

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: I just tell members of the task force, we have about seven or eight minutes left for this panel, so we have maybe two or three questions max. Dr. Marans.

Steven Marans: Very briefly. You know one of the things that stands out for me is going back to the invisibility is that, and this is gonna sound maybe really just way too simple. But you all care about these kids. And the comment that they are all our children. They are our sisters, our relations, right? And many, many people in this country don't think that way. And you've been successful and what you've been describing is you've learned a lot along the way about how to bring people around to caring and to making them effective partners. We could spend maybe days and days learning from you, but maybe that's the point. And maybe the point is is that in our recommendations and maybe something we need to consider is if you all think it's viable, which is the question part. Whether or not we actually need to have a more active turning to foundations who have been engaged in the very kind of work that you all are describing as brain trust, as partners in trying to move forward in making kids less invisible and enlisting the kind of support that they need.

William Bell: I would say yes, only in the context that it is about helping those who have the most responsibility and accountability for results. The parents who we say, why haven't you done this for your kids? And the local government leadership who every single day is responsible for the results. And the ones that we look at when things don't go right. And so we have collaborated in exact same ways that Carol spoke about. But I believe, and this is William Bell and Casey Family Programs, if I go off and collaborate with five other foundations and I'm not having a conversation with parents and local leaders, then my collaboration is in vain. Because it's not gonna get results. And so part of it for me is we've got to say to local leadership and local community leaders, we hold you accountable and responsible for what happens with your children. And we want to do everything that is humanly possible to help you be successful. Because I don't care what I write in my annual report, I can't be successful unless those people are being successful. And I think we've got to bring some shifts to bear in the way we think about success in the philanthropic community.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Chief McDonnell. If I could just something, just a thought occurred to me as you talked about the foundations really not wanting credit, just wanting to see success. The other side of that

is do we do enough to say thank you to the foundations who do participate in an effort not only to say thank you truly but to encourage others to jump in and to get involved. And a lot of times, you know people who are watching in the sidelines, if they don't see positive reinforcement for getting involved, they tend not to.

Pamela Shifman: Can I just add something to that? I think we don't – I actually think we get a lot of thank you. Foundations get a lot of thank you. And there's a lot of that. But I think one of the things that we as foundations need to be encouraged to do is, you know foundations are required to put out 5 percent of their endowment a year. Well, you know our problems are not unrolling at 5 percent a year. They're unrolling at 100 percent a year. So I think we as foundations can be encouraged to spend more of our resources on the problems now. Because this is a critical time. And if we get ahead of the problem now it's gonna, you know help us in the long run. It's something that we have been committed to do. We spend everything we get in every year. So and we do try to encourage other foundations to do the same. Because I think it's the problems are here and now, and I think that would be great if there was encouragement for others to do the same.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Ms. Tilton Durfee.

D. Tilton Durfee: I have a quick question for Mr. Bell. You cited a number of children who die every day or every year. And I'm trying to figure out which categories – are those children who die from street victimization, child abuse, suicide, is that the collective? It was –

William Bell: Yeah. This is CDC data for the murders and the suicides and it's HHS data for the deaths due to child abuse. And so the 16 murders a day is boys between the ages of 10 and 24 across America. The 12 suicides is all children under the age of 25 across America. And the four deaths to child abuse and neglect is just an extrapolation from the number of, annual number of children who die from child abuse and neglect.

D. Tilton Durfee: I'm aware of that, but I didn't know the other ones. Thank you very much. It's important to have these numbers clear because they're thrown around a lot and then people start – you start losing credibility. Thank you very much for all you do. For Ms. Shifman, we have only within the last year started really focusing on the commercial sex trafficking of girls. And it's true, most of these girls are taken to court. They are convicted of prostitution

and they are incarcerated or sometimes released on probation or parole and they go back on the street and their pimps pick them up again, etcetera. It's a terrible, terrible vicious cycle. We have established a special court now where all these girls will be brought in, and they are victims. They are not criminals. And we have special unit in the probation department. We have a huge task force of law enforcement, probation, child welfare, FBI, US attorneys, etcetera. You may be aware of what we're doing in LA cause we're traveling around talking about it. But the big hole in all of this is where do they go. And you say here there is a problem with having the kind of services, mental health services and beds. You have Covenant House, but Covenant House can't take them all. We have Covenant House. Can't take them all. And our project Children of the Night won't take them because they don't want to be licensed. They want to be able to take kids on their own terms. So what do you do? Ours are just going back out on the street.

Pamela Shifman:

I think as I said in the testimony that the changing the law to adopt safe harbor so that they're not criminalized is really just half of the solution. So we did that in New York. But we have not fully funded services. And so it really is completely unrealized, the goals of safe harbor legislation. You know I think we have to recognize that we are spending – these girls are costing us money later. We need to invest in them now and provide the services they need so that they can get on with their lives. So that they can get an education, they can get jobs, they get out of the situation. And certainly an organization like **Gems**, in New York City, that is run by survivor of sex trafficking, Rachel Lloyd, which provides comprehensive services for girls and young women who are sexually exploited, is the exact kind of program we need. It's exactly the kind of holistic support services which are turning these girls from victims into survivors into activities. And that's – we need to make those investments. And we need – you know just to say I think our government dollars. We need to unlock the government dollars to be able to support those girls. They're the responsibility of our society.

D. Tilton Durfee:

Right. It doesn't help to rescue them if we don't have any place for them to go is what I'm basically saying. So thank you for your comments. It's another fundraising challenge.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Our final question will be from Dr. Lieberman.

Alicia Lieberman: Thank you. I have a concrete question. And it's addressed to all of you. Thank you very much for your testimony. One of the difficulties that I encounter from nonprofit organizations working with families and children with multiple difficulties is the fact that both the federal government and the state government and the foundations fund for three years or four years for problems that require ongoing specialization, deepening, expansion, long term investment. And they tell me, and I myself know from my experience, that it takes about 30 percent of our time to fundraise.

