees held 16 meetings and heard from community-based agencies, subject matter experts, and residents as they re-examined the recommendations. The subcommittee members also participated in two community meetings to engage residents and receive input on strategies to reduce violent crime. The feedback from the meetings can be found in the task force report.



Task Force Recommendations:

The Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force held their final meeting on June 21, 2023, and approved 16 recommendations, including 21 short-term and five long-term actions. The recommendations provide a blueprint for the community to address gun violence and violent crime. The task force co-chairs will present the recommendations to the BCC on August 22, 2023. Once accepted by the BCC, Orange County staff will work with community stakeholders on the implementation of the recommendations.

Task Force Report:



The 2023 Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force report will include a summary of the Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Prosecution Subcommittee recommendations from the 2021 Citizens Safety Task Force report. The full report is available on the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force webpage www.ocfl.net/citizensafety.

Task Force Members

Task Force Co-Chairs:

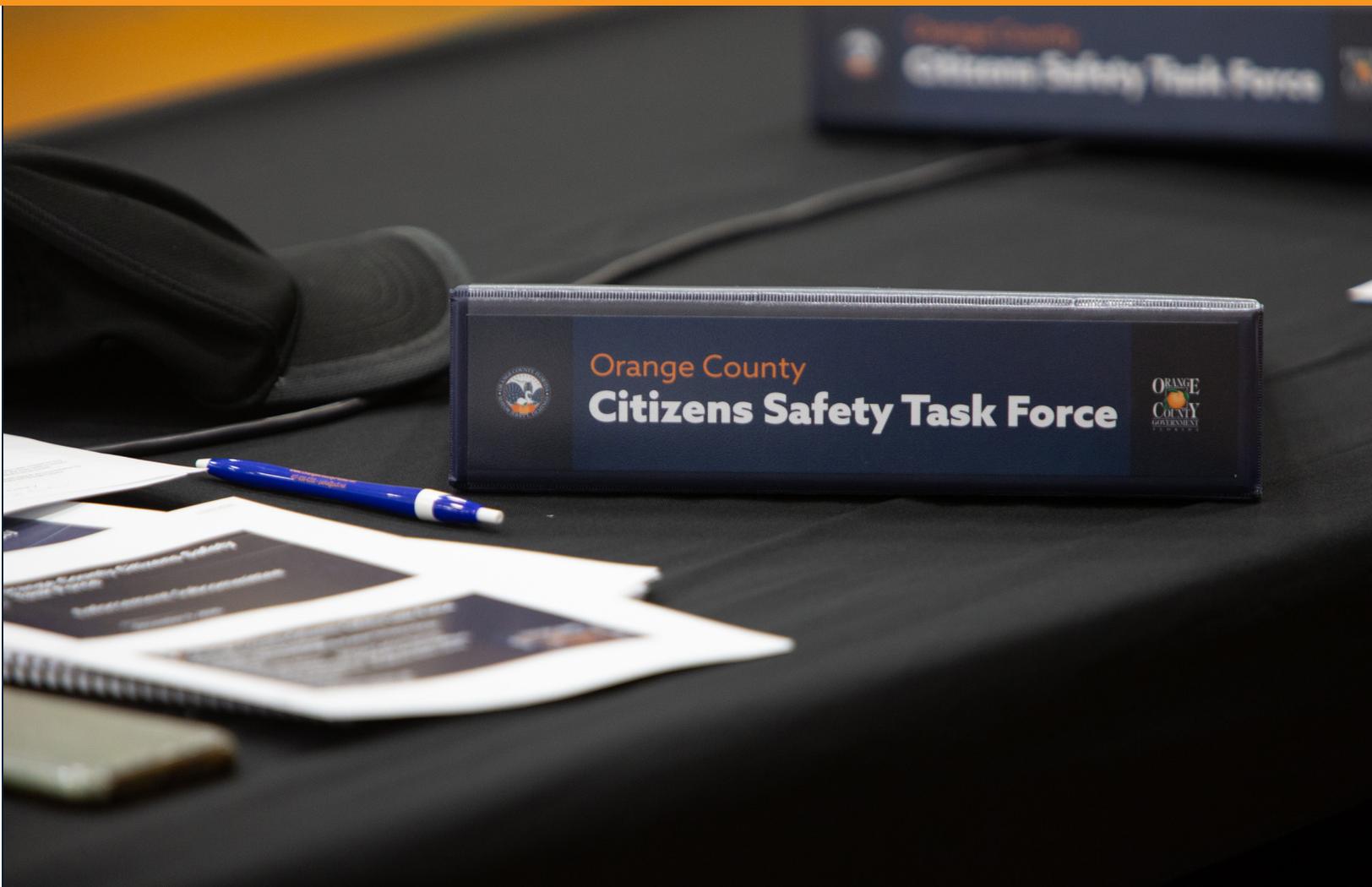
- Jim Coffin, Retired Executive Director, Interfaith Council
- Dr. James R. Doggette, Sr. Pastor, Patmos Chapel

Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

- Lisa Early, City of Orlando Families, Parks & Recreation Department
- Candice W. Jones, MD, FAAP, Board Certified Pediatrician
- Honorable Sr. Circuit Judge Daniel Dawson, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- Jonathan Cox, Ph.D., University of Central Florida, Department of Sociology

Members:

- Arnie Amoros, Orange County District 4 Representative
- Barb Bergin, Crimeline Central Florida
- Johnny Brinson, Debra Clayton Bridging the Gap
- Charles Brown, Bridges International
- Chloe Johnson Brunson, Orange County District 1 Representative
- Laddie Calloway, Greater Footsteps Foundation, Inc.
- Lisa Coffey, Orange County Public Schools Social Services
- Linda Coffin, Moms Demand Action
- Eric Debose, Orange County Sheriff's Office & Youth Mentor
- Sandra Fatmi-Hall, Pine Hills Community Council
- Adam Hartnett, Poverty Solutions Group & Circles of Care
- Catherine Jones, Orange County District 5 Representative
- Pastor Sabrina Jones, Orange County District 2 Representative
- Subhash Kateel, Alliance for Safety and Justice & Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
- Barbara Lanning, League of Women Voters
- Ricky Ly, Jacobs Engineering & Advocate
- Marquis R. McKenzie, Sr., Orange County District 6 Representative
- Chief Mike McKinley, Apopka Police Department
- Sheriff John Mina, Orange County Sheriff's Office
- Miles Mulrain, Jr., Let Your Voice Be Heard
- Nancy Oesch, Oxford University Lecturer
- Tuan Payton, Former FBI
- Father Jose Rodriguez, Orange County District 3 Representative
- Reverend Dr. Gabriel Salguero, The Gathering Place & National Latino Evangelical Coalition
- Chief Eric Smith, Orlando Police Department
- Chief Assistant State Attorney Bill Vose, Retired, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- Honorable State Attorney Monique Worrell, Ninth Judicial Circuit



Task Force Goal & Objectives

GOAL:

Identify solutions and strategies to reduce and prevent gun violence and violent crime in the community.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Review state and local data on gun violence and violent crimes.
2. Examine youth and young adult risk and protective factors associated with gun violence and violent crime.
3. Research evidence-based programs and best practices that prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime.
4. Review existing programs and services in the community.
5. Review intervention strategies that deter the possession, carrying and use of illegal firearms.
6. Identify strategies that will mobilize the community and enhance engagement.
7. Expand prosecution of gun violence and violent crimes.

Community Meeting Recap

The Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force held two community meetings to receive feedback from residents regarding gun violence and violent crime in the community.

The first meeting was held at Patmos Chapel in Apopka (North Orange County) on April 19th and the second meeting was held at the Renaissance Senior Center (East Orange County) on April 26th. Mayor Demings, Dr. Doggette, Task Force Co-Chair, and several task force members participated in the community meetings. The community meetings were live-streamed on social media platforms through Patmos Chapel and Orange TV.

Below is the summary of the comments provided by residents.

1. Invest in kicks for guns quarterly; spoke about Valencia College's Accelerated Skills program for anyone 18 and up; and indicated in 29 years she has never seen a patrol car. She has called about parking enforcement and indicated there's not enough people to respond. There is a gap between code enforcement and law enforcement.
2. Lack of resources and people to make a change in young people's lives; need more people speaking up on issues. Need access to facilities, resources, and jobs.
3. People closest to the problem are closest to the solution. Need for a community center near Oakridge and Americana. Spoke about Gloves Up & Gun Down event on Saturday.
4. Resident lost family members due to gun violence — need to start with youth.
5. Gun violence is out of control. We cannot afford to live anywhere else and people are just getting a slap on the wrist. We need to arrest them to stop the gun violence.
6. We have become hostage in our own community. Too much pressure on the community to identify the culprits. Witnesses are listed in affidavit and people are afraid. Comments were made about Florida's Public Records Law being very open — would require a legislative change.
7. This was once a quiet town, now we hear gunfire all the time; lost two relatives to gun violence. No parental accountability: we need alternative school programs.
8. We cannot use Wheatley Elementary School and they have a gym where kids could play sports after school; need to bring programs to the neighborhoods in need; \$20M not going where it's needed; against permit less carry legislation; alternative education — spoke about Beverly Brown's program at The Well. We need more dollars going to alternative education. Don't overlook the faith-based; target initiatives that help community like the Bridges Center; New Journey. Wheatley Elementary School and Bridges should be open for youth.
9. Community matters: we need more programs.
10. People on the ground aren't getting the funding they need. Call your local

Commissioners and reach out to county staff and find out about resources available. Let them know your concerns. Everyone has to react every day — don't wait for the task force. We have to be the change also.

