



News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar Selected as Member of Newly Formed Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ) Task Force on Policing

LaGrange, Ga. November 23, 2020 – LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar has been selected to serve on the independent Task Force on Policing, a national panel launched to identify the policies and practices most likely to reduce violent encounters between officers and citizens and improve the fairness and effectiveness of American law enforcement. The Task Force was convened by the [Council on Criminal Justice](#) (CCJ), a national invitational membership organization and think tank.



LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar

"The challenges of 2020, have brought an important message to the police profession, Americans want policing to change. I consider it a privilege and honor to be named to the CJC's Task Force on Policing and I'm proud to help provide meaningful change," said LPD Chief Dekmar. "On this task force we will work to reduce violence, increase accountability and strengthen trust between police and the communities they serve."

Representing a diverse range of professional backgrounds and perspectives, the Task Force will evaluate more than two dozen of the most commonly proposed reforms focused on limiting police use of excessive force, reducing racial biases, increasing police accountability, and improving the relationship between law enforcement and communities. For each proposed change to policy or practice, the Task Force will publish an assessment that weighs its advantages and disadvantages and the strength of evidence of its effectiveness. The Task Force will consult the best data available and, when the research base for a reform is thin, clearly indicate that the assessment relies in part on members' experiences and judgment.

The Task Force is composed of nationally prominent law enforcement leaders and civil rights advocates, a top researcher, a former big-city mayor, and community activists touched by police violence:

- **Louis M. Dekmar, Chief, LaGrange (GA) Police Department; former President, International Association of Chiefs of Police**
- Art Acevedo, Chief, Houston Police Department; President, Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Roy L. Austin, Jr., Partner, Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP; former White House domestic policy adviser
- Collette Flanagan, Founder, Mothers Against Police Brutality
- Walter Katz, Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; former police oversight official, Los Angeles County and San Jose, CA

- Cynthia Lum, Professor, George Mason University, Department of Criminology, Law and Society; Director, Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy
- Tashante McCoy, Regional Manager and Founder, Crime Survivors for Safety & Justice/The OWL Movement
- DeRay Mckesson, Educator, Author and Co-Founder, Campaign Zero
- Michael Nutter, Former Mayor, City of Philadelphia; former President, U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Sean Smoot, Director and Chief Counsel, Police Benevolent and Protective Association of Illinois
- Rosie Rivera, Sheriff, Salt Lake County, UT



The Task Force will assess a broad array of proposed changes ranging from hiring and training to use-of-force policies, technology, militarization, accountability measures, and oversight. It also will evaluate measures that would shift some current law enforcement responsibilities to social service agencies or community-led safety initiatives.

Nancy La Vigne, former Vice President of Justice Policy at the Urban Institute, is Task Force executive director. The [Crime Lab](#) at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Affairs is serving as research coordinator for the Task Force, evaluating the empirical evidence that will guide the panel's deliberations.

Independent and nonpartisan, CCJ advances understanding of the criminal justice policy choices facing the nation and builds consensus for solutions that enhance safety and justice for all. Through research, policy development and other projects that harness the experience and vision of its leaders and

members, CCJ serves as a catalyst for system improvements based on facts, evidence and fundamental principles of justice.

For more information go to <https://bit.ly/3930xwp>.

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