(Audio Skip)

William Bell: Seeking to influence a reduction in the number of kids in out of home care. And that's what we're gonna do. From this point forward. We've committed to a specific set of outcomes by the year 2020. Unfortunately, that's not what every philanthropic organization does. We're an operating foundation as opposed to a grant maker. Which also makes a difference. But from what I'm hearing on both sides of me, you're also operating in the same context. And so part of it is philanthropy has to be encouraged to change its stripes.

And so one of these questions about how to engage us in advising and helping, you might want to have some conversations not only with CEOs of foundations, and I'm calling my board out and other people's boards in this, but also chairs of boards and some trustees. Because that's where this conversation has to take place. In terms of how are we going to spend this wonderful set of resources that we've been blessed with. And how do we seek to get the most use out of those resources that we spend. I would hope that we spend for the lifecycle of the issue that we choose. But that's not our history. And so part of it is how do we have a conversation about where change needs to occur in order to get at the solutions that this panel is seeking. And I think that that's one of the places where change has to take place.

Carol Goss Let me just add quickly. There are two organizations that are working on this as well. One is Grant Makers for Effective Organizations and the other is the Center for Effective Philanthropy. All are taking a look at the way that the philanthropy is spending its dollars. And you're absolutely right, and we are often in a position where our trustees have said, where are we going with this? How long are we gonna keep funding it? From our perspective, we are committed to six neighborhoods and we were committed for ten years and we will be there for them. It

really doesn't matter. And our trustees have stepped up and said, "Yes." But broadly as a field, it's a question that still needs a lot of work and needs to be addressed. And I think we could have that conversation, both with the nonprofit community and with the public sector, to say, how do we as a whole get to the right outcomes for children and for others.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Just a clarification, Ms. Goss. When people speak of foundations they're normally talking about the big guys who have a lot of money. But there are thousands of small family foundations. Does this conversation include them as well?

Carol Goss: That is actually the majority. Yes, it does. And it must include all the entire sector. Because actually there are many more small family foundations than there are the big guys, as you said, the big independent foundations. And each of those have regular meetings during the year where this could be an issue. The family foundations meet. The community foundations meet. All of them meet and have, you know pretty robust discussions. And this should be a topic that gets addressed.

Alicia Lieberman: Do you mind repeating the names of the two organizations?

Carol Goss: So the Grant Makers for Effective Organizations. That's called GEO, G E O. It's what they go by. And the other is the Center for Effective Philanthropy.

Alicia Lieberman: Thank you.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: I would like to thank our panelists for a very vibrant discussion, and I'd ask if the audience would acknowledge their wonderful contribution.

[Clapping]

Joe Torre: Our next panel, Changing Norms within Families, Communities and Systems. Changing social norms is a significant but achievable challenge. Panelists will discuss the urgent need to focus on changing social norms of and system response to violence and consider how this change can be achieved. Panelists will highlight the importance of collaboration among schools, juvenile courts and other community structures and focus on strategies for creating grassroots response in reducing community violence.

Our panel, Larry Cohen, MSW, founder and executive director of Prevention Institute. Mr. Cohen has been an advocate for public health, social justice and prevention since 1972. He established Prevention Institute in 1997 as a national nonprofit dedicated to improving community health and wellbeing by building momentum for effective primary prevention.

David Esquith, actor – acting director. Sorry you're not an actor. Not yet. Well, we'll see later on. Acting director, Office of Safe and Healthy Students. David has served in the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services for 23 years. Mr. Esquith brings a wealth of program and management experience to Office of Safe and Healthy Students having worked with **formula** and discretionary grant programs in the Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. David has served as a special advisor to the NIDRR, director, as well as NIDRR's deputy director. Dave has worked as a special education teacher and administrator, Peace Corps volunteer, lobbyist for the Association for Retarded Citizens, Congressional aid and recently completed an extended detail at the Office of Management and Budget as a program examiner.

Mary Lee, deputy director, Policy Link. Ms. Lee, coauthor of *Why Place and Race Matter*, is a practicing attorney with more than 20 years of experience working in communities throughout California with special emphasis on issues of housing, land use and community economic development. A former Los Angeles transportation commissioner, Ms. Lee brought experience in advising community groups and advocacy campaigns make her a key liaison in the organization's health, housing, infrastructure and civil rights efforts. And I will add that Ms. Lee has to leave at 3:45. So we will certainly be sensitive to that.

Mr. Cohen.

Larry Cohen:

Hi, everyone. I've heard a lot I think. I'm impressed with everything that you have to process, and I want to say we really need a groundbreaking strategy. I've been working in violence prevention probably at least 30 years. I know I have several colleagues on this panel that I've been working with for a number of years. I think the most important change from when I started working on violence prevention is it's now very clear that we know what to do to prevent violence. I'm actually walking around

saying in pretty much every community meeting I'm in, we can cut violence rates in any city in the United States right now by 50 percent without additional resources simply by reprioritizing and political will.

One of the initiatives we're involved in at Prevention Institute is called Unity. It's CDC's initiative for working with large cities. And one of the first things we did, we've been doing it for about six years now, one of the first thing we did was an assessment, talking with mayors, police chiefs and others. And what we learned from that assessment was that the cities that were most successful in reducing violence were the cities with the greatest level of collaboration. It wasn't the cities with some unique program. It wasn't the cities that had a special community policing or law enforcement initiative. It was the cities where different sectors understood they had a role to play in violence prevention. Where community and government and other sectors worked together. That's where we saw the greatest success. So this is not to say that programs are not of immense important. They are. But programs are always a piece of the solution.

As was said referring to prevention in general by one of the great thinkers in prevention, no epidemic has ever been resolved solely by paying attention to the affected individual. That was Dr. **George Albie**. And we just can't do it unless we focus on the community environment. And furthermore, need to take into account that violence is also an equity issue. And there are certain communities that are more affected. And it's impossible to develop more equity in this country unless we make our neighborhoods and communities safe.

So why do we focus on environments? Why do we focus on norms? A young child in Oakland, where Prevention Institute is based, asked a very simple question. He said, why is it I can walk out on the street and buy guns and drugs but I have to get on a bus to buy my school supplies or to buy a fruit? And that's a very real question. Which is a responsibility not for a young child like him but for adults like us.