11. Who is receiving the funding and where are the programs; how much goes to each district; need more transparency. We need a list of organizations that are boots on the ground to work with CCC. Need mentoring and tutoring; reached out to let them know about funding; need more flexibility. Midnight basketball — need access to Wheatley Elementary School and John Bridges Center.
12. Conway area does not have a lot of crime. Moms Demand Action partner with community agencies and advocate at the state level.
13. Absence of people who look like me; we need to work together to make the community safe.
14. Need parenting classes, we have to take our community back; broken window theory — cleanups help to decrease crime.
15. Spoke about ACE's; mental health is important, and we are seeing a longer wait for mental health treatment, especially people of color.
16. We need to all be a part of the community together — get to know your neighbors.

Community Crime Survey Results

Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings relaunched the Citizens Safety Task Force Community Crime Survey to receive feedback from our residents. The survey was designed to help guide the Task Force as it develops solutions and strategies to combat gun violence and violent crime. The survey was distributed in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Task Force members and county staff promoted the survey to residents, businesses, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, parks & recreation, youth-led organizations, schools, houses of worship, neighborhood associations, chambers of commerce, advisory boards, as well as the Mayor Demings Digest and social media.

In 2023, the Community Crime Survey received 2,508 surveys from 47 zip codes in Orange County, and in 2021, 2,188 surveys were received from 43 zip codes. The complete survey results from 2021 and 2023 are available on the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force webpage at www.ocfl.net/safetytaskforce.

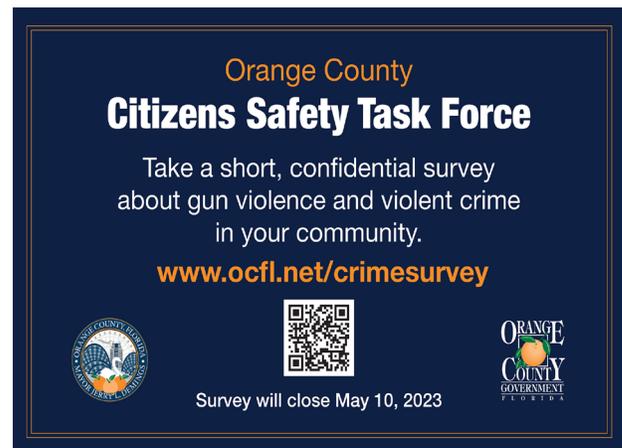
Survey Key Findings

Community Perceptions of Public Safety and Crime

- Very Safe – 15%
- Safe – 55%
- Unsafe – 23%
- Very Unsafe – 7.2%

Community Opinions of Law Enforcement

- 54% rated the level of police protection as excellent or good
- 52% rated the relationship between members of their community and law enforcement as very positive or somewhat positive
- 30% felt law enforcement makes it easy to provide input to them to help solve problems
-



Orange County
Citizens Safety Task Force

Take a short, confidential survey about gun violence and violent crime in your community.

www.ocfl.net/crimesurvey



Survey will close May 10, 2023

Prevention and Intervention Programs

- 57% – Increase prevention programs for youth
- 64% – Expand mentoring and intervention programs for youth & young adults
- 50% – Develop public education and awareness campaign on consequences of gun crimes
- 46% – Expand Neighborhood Watch
- 70% – Increase law enforcement presence in the community



Prevention Subcommittee

Work with youth ages 13 – 25 in zip codes where the incidence of violent crime is highest

Prevention Subcommittee Recommendations 2021

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Orange County Citizens Public Safety Task Force Prevention Committee is to research and recommend programs and policies for Orange County government to implement in order to reduce the incidence of gun violence and violent crime in Orange County.

Focus: Data demonstrates that certain demographic groups in Orange County are more affected by violence than others. Therefore, the focus of the Prevention Committee's recommendations will be on at-risk (hereinafter referred to as at-promise) youth primarily between the ages of 13 and 25 residing in the following zip codes where the incidence of violent crime is highest (hereinafter referred to as the "target zip codes:" 32703, 32801, 32805, 32808, 32810, 32811, 32818, 32822 and 32839).

Major Themes:

- Addressing Poverty and Family Economic Insecurity
- Ensuring Access to Effective Youth and Parenting Programs
- Reforming the Criminal Justice System
- Reducing Access to Guns
- Increasing Community Awareness of Issues/Programs
- Improving Overall Neighborhood Conditions

Recommendation #1: Use a racial equity lens and trauma-informed approach to implement all Task Force recommendations.

Recommendation #2: Expand/enhance access to effective youth, and parenting, mental and behavioral health programs in the target zip codes.

Recommendation #3: Transform the criminal justice system to reduce disproportionate arrests and incarceration of Black youth.

Recommendation #4: Support economic development, reduce poverty and address family economic insecurity in the target zip codes.

Recommendation #5: Reduce access to illegal firearms.

