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Former Members of The Task Force on 21st Century Policing Release A Renewed Call to Action

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The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, was first convened by President Obama in 2014 and ended in May 2015. Following the beating death of Tyre Nichols by police in Memphis, in January, 2023, Co-Chairs Laurie Robinson and Charles Ramsey invited members of the original Task Force to reconvene to address the issues of police accountability, the culture of policing, and community safety that continue to challenge efforts to reform our criminal justice system.

Some members of the former Task Force prepared a [Renewed Call to Action](#) with eight recommendations and action steps that focus on accountability, transparency, culture, the development of national standards, and the important role of local government in developing a whole of government and whole of community approach to transformational policing.

Recommendations

1. Establish a holistic role and mission of policing to help define community safety.
2. Align policing leadership, organizational structure, incentives, and strategies to the redefined mission.
3. Rebuild the culture of policing organizations.
4. Establish national policing standards; train to those standards; and provide supervision to ensure their application.
5. Address gaps in accountability systems that protect due process of officers while ensuring transparency and accountability for misconduct.
6. Invest locally and organize communities to address unjust systems that contribute to poverty and racism.
7. Address underlying drivers of crime.
8. The federal government should collaborate and support community-based organizations and local and state government in helping to create safe communities as outlined in this call to action.

The recommendations have a series of action steps that when implemented, could better define community expectations and create accountability with police. Charles Ramsey called the recommendations and action steps “a blueprint for transformation that will change the way we protect our communities against violent crime and provide our communities the tools to restore trust.”

The reconvened Task Force stressed that poverty and race continue to complicate the relationship between police and community. Laurie Robinson emphasized, “All communities, including those communities that are often over-policed, experience crime rates that undermine their trust in police. We cannot continue this cycle of fear that undermines our trust in law enforcement. We must be better to do better.”

Sean Smoot, managing partner of 21 CP Solutions and member of the Task Force said: “Since the release of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, there have been more than 133 task forces, working groups, and councils seeking to reform policing. It is time we call for a transformation that changes the way we do business and the way we work with communities. This is about changing the culture of law enforcement and we need strong leadership.”

The [Renewed Call to Action](#) and the work of the reconvened task force were funded by a grant from the Joyce Foundation to 21CP Solutions. 21CP Solutions comprises members of the original Task Force on 21st Century Policing and other experts in community safety, civil rights, and law enforcement.

For a copy of the full Call to Action click on the following link: <https://www.21cpsolutions.com/21st-century-policing>

Members of the Reconvened Task Force on 21st Century Policing

Laurie Robinson, co-chair, is the Clarence J. Robinson Professor Emeritus of Criminology, Law & Society at George Mason University. She formerly served as an Assistant Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice in both the Clinton and Obama Administrations. President Obama appointed Robinson as co-chair of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Charles Ramsey, co-chair, retired as Police Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department in January, 2015. Ramsey is the former Chief of Police for Washington, D.C. In December 2014, following several high-profile incidents involving police use of force, President Barack Obama chose Ramsey to serve as co-chair of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. He is a founding partner at 21CP Solutions, LLC

Sean Smoot is the Managing Partner of 21CP Solutions and a subject matter expert on policing and public safety. He is principal advisor to the International AFL-CIO on policing and public safety. He is also the Director of the Police Benevolent & Protective Association and the Police Benevolent Labor Committee in Illinois. Mr. Smoot serves on teams monitoring federal consent decrees, including the police departments in Baltimore and Cleveland. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

Cedric Alexander is currently the Commissioner of Public Safety for the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is a law enforcement expert with 40-years of experience in public safety and is currently an MSNBC analyst. Alexander is the past president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Tracey Meares is the Walton Hale Hamilton Professor and a Founding Director of the Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School. Before joining Yale, she was a professor at the University of Chicago Law School from



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1995 to 2007. She was the first African American woman granted tenure at both law schools. In 2019, Meares was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Sue Rahr served for more than three decades with the King County Sheriff's Office in Seattle, Washington. She was elected to two terms as sheriff; then served nearly a decade as the Director of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. She was a member of the Harvard Executive Session on Policing, where she co-authored the culture challenging paper "From Warriors to Guardians - Recommitting American Policing to Democratic Ideals."

Constance L. Rice is a Civil rights attorney and former Western Regional Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. Author and advisor to Chiefs William Bratton and Charles Beck on community collaboration with law enforcement.

Roberto Villaseñor (ret.) served with the Tucson (Arizona) Police Department for more than 35 years and served from May 2009 until his retirement in December 2015 as the Chief of Police. Upon his retirement, Chief Villaseñor became a founding partner of 21CP Solutions, LLC. He currently provides subject matter expertise and consulting services to communities throughout the country.

Facilitator: James E. Copple was the facilitator of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, the Council on Criminal Justice Task Force on Federal Priorities; and co-facilitated the Council on Policing Reforms and Race for the National Policing Institute. He is founding principal of Strategic Applications International (SAI), Director of ACT NOW, and a Senior Advisor to 21 CP Solutions.