So the environment norms, why norms? Because norms are behavior shapers. And as the Institute of Medicine put it, it's unreasonable when you think about this young child in Oakland, it's unreasonable to assume that people can change their behavior easily when so many forces in the social, cultural and physical environment conspire against such changes. It's unreasonable for

us to expect changes easily unless we focus in our strategy, in our report on changes in that community and changes in that environment.

So in work we were doing initially in family violence, we started to look at norms. We identified five norms. Very quickly. Cause I'm only speaking very quickly. They were the notion that violence is the way we solve our problems. That power over is the way to win. The male norms about what make us as men and boys successful. The limited roles for women. And the norm that violence is a private matter. And that's one I think where we can make the most change. And I'm not just talking about the typical story of should I get involved when I'm in a supermarket and I see a parent heavily disciplining their child. I'm saying that we need to understand that violence is a community responsibility and that institutions, whether we're talking about our businesses, our educational institutions, our faith institutions, that big organizations have a responsibility as well to say violence is something we really, really need to engage in.

We were looking at those norms, as I said, focused primarily on family violence. But then I went and I met with groups, national groups, talking about child abuse and they said, those are the same five norms. We work on what we call, cause we don't want to say youth violence cause it's too youth blaming, what I call street violence. We work on street violence. It's the same five norms. And these norms, believe me, are malleable and they are changeable. We can make a difference, and it's simply a way of really figuring out how.

At Unity we developed a roadmap. And the roadmap consisted of nine activities that any city can be engaged in. Cause we know that when there's street violence the mayor is held accountable. And we've started to partner now with many of the large cities in the United States. And the most important –

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Larry Cohen:

- thing is not what we bring but the ways they learn from one another. But we also needed to develop a policy agenda that the cities developed to share with the national government to say, "Wait a minute, there are steps that need to be taken at a national level." In one city, for example, the economic development director at a meeting on violence prevention came up to my staff and said, "Hey, I need to get out of here. And after all, there's no relationship between economic development and violence prevention, is there?" And it's kind of like changing that way of thinking is what's absolutely essential.

So quality prevention means comprehensive. It means focusing on norms. It means aimed at community as much as it's aimed at individuals and families. And I want to end with a story that I was sharing with Georgina that she knows so well about the library in Salinas. Because the library, and we've done a fair amount of work in Salinas and the head librarian came up to me and she said, "Larry, I started thinking of it," and someone earlier mentioned the relationship between literacy and violence prevention. I started thinking about it and I started to shake my head, why is that we discourage young people by insisting on identification in order to give them a library card? Why is it if they're a day or two late we fine them and urge them, perhaps subconsciously, to never come back in the library? So she went around to every school in Salinas and she gave out library cards to every young people. And three weeks later the number of books taken from the library had tripled. I said to her, "Please, can we make this a national priority?" That's strategy. That's a piece. That's collaboration. That's what we need to accomplish here. Thank you.

Joe Torre:

Thank you, Mr. Cohen. Mr. Esquith.

David Esquith:

That was an excellent story. Good afternoon. I'd like to send, first of all, regards from Secretary Duncan to all of you and to thank you for your work and this opportunity. I'm gonna try to keep my remarks brief and focus on two structures that the Department of Education is doing in collaboration, one with the Department of Justice and then something about our own programs that'll give you some flavor for the type of work that we're doing to address this critical issue.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. It won't all be like this. I'll weave in some other stuff. Secretary of

Education Duncan often speaks about a picture drawn by a young grade school student that used to hang on his wall when he was the CEO of Chicago Public Schools. It was a picture of a fireman. And at the bottom the student had written, "If I grow up, I want to be a fireman." Secretary Duncan shares this story because he knows firsthand the toll violence and exposure to violence take on children and how it impacts their ability to delay gratification and plan for a bright future in which education is critical.

Too many of our children start off believing the odds are against them. We cannot succeed in our mission and prepare our children to compete in a global economy if students fear for their lives, are subjected to violence and intimidation, including bullying or are traumatized by witnessing violence.

Want to take this opportunity in my brief time, to discuss a few areas where the department is seeking to address children's exposure to violence. In particular, relating to changing systems. First, we are engaged in interagency effort to prevent youth violence. It is called the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. And I believe a couple of speakers were here this morning to talk to you about it. And it consists of a network of communities and federal agencies that work together, share information and build local capacity to prevent and reduce youth violence. Established at the direction of President Obama in 2010, with the US Departments of Education and Justice initially in the lead, the forum brings together people from diverse professions and perspectives to learn from each other about the crisis of youth and gang violence and children's exposure to violence. We're working to build comprehensive solutions on the local and national level.

The forum has three goals. Elevate youth and gang violence as an issue of national significance. Enhance the capacity of participating localities, as well as others across the country, to more effectively prevent youth and gang violence and thus mitigate youth exposure to violence. And sustain progress in systems change through engagement, alignment and assessment. The forum operates on three principles. Multidisciplinary partnerships are key to tackling this complex issue of youth violence. Police, educators, public health and other service providers, faith and community leaders, parents and kids, must all be at the table. Communities must balance and coordinate their prevention, intervention, enforcement and reentry strategies. And

data and evidence driven strategies must inform efforts to reduce youth violence in our country.

These three principles are critical to directing and leveraging limited resources in order to make a long and standing impact. The city of Detroit is a key partner in this, and if I'm correct, and I know my colleagues from the Department of Justice are here, I believe this program is expanding. There are now six cities involved in it and will expand to four more cities. Which tells you something in this budget climate that we're in, that at the national level you have a program dealing directly with prevention of youth violence that is expanding. And I believe the – I was at a recent summit of the cities, and it is – it's encouraging to say the least. The work that they're doing.

Let me talk briefly about the work that we're doing at the Department of Education. And I'll focus on the administration's proposed new Successful, Safe and Healthy Students Program. It includes the following elements related to youth violence, and you heard I believe Ms. Goss earlier refer to promise neighborhoods. This is part of that.