Recommendation #6: Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to improve neighborhood livability in the target zip codes.

Recommendation #7: Communicate key issues and programs to the community.

Prevention Subcommittee Recommendations 2023

The Prevention Subcommittee members met over the course of three months and made modifications and additions to the recommendations listed below. The changes to the recommendations and short and long-term actions are indicated in bold.

Members: Lisa Early (Chair) | Laddie Calloway | Lisa Coffey | Linda Coffin | Eric Debose | Sandra Fatmi-Hall | Adam Hartnett | Father Jose Rodriguez | Reverend Dr. Gabriel Salguero

Proposed Recommendation #2: Expand/Enhance Access to Effective Youth, and Parenting, Mental and Behavioral Health Programs

Proposed Short-Term Actions:

Allocate funding to programs operated by "Credible Messengers" in the target zip codes. "Credible Messengers" are defined herein as organizations, including small scale, and individuals who have longstanding trusted relationships with at-risk youth in the target zip codes and a legacy of effectively encouraging and supporting youth on the path to successful adulthood. **After one year of implementation, the County should review the impact of the program and determine if additional funding is needed to achieve program goals.**

B. Allocate **substantial** funding, **based upon budget recommendations of experts in the field**, to implement research-based models in the target zip codes, proven to prevent violent crime, including the following list of practices:

- **Partner with municipalities within Orange County to implement evidence-based Community Violence Intervention (CVI) models into targeted County neighborhoods experiencing high incidences of gun violence. Ensure that the CVI model identifies the most lethal individuals at the center of gun violence and provides them with long-term wrap-around mentoring and supportive relationships, and wrap around services, including housing, employment, mental health counseling and legal assistance** until the individuals have fully pivoted away from a life of violence and are firmly set in a productive, positive, crime-free lifestyle.

C. Implement models that identify small, defined geographic areas and invest in cradle-to-career programs covering all aspects of child well-being in the zone (including academic achievement, health/wellness, youth employment and family economic stabilization) for children and youth who reside there, implemented by individuals and organizations in the neighborhood with the goal of connecting a critical mass of neighborhood youth to those programs. **Neighborhoods to be prioritized should be located in the 32703, 32801, 32805, 32810, 32811, 32818, 32822, and 32839 zip codes.**

Proposed Recommendation #5: Create and Implement a Blueprint for Local Gun Safety (Recommended Action: Refer to the Orange County Attorney's Office for further review)

Proposed Short-Term Actions:

- A. Utilize the Public Information Officer to disseminate information outlining the ways that HB 543 – commonly referred to as “Permitless Carry” or “Constitutional Carry” will affect our community, the public’s access to guns, and the expected increases in gun violence.**
- B. Maintain a comprehensive review of State and Federal laws governing the sale, purchase, ownership, and carry of guns. Determine the extent of state and federal preemptions, so as to identify what is within the jurisdiction of local governments that can improve safety and education related to gun violence to implement policy, ordinance and code changes when legally feasible. For example, mandate that all locations selling guns including gun show expos, have overnight security guards/off-duty officers to prevent break-ins and theft.**

Proposed Long-Term Actions:

- A. Create and implement Blueprint for Local Municipal involvement in increasing Gun Safety education and collaborating with local and statewide Gun Safety advocates to organize advocacy for evidence-based Gun Safety legislation at the State and Federal Level.**
- B. Create an intersectional coalition to advise the Orange County Mayor and Commission, the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, and the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida, and provide ongoing partnership in the following gun safety goals – (Recommended Action: Refer to the Orange County Public Safety Coordinating Council for review and consideration).**
 - a. Identify a non-partisan partner organization who can lead these efforts (possibly the League of Women Voters).**
 - b. Include representation from gun violence prevention organizations (like Giffords Law Center to prevent gun violence, March for Our Lives, Prevent Gun Violence Florida), healthcare and trauma response organizations, education, faith, tourism, LGBTQIA+ organizations, youth representation, state, and federally elected officials.**
 - c. Expand gun safety education across all ages and spaces in Orange County.**
 - d. Expand education around “Common Sense Gun Safety Legislation” – legislative changes that are proven to reduce gun violence.**
 - Repeal Stand Your Ground**
 - Prohibit sales via the Internet**
 - Prevent child access**
 - Mental health check for all who wish to purchase guns**
 - Recording of lost/stolen firearms**
 - Waiting periods**

- **Strongly oversee gun sellers**
- **Comprehensive background checks including private transfers**
- **Eliminate “shall issue” to replace with “may issue”**
- **Stronger penalties to those who manufacture, sell and train people to use guns**

Recommendation #7: Communicate Key Issues and Programs to the Community

Proposed Long-Term Actions:

- A. Develop and disseminate a social media robust communication campaign aimed at strengthening anti-violence – especially among youth in the target zip codes - by using social media, print-based materials, web content, broadcast media (television and radio), telephone, and face-to-face interaction with individuals and large-group forums such as public meetings. Develop and execute a robust communication strategy that would disseminate more information to the community, school district, and stakeholders regarding Orange County funded programs and services. This strategy would include working with the local media and the development of an information clearinghouse to include but not be limited to event calendars, activities, resources, etc. that could be shared with the community.**
- B. Disseminate more information to the community, school district, and stakeholders regarding Orange County funded programs and services. This strategy would include working with the local media and the development of an information clearinghouse to include but not be limited to event calendars, activities, resources, etc. that could be shared with the community.**
- C. Utilize different modalities and platforms to get information directly to youth and families. This would include pushing information out on various social media outlets. Orange County could push information to the social media sites they utilize. This information could then be shared to other platforms by the agencies, non-profits, and youth to further the messaging. Additionally, having youth assist in the development of social media campaigns will allow them to have a voice and empower them in making the change in the community.**



Intervention Subcommittee

Promote interagency cooperation and coordination among service providers in Orange County to assist with reducing gun violence and violent crimes pertaining to youth

Intervention Subcommittee Recommendations 2021

Focus: To promote interagency cooperation and coordination among service providers in Orange County to reduce gun violence and violent crimes pertaining to youth. The Intervention Subcommittee recommends that prevention programs are placed in communities where the data indicates these services should be. There should be several different service providers to include grassroots organizations familiar with the community. The service delivery suggested should include the use of Credible Messengers, trauma-informed care approach, family engagement, religious associations, mentors and community involvement.

Goal: Identify program models that will redirect the unlawful activities of youthful offenders that present a significant risk to our community. In order for the programs to be successful, a minimum of five benchmarks must be set to include: reduce gun violence and violent crimes, reduce recidivism, maintain family stability, increase youth gaining employment and improve youth graduation rates from high school or the equivalent. For these goals to be achievable, it is important to include many service components in the programs. These include increasing after-school activities, increasing places for positive social interactions, including the stakeholders in the execution of service, and using successful models of existing, previous and new programs.

Major Themes:

- A comprehensive community approach shows that one program alone cannot do the work. It is essential that all relevant stakeholders are included in service delivery. A collaborative, problem-solving approach must be taken. By doing this, we need to reduce risks and increase resilience in individuals, communities and families. Having a trauma-centered connection to services is critical. This way, we can create and address safety plans and measures.
- A system change is needed for these recommendations to be effective. The change includes more than one service provider. Several strategies and approaches must be used for the goals to be achieved. Community models involve a collaborative problem-solving way to safeguard the community instead of arrest. These services should provide a holistic approach to service delivery.
- Training and continuing education are important. This is usually the first thing to be eliminated from any budget. Train the school system, the program providers and the faith leaders consistently on ACEs, trauma-informed care, anger management, at-risk behaviors, preventive methods and life skills.
- Collaborate with social service programs that concentrate on mental health/ counseling.
- Credible messengers are used in several capacities. These individuals understand and can empathize with the youth and their families. Setting a culture that gun violence and violent crimes are prohibited is key. Credible messengers will perform in the manner of a mentor or family coach. This role can have a major influence on crime reduction.
- Door-to-door service delivery is important because many of these families do not have access to services. The implementation of individual interventions focused on youth education and employment will help build healthy, strong families. A preventative infrastructure working directly with the communities impacted the hardest will provide a

service array that can promote healthy living. These services should be specific to each community and include mental health and substance use services, life skills services and non-traditional arts.

- Assessing the system and creating options for change to include a Neighborhood Accountability Board, more diversion programs and more chances at receiving a civil citation.
- Increase the community's knowledge of available services by creating a social media platform and using billboards.
- Adjust zoning limits for liquor stores to reduce the number of stores in a specific area.
- Assist families with finding stable housing to reduce homelessness by working closely with the school system to assist with current homeless student populations.
- Increase awareness of efforts to prevent gun violence by having community roundtables with stakeholders. These discussions need to take place in the community where the criminal act has taken place.

Recommendation #1: Develop a detailed plan that addresses generations of neglect and poverty by formulating a 10-year vision with a systemic focus that reviews the structural changes that provide a healthy community where everyone thrives.

Recommendation #2: Increase the use of grassroots organizations in the community and allocate funding.

Recommendation #3: Develop a Neighborhood Accountability Board and increase the use of diversion services.

Recommendation #4: Define, develop and fund a credible messenger's program.

Recommendation #5: Coordinate with mental health providers to increase the number of providers in the areas identified and require the agencies to increase their hours of operation.

Recommendation #6: Provide safe and reliable areas for youth to congregate.

Recommendation #7: Create a realistic channel for communication with the community and youth.

The Intervention Subcommittee members met over the course of three months and made modifications and additions to the recommendations listed below. The changes to the recommendations and short-term actions are indicated in bold.