Providing through a Promised Neighborhoods Initiative a cradle through college and career continuum in high poverty communities that provide effective schools, comprehensive services and family supports. Supporting through a twenty-first century learning concepts program, programs that redesign and expand the school's schedule, provide high quality after school programs and provide comprehensive supports to students. And using data, with funding through a Safe and Supportive Schools Initiative, to improve students' safety, health and wellbeing, and increasing the capacity of states, districts and schools to create safe, healthy and drug free environments.

The administration for 2013 requested 195.9 million dollars for the proposed Successful, Safe and Healthy Students Program. And I'll be happy to talk a little bit further during the question and answer period if anyone has any questions. And I'll turn my time back.

Joe Torre: Than you very much, Mr. Esquith. Ms. Lee.

Mary Lee: Good afternoon. I want to say thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon. I'm so encouraged by the excellent work that all of you are undertaking. I think we haven't really reflected much on all of the work that you're all

involved in individually. And by the fascinating efforts that are underway by the other panelists who spoke earlier today. But I'm also dismayed by how deep the problems are. And violence is a symptom of really what's going on and what's happening in our communities, which are really in crisis. I'm here really to talk about that. To talk about the places where people are living where violence is occurring. But violence is just one of those symptoms.

Our work at Policy Link really underscores how important place is. Not only to someone's health, but to so many other factors in their upbringing and the quality and the length of their lives. So these are neighborhoods that are not just contending with violence but really have to contend with a cumulative impact of a whole array of problems that result in public and private disinvestment so that their schools are suffering from poor outcomes and very difficult challenges, which others will certainly address. And tremendously decaying infrastructure, which often creates and magnifies environmental hazards and threats. And more and more and more, lack of jobs and unemployment rates in communities, low income communities and communities of color that are double those of the national average, even prior to it becoming the crisis that it is now.

As much as place can dictate what our lives will be like, race does too. And this is the legacy of really the history of our nation founded in racially motivated policies that result in isolation and segregated neighborhoods. For people of color, it really means that the communities we live in are really disadvantaged by design. Violence is not the only consequence, and I keep coming back to that. Because these other consequences are deadly too. Health outcomes most notably. People suffering from preventable and curable disease. Diabetes, heart disease, cancers. The kinds of educational deficits that limit wages through the rest of their life. We often say in our work that if you know someone's zip code you can predict their health but you can also predict the length of their life. You can predict how much money they'll make. You can predict how much schooling they'll have.

Hardest hit in this subset, if you will, of communities of color are not just the fact that it's a racially indicated outcome but that boys and men of color are experiencing this even in a more harsh reality than everyone else. And so that has become a particular focus for Policy Link and some of our colleagues.

So I'm not going to go over all of the data that I think you've heard from many, many different aspects. I just want to underscore that

all of the remedies that you're considering, home place visits and particular interventions with individuals, will not be sustained if you cannot change the environments that these young people are leaving in. You heard philanthropy talking about making real progress in changing the way in which it addresses these problems. I'm here to encourage you to look at government's ability to step in and join with those different approaches. We know the research. We know exactly where the problems are incurring.

And my suggestion is there's an opportunity within this challenge to really prioritize those places as the places where we go first and layer in the kinds of strategies that will prove to be successful. We know where the disadvantaged areas are. We also know what those communities need. And so, again, my point is to use what we know and to make those the kinds of things that we work on. If we know communities lack transportation, then that's where we focus our attention on creating jobs for the parents and for the children, young people. Education that taps into the kinds of jobs that can be had in those fields. We focus on the food that these communities need. The point that Larry makes about not being able to find fresh fruit and vegetables but easily being able to find drugs and guns.

So we want – in my written testimony I submitted lots of suggestions for how to create jobs and do local employment and increase local businesses. But I want to just make a couple of more recommendations and I'll close after that. You are all experts and so are the people that spoke with you before. So my encouragement to you is to make sure that you share this expertise not just in your realm but to move out of the silo that you're in and really insist upon building stronger equitable communities. Even in unlikely places.

We work, for example, in a community in the Central Valley in California, **Lenoir**, which has no access to fresh water. Fresh drinking water. Sounds inconceivable in this day and age. But when we are at city council and boards of supervisors and talking about the need to build the infrastructure to have water brought to communities, people don't think about it in terms of a violence prevention strategy, but that's exactly what it is. If people can't find their communities viewed as being decent and healthy places to live, then they act out in a different way. And I think that's why we see this explosion of violence.

My second recommendation is to always include an equity _____. We have to intentionally address race. The demographic shifts in our communities won't let us look the other way. The future of our nation is a nation that is populated by people of color and frankly, in California, we've already reached the time when the majority of children born now are children of color.

Focus on changing environments. And I think you've heard that a little bit before. But also about changing the systems and the policies. You can't have individual behavior change if you don't have an environment that supports that change. And you can't make a healthy choice if you don't have a choice to begin with.

Work long term, which I think people have talked to you about before. You're not gonna quickly fix something that took such a long time to instigate.

And finally, and most importantly, listen to the wisdom, the voice and the experience of the people who are in this circumstance. They're in the best position to design and imagine what they possibilities could be to shape those solutions. Work in partnership with them. Nurture and support their work. And thank you so much for the time you're devoting to this most crucial problem.

Joe Torre: Thank you very much. Questions. General.

Antonio Taguba: Again, thanks very much for your noble work and helping out with our children today. To Mr. **Decker**. Did I say that correctly? For you, sir. You mentioned the National Forum of Youth Prevention, which, of course, was launched in 2010. Right?

David Esquith: I'm sorry.

Antonio Taguba: It was launched in 2010, right?

David Esquith: Yes.

Antonio Taguba: And you just had your summit I think on the second of April. The reason why I mention that is I was vaguely unfamiliar with that forum until I watched it on TV on the second of April of this year. And I heard what Secretary Ernie Duncan said, and of course, downloaded the Attorney General's remarks. Which I think I'm making a distribution on that. Suffice to say that this is an interdisciplinary federal interagency work that includes our

community today that's now being expanded to ten cities. With Boston, Detroit, I think Salinas, cause Georgina's part of that effort. And then getting 195 million dollars from DOE and HHS is also getting that. But there's nobody in charge. You know. Who should be in charge of that interagency work today? From the national perspective.

David Esquith:

Well, from my perspective, the Department of Justice is in charge. They do an excellent job of staffing the summit, of getting representatives to the cities. They work very closely with our department. I have a staff person who's assigned to each of the cities. When the cities hold the summit, they go out there to work with them. We work to recruit people to come to the summit. So from my perspective, the Department of Justice is very much in charge of that initiative and one of the reasons why it's been so successful. I think if you saw Secretary Duncan and Attorney General Holder testify, those are heartfelt beliefs. Those are their core beliefs that are behind all of that. That's my perspective.

Antonio Taguba:

Well, the reason why I say that just to follow up, is we talk about resources, community involvement and the like. So if nobody really puts the harness into this thing, you're gonna have a multiplicity of funding requests you might say for the same objective. You know if you look at 195 million for you, how much do you think Secretary **Sebelius** will be asking from HHS? And the other places, not to involve Boston – I've seen their comprehensive plan. Salinas and the like. So I think it's called harnessing that particular aspect of this national dilemma that we have. Cause we've heard it from all of the testimonials that we have of trying to clear up this lens from three power to ten power so we know what those 25 meter targets are. But this is a voluminous amount of information that's being gathered the last two years. So if I ask the question, who's harnessing and collecting all that data – because redundancy is good. Right? But then we need to prioritize those redundant programs _____ - what works down at the community level. So we can put the trust and confidence of the national agency to try and figure that out. I think it's very important that we address that now.

Mary Lou Leary:

General, if I may-

Joe Torre:

Take a seat Mary Lou.

Mary Lou Leary:

Oh, thank you. I didn't see there was one.

Joe Torre: Join our panel.

Mary Lou Leary: Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm Mary Lou Leary. I'm the acting assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs. And I want to acknowledge, in fact, we're very proud of the fact that the Department of Justice is actually in charge of the National Forum to Prevent Youth Violence. We're delighted that it is a multi-agency collaboration. Education and our other partners have really contributed a lot. It's a much richer approach because of the contributions of the different organizations and different federal agencies. We all know that. That's why we're here at a multidisciplinary panel, multidisciplinary task force.

But it is, as you say, harnessed at the Department of Justice. And, in fact, there's been a lot of involvement from the top, from the Attorney General's office, and then from the Office of the Assistant Attorney General at OJP, the actual program is administered out of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. So we have taken very strong steps to embed this in the DNA of OJP. Carrying this forward into the future is very high on our list of priorities. We don't want this to be something that comes with one administration and disappears with the next. Because we have seen very promising signs of the work. I think its real strength that it is definitely community based. Each one of those cities has its own unique collaboration, the unique composition of players at the table. And solutions that are tailored to their particular communities.

To me that's our job at OJP is to help foster that growth of that kind of approach in communities across the country. So we are definitely in charge and moving it forward. And we very much appreciate our partners.

Antonio Taguba: I just wanted to know if somebody's gonna put that in writing. And I think we can pretty much discuss that in our deliberation later on in putting our task force report. And make a national campaign out of it. Cause we've talked about community involvement, community involvement and our testimonials are saying that, you know we need help from topside. You know we just don't want to have anymore discovery learning _____. Cause I looked at it as discovery learning when I turned on the TV and I said, "What?" You know we have a national forum summit. You know I didn't know about it. And so I had all these discussions that we're having not today. So I think we need to have that. That's part of the collaborative process that I think we've been

hearing today. That we share the vision, we share the mission, we share the commitment and we share the resources.

Mary Lou Leary: Yeah, absolutely. And in cities like Boston and Detroit where you have both Defending Childhood and the Youth Forum it really is a lot of synergy and energy that's generated by that. So your point is very well taken.

Antonio Taguba: Thank you.

Joe Torre: Father Boyle.

Gregory Boyle: You know, I think if we were to ask ourselves what was the sentence that we used the most when we talk among ourselves, I think it would be the sentence, we know what to do. And it's also the sentence we hear the most. We know what our communities need. And I agree with you. And we know what to do and we could cut violence by 50 percent if we just shifted our priorities and –

[End of Audio]

Gregory Boyle:

- had the political will. Well, not so simple. So my challenge to you is the challenge for us, which is it's like an epidemic. You know if you knew what to do with an epidemic you would move quickly to do it. Why? Because people cared. And an epidemic could hit all of us. Here's the dilemma. People don't. People in this room do. And this is the hardest part. You know how do you get folks to move beyond anything? Their preconceptions, their demonizing. There's an idea that's taken root in the world that's at the root of all that's wrong with it. And the idea is this. That there are lives out there that matter less than other lives. This is why – this is not a new idea. That we know what to do as of this morning or for one year we've known what to do. We were talking about this earlier. Name your year. Ninety-eight, maybe it's 20 years. We've put this together. We know what to do. But we can't get the will, and I don't mean from government, I just mean how do create a tipping point where people go, "oh." Because nothing works – for all the stuff we know what to do, cost efficient. That doesn't work. All the things that you know if we invest now we won't have to pay later. That doesn't work. None of these things move. We can't mobilize because there is no will there. And I don't know how to get at it. But I think that's the problem.

Mary Lee:

Can I respond a little bit? It is an extraordinarily intractable problem, but I think the biggest starting point is to talk about it. I think what we have got to do is be focused on changing perceptions. And right now we've kind of allowed the silence to shift and fill up with the sort of zero sum gain mentality. That helping you in some way hurts me. That I can't make sure that your outcome is good because I'm too focused on my own and I tune out on everything else. We've isolated people who are in any of these crises that you can think of. Whether it's education or jobs or whatever it is, including violence. And we say to ourselves, one of the first things you listen to when you hear the news report on where a shooting was, I'm from Los Angeles, Father Boyle, and I know your work very well. So one of the first things we reactively do is, where did it happen? And as long as it's not on our street, whew, I'm okay for another day. I literally mean a street. People aren't even worried anymore about the neighborhood. That's them and it's not us. And we've figured out ways to divide. But we're all us. And I think that is one of the hardest things to be able to counter the constant drumbeat that comes from some voices that happen to have quite a lot of air space, bandwidth, if you will. Someone talked before about putting our resources sometimes into creating some alternative outreach in media and discussion of the positives, the perceptions

that we have now of the other have to shift. Because as so many of these horrific cases have shown us recently, perception is often wrong. It's typically wrong.