Intervention Subcommittee Recommendations 2023

Members: Candice W. Jones, MD (Chair) | Charles Brown | Chloe Johnson Brunson | Catherine Jones | Pastor Sabrina Jones | Subhash Kateel | Miles Mulrain

Proposed Recommendation #1: Develop a detailed plan that addresses generations of neglect and poverty by formulating a **3-year** vision with a systemic focus that reviews the structural changes that provide a healthy community where everyone thrives.

Proposed Short-term Action:

B. Enhance the family support system to include prenatal care, childcare, and early childhood education.

Recommendation #4: Define, develop, and fund a credible messenger's program.

Proposed Short-term Action:

D. Utilize a program that will respond during a violent crisis to assist the individual and community affected by providing ongoing support services to individuals impacted by violent crime.

Recommendation #5: Coordinate with mental health providers to increase the number of providers in the areas identified and require the agencies to increase their hours of operation.

Proposed Short-term Action:

A. Teach and educate families, youth, and young adults on life skills programs to include peace and conflict resolution skills.

Recommendation #7: Create a realistic channel for communication with the community and youth.

Proposed Long-Term Actions:

C. Utilize billboards for enhanced communication.

D. Work with the youth to create and implement a social media communication channel for peers.



Enforcement Subcommittee

Review data & evidence-based enforcement strategies to reduce gun violence

Enforcement Recommendations 2021

The Enforcement Subcommittee efforts focused on identifying enforcement strategies consisting of best practices to reduce violence and gun violence in Orange County. The subcommittee elicited data and statistics from various sources, reviewed articles encompassing evidence-based practices and listened to several subject matter experts who provided substantive information to assist in making recommendations.

Focus: Data Review & Evidence-Based Enforcement Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence

Themes:

- Collaborative Criminal Justice System Focus (Law Enforcement, Corrections, Courts and Prosecution)
- Targeting Enforcement Efforts
 - Those likely to illegally possess guns and/or engage in gun violence (gangs and drugs)
 - Small group of repeat offenders contributing to most crime
- Legislative Advocacy
- Community Engagement

Recommendation #1: Establish and maintain quarterly scheduled community public safety forums between law enforcement and community stakeholders over the next 12 months to review relevant data, solicit community input, and discuss and develop strategies to reduce gun/violent crimes.

Recommendation #2: Increase the community and law enforcement use of evidence-based practices and non-traditional approaches of community policing and engagement to further build public trust in communities historically distrustful of law enforcement and disproportionately impacted by gun/violent crimes.

Recommendation #3: Implement public safety workshops with law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders through an independent third-party facilitator.

Recommendation #4: Increase community awareness of Orange County Sheriff's Office Behavioral Response Unit and Orlando Police Department's Community Response Teams mental health programs that provide a joint response to calls that involve a mental health crisis.

Enforcement Recommendations 2023

The Enforcement Subcommittee members met over the course of three months and made modifications and additions to the recommendations. The changes to the recommendations and short-term actions are indicated in bold.

Members: Judge Daniel Dawson (Chair) | Barb Bergin | Johnny Brinson | Chief Mike McKinley
Sheriff John Mina | Nancy Oesch | Chief Eric Smith

Proposed Recommendation #1: Establish and maintain a Community Ambassador (CA) Program that will be tasked with connecting community organizations, community leaders, and community members as well as attend community events on behalf of the county providing details on key resources, activities, and events to assist in initiatives that directly or indirectly impact crime in the community.

Proposed Short-term Actions:

- A. Establish contacts with law enforcement and community partners to maintain awareness of ongoing community events.**
- B. Continue to foster relationships and provide assistance as needed to connect them with County resources.**
- C. Attend community meetings to assist in informing on county programs and services.**
- D. Maintain data related to meetings, follow up, and track outcomes where applicable.**

Proposed Recommendation #2: Use County media platforms to partner and assist law enforcement agencies in publicizing and increasing awareness of their agencies use of evidence-based practices and non-traditional approaches of community policing and engagement initiatives designed to further build public trust in communities historically distrustful of law enforcement and disproportionately impacted by gun/violent crimes.

Proposed Short-term Action:

- A. Community Ambassador will maintain law enforcement contacts and assist with acquiring information to share on county's media platforms.**

Recommendation #3: Implement public safety workshops with law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders through an independent third-party facilitator. – Delete

Proposed Recommendation #4: Assist Orange County Sheriff's Office Behavioral Response Unit and Orlando Police Department's Community Response Teams, which provide a joint response to calls that involve people in a mental health crisis, to increase awareness of their programs and services by using available county media platforms while also providing statistical updates on program activities.