So, you know, again, these are not data driven comments. This is perhaps humanistic and that's what I'm focused on.

Gregory Boyle: But how do we do that, Larry?

Larry Cohen: Well, I think we can do something about it. I make that statement, and I told you I make that statement everywhere I go now. Because I think making that statement actually is part of the solution. I think until we say, "Wait a minute. Violence is something that we can do something about," there is a kind of a reserve of, well, it's just the way it is. It's aggression. It's natural. We're not gonna do a lot about it. And we know from work, for example, a group we work with called Berkley Media Studies Group, has looked at press coverage. And there's no question that violence is totally conflated and braided with race. And I think the ways in which violence and race are braided are really problematic.

Violence is also particularly braided with youth. That's why, said I said, I say street violence rather than youth violence. Cause you say youth violence. And there's a picture that comes to mind of youth creating the violence. Not that youth are the part of our community most affected by the violence.

But I do think we're starting to see a bit closer to a tipping point in terms of violence. And that's one of the reasons that some of the rates are dropping is because increasingly we do know what to do and people are doing it. Law enforcement is working in a different way. The kind of collaboration we're seeing, which has been absolutely remarkable in this administration on a number of different issues. But violence prevention being one of them where we have a Justice Department that has provided tremendous leadership is one of the reasons that we're seeing change.

I also want to say, because Prevention Institute was founded to think about a variety of different issues. And the prevention piece in all of them. Because there was no place in this country that really looks at prevention as a discipline. And every prevention issue I've been involved in people have said is impossible. And every issue is impossible until when people look back at it. And I use

it as an example and say, "Well, we accomplished that one." Well, that one was easy.

I was involved, and this is the reason I bring norms change up. I was involved in the country's first multi city no smoking laws. You know what we did was we took a restaurant and we moved 40 percent of the people to the nonsmoking side, 60 percent of the smoking side in every city across the county where I worked. And I asked you if you went into a restaurant and the smokers and the nonsmokers were moved to opposite sides of the room is that gonna solve cancer or heart disease? And obviously the answer is no. The air just blows back and forth. What difference does it make? But norms change builds just like a snowball builds. And now in California, for example, we have less than 50 percent of the smokers than we did when we started that. And that was just a generation ago.

We could say the same thing about car seats or seatbelts or norms change in driving under the influence. We're starting to see the same thing. In terms of food and psychical activity. Violence prevention is harder. That's why it's gonna take all of your work, all of our commitment. But I think we're at a time where if we keep insisting, if we put together strategies, I imagine you know the Surgeon General is also putting out a renewed report shortly on violence prevention. If we keep insisting we could work together, it really matters, and if we make a very, very clear case that violence affects all of us, it doesn't just affect people of color or it doesn't just affect the street across the neighborhood, but it affects all of us and we can fix it in a way that benefits all of us, our economy thrives, our property values are up, we don't have to worry about where we walk or where we drive and we could do something about that, I really think we're at a time where we can make a difference.

Joe Torre: Georgina, and then Dr. Macy.

Larry Cohen: Apologize for being so passionate.

Joe Torre: Go ahead.

David Esquith: I'd just like to add a brief caveat to that. Because I hope that one of the things that you take away from this hearing is that we still need research on how to prevent violence. We don't have all the answers. And that at the violence summit one of the speakers, Brian Samuels, who is the commissioner of the Administration on

Children, Youth and Families, said something that was I thought very provocative. He said if you believe that violence is a learned behavior, then it has a lot of implications for what you do to address it. And so I think that there's a lot of research that needs to be done in terms of why violence occurs and how to address it effectively.

Larry Cohen:

I just want to add to that for the sake of the report in particular that I think we have a very good understanding, for example, that the norms work of the ways that different kinds of violence are interrelated. But we don't have a very good understanding of the interrelated strategies. And the kind of working being done on child abuse versus sexual violence versus sexual exploitation versus family violence versus youth or street violence are very, very different. And I think it's an area where there can be a lot better thinking than there's been to date.

Joe Torre:

Georgina.

Georgina Mendoza:

Thank you. First of all, I want to thank all of you for your testimony and for your passion and the work that you do. Larry, I also want to thank you. I, of course, especially enjoyed the story about Salinas' libraries. Totally objective. And Elizabeth Martinez being our library director, who was actually from Los Angeles before. That was an example of how just giving away library cards to increase literacy and to encourage going to the libraries was really a way of reshaping our community. And the way that we express our values and the encouragement that we give not just through – not to the kids but also to the families through their kids. So I appreciate that example.

I was wondering if you could please share with us other concrete examples of prevention programs that can reshape the community.

Larry Cohen:

Well, you know I totally agree with what David was saying. That there's much more work and much more research to be done. But one of the weaknesses has been that some of the best community work is not the work that's been intensively studied. There's such a small group of efforts that have been intensively studied and get the stars and the others, therefore, don't quite have the value. And I believe very strongly in the wisdom of community and also in the wisdom of practitioners. So I would start there.

But looking at the work with Unity, which in some ways is very similar to the work going on in terms of the national strategy,

we've seen rates of violence drop by more than 40 percent in Minneapolis as a result of strategies of building communities. We've seen similar drops in Chicago and much greater drops in retaliatory violence as a result of the Cease Fire Program in Chicago. We've seen some neighborhoods in Oakland that Oakland is still many things are problematic in terms of what we're facing in Oakland. But we've seen certain neighborhoods that have been focused on where there's been more than a 40 percent drop.

Needless to say, the kinds of specific early childhood programs that were mentioned earlier, first thing this morning I think it was, are very, very successful and are proven and perhaps the best tested initiatives that we see so far. But the other kinds of examples that the ones that are more like the library example, we did some research recently, because we've been heavily involved in the prevention funding related to physical activity and nutrition and chronic disease. The stimulus funded programs and the funding out of health reform. And we felt that it was very difficult to encourage people to go long distances to shop or to be physically active when their neighborhoods weren't safe. And that had never been documented. So we went about and we did a very quick documentation of that. And Robert ___ Johnson recently held a forum at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to talk about research needs there.

But we're seeing a lot of things that were mentioned by other people earlier today. Safe Routes to School Program, that are not just about being safe from traffic crashes but are about being safe with businesses being involved so that young people they have a place they can go for help if they feel it's not safe going to or from schools. A lot of work with parks departments all over the United States where we have safe parks. If our airports are safe, our parks should be safe. Our routes to school should be safe. So it really is, as Mary Lee was saying earlier, multifaceted community based work.

Mary Lee:

Could I add just a couple of examples? One specifically on what Larry just talked about is Little Rock, which has used its obesity work to really layer these services. So they took a community where there was some real issues about obesity among the elementary school population. Wanted to have safe walking. But decided that the children were seeing on their way to walk not just being at risk of tripping over a cracked sidewalk or being bothered by someone engaged in violence, but they were seeing sort of

rundown neighborhoods which were demoralizing to them in a different way. And so they've really infused revitalization in that same little five block path. I thought that was a really creative way to overlap many of these things. The school, the community, the small businesses, residents that are watching the children and really revitalizing the community in the process.

I also want to talk, and I'm sure you've already listened to explanations or descriptions of the Harlem Children Zone, which is a phenomenally **play spaced**. And about that I mean that everybody within that zone is going to benefit. It's long term cradle to college. It involves the families, as well as the young people. And it looks at everything. The employment, the education, the cultural, the social. Because people live in a neighborhood. And they don't just experience one of these things, they experience them all.

And then I want to mention just two really small tiny projects that haven't been studied yet in Los Angeles. One is engaging foster youth themselves, particularly the teens and those aging out of foster care, which they still do in California. It's called Peace for Kids. And it engages these young people, led by a young African American man who's devoted his life to making that transition to foster care into a place where children feel supported. Cause they don't really have a family to go back to. And the children pick or the youth pick the issue that they want to focus on. Because they focus on policy change, not just a program. And the policies they've been looking at have been particularly related to their housing. At 18 years old no longer foster youth, how do they pay rent? How do they even qualify for a unit? And even some of them that are admitted to college and then they don't qualify for the dorm or they don't have anywhere to go in the break. So Peace for Kids is a great one.

And the other is called The Social Justice Learning Institute. Focuses on children a little bit younger, high school age, that were worried about the city of Englewood, which had these same issues of access to healthy food and also parks. And so the young people are engaged in policymaking with their local city council and school board. Got the school to give them some park space. And they're also doing a urban farm there. But their real issue is how they graduate from high school and get into college. And they do through their viewing themselves as community leaders. So I think there are so many of these small examples and even big ones,

like Harlem Children Zone, which has become the model for Promised Neighborhoods.

Joe Torre: Dr. Macy.

Robert Macy: I admit I'm struggling a bit how to frame this. Because I think the day has been profoundly – has had a profound shape, at least certainly in mind. We haven't been able to sidebar too much. But I hope in the task force's mind around how we can start to approach some of the big picture writing. Cause we owe a report. I mean we have all of us in the room, to the Attorney General and to the President and ultimately to our citizens.

I'm usually sitting at that table, so this is really interesting for me to be up here. Because I'm the one that usually, not as well as you, tries to give the Larry speech and the Mary Lee speech. Because there is huge change happening. And as our sovereign nationalist told us in Albuquerque, the vortex is here. So the Native Americans, at least some of them, are believing that there's a vortex and that it's time. With which I'm not sure exactly what that means, but I believe them when they said it. I think I have a sense of what that means.

But I'm usually down there. But I'd like to take my brother, Father Greg Boyle's discussion a little bit further. Cause I normally get pushed as far as I would like to push you now. In **honorum** respect of the work and the emotional _____ at the table.

So you're named a number of programs which I know work. Some of which I'm pretty familiar with. Some of which I'm consulted on. But I'm also a product, if you will, of Boston. And the Boston Miracle, some of you might remember that. Which was an extraordinary success story until it failed. And it failed because it was so successful. And one of the reasons it failed because it was so successful is because we asked the men and women of color from our 15 neighborhoods to bear the brunt of the responsibility for the social change.

And by that I mean I'll give you a very explicit example. Clergy of color. They became, they created the Black Ministerial Alliance and Ten Point Coalition after a coffin was turned over at a funeral. And they did a really wonderful job combining their efforts with the police. Until the point at which everyone, including education and justice in a sense, said – well, actually, _____ police. It

shows the police and the clergy of color were really expected to continue the violence prevention and, most importantly, to sustain the gains that we made. And we didn't think through it very carefully because by the late 90s, the boys and some girls, but mainly the boys that were in jail came back. And there was a new culture around pimping and around gangs. But it created much more firestorm.

We can look at this across the nation. We can look at this in other countries. Where those that are subjugated are looked at to be the saviors of their subjugation. And I think we, as the people who have expertise and education and empowerment, need to do what Dr. Bell said. We need to reach way down at the community level and integrate community consciousness, community communication. But we have to be very careful about putting the responsibility on people who are traumatized. And by this I mean, and race and place I think is a stunning example. I'll just say it. The trans generational enslavement of the black and brown people in this country. When we talk about you want to – we need to talk about it, we've got to talk about this at that level. We will make these programs work for 10, 15 years. But I'm still concerned, as I think Father Boyle is pointing out, what do we do with the fact, and you had a great example, if they're not shot on my street. I know that's a terrible way to think, but thank God my kids are safe. Because we're all basically on the run.