Proposed Short-term Actions:

- A. Community Ambassador (CA) will maintain law enforcement contacts and assist with acquiring information to share on county's media platforms.**
- B. CA will also maintain awareness of Orange County Government mental health initiatives and assist in communicating these initiatives via different venues and platforms.**



Prosecution Subcommittee

Enhance prosecution of gun violence and violent crimes

Prosecution Subcommittee Recommendations 2021

The goal of Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force is to identify solutions and strategies to prevent and reduce gun violence and violent crime in the community. With this charge, the Prosecution Subcommittee focused its efforts on reviewing current prosecution practices, policies and procedures with the goal of ensuring current legislation, policies and procedures are followed, and developing recommendations that provide enhancements aimed at addressing gun violence and violent crimes.

Goal: Enhance Prosecution of Gun Violence and Violent Crimes

Themes:

- State Attorney's Office – Geographic Stewardship
- Pretrial Diversion Programs for Youth
- Common Sense Gun Legislation
- Risk Protection Orders
- Pretrial Release
- Bond/Bail Considerations

Recommendation #1: Implement Geographic Stewards Programs in the community.

Recommendation #2: Implement Civil Citation Diversion programs.

Prosecution Subcommittee Recommendations 2023

The Prosecution Subcommittee members met over the course of three months and made modifications and additions to the recommendations. The changes to the recommendations and short-term actions are indicated in bold.

Members: Dr. Jonathan Cox (Chair) | Arnie Amoros | Barbara Lanning | Ricky Ly | Marquis McKenzie | Tuan Payton | Bill Vose | State Attorney Monique Worrell

Recommendation #1: Implement Geographic Stewards Program in the Community

Implement a community prosecution model by which prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office and U.S. Attorney's Office will partner with the community and law enforcement to focus on identifying key offenders and working with them to interrupt the cycle of violence, reducing the incidents of crime and improving the quality of life for residents.

Proposed Short-Term Action:

Lack of funding and limited staffing has inhibited the progression of this recommendation.

Recommendation #2: Implement Civil Citation Diversion Programs

Proposed Short-term Actions: Recommended Enhancements

** Due to the recent announcement by the State Attorney's Office on August 10, 2023, the newly appointed State Attorney has suspended all diversion programs except for pretrial diversion through state or county probation.*

- A. Recommend law enforcement agencies to make the issuance of civil citations mandatory for eligible offenses and establish processes requiring officers to obtain approval for not using a civil citation in a given instance.**
- B. Recommend law enforcement agencies publish statistics showing the number of citations issued.**
- C. Recommend the SAO or law enforcement agencies publish statistics showing the number of instances in which citations could have been issued.**
- D. Recommend the SAO develop PSAs for the general public to be informed about civil citations so that they may be able to request that option, as well as inform the public that this program is not intended to represent a "soft" approach on crime; rather, that it allows law enforcement to focus on more significant crimes.**
- E. Recommend law enforcement introduce the program to new recruits during their onboard training.**

Proposed Recommendation #3: Identify a Legislative Advocate who will make recommendations for legislation that will create protections for witnesses and neighboring persons to facilitate their willingness to share information.

- A specific recommendation to this end is to increase restrictive parameters around sharing of information regarding witnesses.

Proposed Recommendation #4: State Attorney's Office to issue a statement of affirmation and commitment to prosecuting gun violence cases to the fullest extent possible.

Proposed Recommendation #5: Increase street cameras universally and not just in target areas.

Proposed Recommendation #6: Questions to be added to future Community Crime Surveys:

- 1. If you have perpetrated a crime of gun violence, what would have prevented you from committing that crime?**
- 2. Have you had communication with prosecuting authorities in the past year? If so, were you a victim or a witness?**
- 3. Do you know how the prosecution system works? (Or a similar question to assess familiarity with prosecution processes).**

Summary of Recommendations

Prevention Subcommittee

- Expand/Enhance Access to Effective Youth, Mental and Behavioral Health Programs
- Create and Implement a Blueprint for Local Gun Safety
- Communicate Key Issues and Programs to the Community

Intervention Subcommittee

- Develop a detailed plan that addresses generations of neglect and poverty by formulating a 3-year vision with a systematic focus that reviews the structural changes that provide a healthy community where everyone thrives.
- Define, develop, and fund a credible messenger's program.
- Coordinate with mental health providers to increase the number of providers in the areas identified and require the agencies to increase their hours of operation.
- Create a realistic channel for communication with the community and youth.

Enforcement Subcommittee

- Establish and maintain a Community Ambassador (CA) Program that will be tasked with connecting community organizations, community leaders, and community members as well as attend community events on behalf of the County, providing details on key resources, activities, and events to assist in initiatives that directly or indirectly impact crime in the community.
- Use County media platforms to partner and assist law enforcement agencies in publicizing and increasing awareness of their agencies use of evidence-based practices and non-traditional approaches of community policing and engagement initiatives designed to further build public trust in communities historically distrustful of law enforcement and disproportionately impacted by gun/violent crimes.
- Assist Orange County Sheriff's Office Behavioral Response Unit and Orlando Police Department's Community Response Teams, which provide a joint response to calls that involve people in mental health crisis, to increase awareness of their programs and services by using available county media platforms while also providing statistical updates on program activities.

Prosecution Subcommittee

- Implement Geographic Stewards Program in the Community
- Implement Civil Citation Diversion Programs
- Identify a Legislative Advocate who will make recommendations for legislation that will create protections for witnesses and neighboring persons to facilitate their willingness to share information.
- State Attorney's Office to issue a statement of affirmation and commitment to prosecuting gun violence cases to the fullest extent possible.
- Increase street cameras universally and not just in target areas.
- Recommend questions be added to future Community Crime Surveys.

Appendix: Presentations

Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force

- Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force Progress Update presented by Carol Burkett, Deputy Chief of Staff, Orange County Mayor's Office, Angela Chestang, Manager, Citizens Commission for Children, Dr. Tracy Salem, Deputy Director, Community & Family Services Department, Deputy Chief Anthony Watts, Corrections Department and Juanita Beason, Manager, Inmate Administrative Services, Corrections Department
- Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida Save Our Students Program presented by Bishop Kelvin Cobaris, Cobaris International Ministries, Mack Reid, Chief Operations Officer, and Ericka Dickerson, Vice President of Club Operations
- Redeeming Light, Incorporated Alternative to Suspension Program presented by Beverly Brown, Executive Director
- Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men Fatherhood Initiative presented by Larry K. Williams, Executive Director
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Florida Youth Mentoring Programs presented by Glen Marie Hamilton and Donette Taylor Director of Programs
- Boys 2 Men Mentoring Program Youth Mentoring Programs presented by Pastor Daniel Ings, President
- Mt. Zion Tabernacle Christian Church Youth Mentoring and Tutoring Program presented by Pastor Stanley Murray, Director
- 2023 Community Crime Survey Results presented by Carol Burkett, Deputy Chief of Staff, Orange County Mayor's Office
- Stop the Violence and Embrace, Incorporated presented by Eddie Willis, Director of Programs

Prevention Subcommittee

- Prevent Gun Violence Florida presented by Patti Brigham, President of Prevent Gun Violence Florida
- Orange County Public Information Officer presented by Anthony Moore, PIO, Orange County Community and Family Services Department
- City of Orlando, Youth & Family Services Division presented by Abraham Morris, Division Manager
- Florida Rights Restoration Coalition presented by Raysean Brown, Program Manager (via Webex)
- Live Free presented by Dr. Antonio Cediell, Director, National Live Free Campaign

Intervention Subcommittee

- Orange County Public Schools presented by Lisa Coffey, Director of Social Services, Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force Member
- Let Your Voice Be Heard presented by Miles Mulrain, Executive Director, Let Your Voice Be Heard, Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force Member
- Bridges International presented by Kenuated L. Clarke, Chief Programs Officer and Dr. John Lott, Bridges International
- Credible Messengers Program presented by Ruben Saldana, Orange County Credible Messenger Movement Program
- UCSF Trauma Recovery Network presented by Stacey Wiggall, Director of TRC Technical Assistance Program and Aswad Thomas, National Director of Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
- Orange County Sheriff's Office Programs presented by Captain Antonio Wright, Orange County Sheriff's Office
- K-Ready Community presented by Leslie Hartog, Chief Strategy Officer, K-Ready Community
- Eight Waves Corporation Programs presented by Sara Meyers, Executive Director, Eight Waves Corporation

Enforcement Subcommittee

- City of Gainesville Crime Initiatives presented by Tony Jones, Former Gainesville Chief of Police, Current Gainesville Special Advisor for Juvenile Justice and Community Support Programs
- Intelligence Led Policing & Crime Control presented by David Carter, Ph.D. Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice
- Orange County Community Ambassador Program presented by Patricia Rumph, Orange County Community Ambassador

Prosecution Subcommittee

- Blueprint to Ending Gun Violence presented by Arnie Amoros, Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force, Orange County Representative, District 4
- Orange County Corrections Reentry Programs presented by Anthony Watts, Deputy Chief, Administrative Services, and Amy Hunziker, Manager, Community Corrections Division

Special Thanks to Orange County Staff:

Carol Burkett – Task Force Liaison

Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Jerry L. Demings

Angela Chestang – Prevention Subcommittee Staff Lead

Manager, Orange County Citizens Commission for Children

Dr. Tracy Salem – Intervention Subcommittee Staff Lead

Deputy Director, Orange County Community & Family Services Department

Deputy Chief Anthony Watts – Enforcement Subcommittee Staff Lead

Orange County Corrections Department

Juanita Beason – Prosecution Subcommittee Staff Lead

Manager, Inmate Administrative Services, Orange County Corrections Department

Roberta Alfonso – Prosecution Subcommittee Staff Liaison

Assistant County Attorney, Orange County Attorney's Office

Orange TV

Orange County Communications Division

Orange County Information Systems and Services Division