And I really see violence, and it is – and I'm not contradicting you sir, but since the 70s there's been a very, very elegant research on the difference between targeted aggression and generalized aggression. We have a lot of information about how violence occurs and how you can segment different interventions for different types of violence. The issue, I think, which was addressed earlier by **Vince Felitti** and others, is – and this is Macy talking. I believe that violence is the face of trauma. Now I may be making a false dichotomy in a way, but I think we have to look at root causes. And I would argue strenuously that we're not looking enough at the traumatization, as some of you have mentioned, of populations over generations.

So the reason I was hesitant to bring this up is because one, it takes too long to talk about it. But two, we have to talk about it. But I don't to put a doom on the day. Cause I think there's good news here. But we're still not quite at the level that I think Father Boyle was trying to get at. So I'm asking you all as the geniuses you are sitting on that side of the bench, and that includes my new sister

from DOJ, what do we do about this capacity building? How do we help the gains that are becoming known in the current programs we have now stay that way? How do we allow those that are essentially enslaved to become free? And not become further enslaved by our insisting on them saving themselves from the problem that we created.

Mary Lee:

Great question. I'll go first because I may have to leave and not hear Larry's answer. How about that? You know I think you have eloquently stated what is the challenge. And I think that the challenge is, again, not to separate it out as if solving the problem is the problem of the people who are experiencing the problem. I think what's typically happened is that does in cycles, as you've indicated. But the cycle we've been at for a while is that the people who are in the problem have no voice. So the era of the big miracle led to are – I don't know, going back to another strategy where the experts were deciding.

The problem with that is twofold. And one is that it doesn't incorporate those voices and so, therefore, it doesn't necessarily sustain. But we also forget that those in the generation that weren't involved and engaged don't know either. We don't know our own history. We don't know the impact of this trans generational enslavement as you've talked about it. And so, therefore, we don't even know each other's experience. African Americans and Latinos and Native Americans don't even know about each other's horrific experiences and common experiences and common reactions to the same sorts of problems. So I'm a big advocate of just continuing to talk about it and to talk about, as I do sometimes with my own kids, why are you angry? And really dismantle that as opposed to just this – I almost call it a collective community hit to our self-esteem. We have a collective low self-esteem, if you can put it in those terms. And we don't even know what it's like or what causes it. And yet you get on the bus, and I'm giving you my example from Los Angeles of getting on the bus and going from way, way deep in isolated south Los Angeles as a young activist I know does, and takes a bus on one street and goes all the way to the other side of town to go to college and Loyola Marymount. And one that one street she watches the –

[End of Audio]

Mary Lee: - neighborhood transform to being one where there are services and parks and open space and neat businesses. Frankly, the residential neighborhoods in the area are pretty nice, but nobody knows that cause the commercial corridors are so degraded. And she says every day I have to get up and say to myself, "I'm entitled to go to school here with all these other kids because I feel like I'm not worthy every day when I get on that bus." I have to know that her parents who are monolingual Spanish speakers feel that too. They don't have the words for it. And none of them have the history of it.

So I think when we're asking people on the one hand, yes, come to this community meeting and plan for fixing the transportation, addressing the community violence, stopping domestic violence, stopping transmission of AIDS and HIV and, oh, by the way, take the bus, work two jobs, deal with your kids. You know all of this other stuff. And plant a garden in your backyard while you're at it. We're expecting a lot, like you said, and it's unrealistic to do.

So I think what we need is the partnership between all of these like minds and the ability to know a lot more about how we got here and what will work. Cause I do think we know a lot about what will work. And the patience and the, I don't know, just the resilience to take the time to get there. And then the hardest piece of all, we have to repeat the whole cycle and learn it all again.

Joe Torre: Yes, General.

Male 1: That's hard to follow. That's very good.

Joe Torre: I'm sorry. Go ahead, Larry.

Male 1: Do you want to speak first?

Joe Torre: Go right ahead.

Male 1: A couple of thoughts. One, one of the fundamental tenets of Unity is that violence prevention is long term. And it's one of the principles. It actually came out of work in Oakland in Alameda County which developed a set of principles, which I didn't share in my written report but I will send to you. Because I think those principles are very, very strong. And one of them is long term work. And it partly comes out of the Boston Miracle that you know these things don't get better.

Secondly, I think that we've talked a lot about problems and about solving problems. We haven't talked as much about resilience as part of a solution. We haven't talked as much about community resilience. I mean the library was a nice story cause it's kind of a nice piece of hope. But it's not just literacy in a way that prevents violence, cause someone has a new ability. It's also the ability to read, the ability to enjoy, the ability to transport. I'm not sure kind of what the right wording is. I mean I see a place I loved in Richmond, California. It's called the _____ Bay Center for Performing Arts, which is in a struggling neighborhood and is transformative for many people who go there. And this notion of transformation.

I think what I want to emphasis is that trauma is impossible. We've got to deal with trauma. And right now frankly, the number of people we have coming back from wars and whether we're calling it post traumatic stress or whether we're saying there's other traumas, the trauma stuff is insurmountable. At the same time, it's important to not say that the only solution or the only outcome of this trauma will be violence. We know, and I think programs like the Chicago Cease Fire have proved it. We know that the same trauma does not need to lead to horrific violence or to homicide or to serious assault, even though that's what it used to lead to. We know there are other ways it can – and none of it's any good. But we've got to be engaged in reducing the violence. And I would say and preventing the violence through community solutions. And at the same time understand that it's long term and we need to get to the trauma at the same time.

Joe Torre: General Taguba.

Male 3: Thank you, sir. This is for Larry. What I believe there's other contributors to violence so to speak. Enablers you might say. External. They're external. I live in an area called the National Capital Region, which is the central of all that is ground zero, which is Washington, DC. And part of the neighborhood is at just about every day young kids get killed because of guns. And the police chief have mobilized her troops you might say just about into the point where they're complaining about being mobilized seven days out of the work. From your perspective as a community action person you might say, what would you say to the NRA from your perspective about – I'm just kind of curious. Cause we look at it from always the political side, right? But from your perspective as living in a community, what would you say to them?

Male 1: Well, first let me say I'm buying some time. Understanding that a part of our work is with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And as you may know, we have in our contract language which limits our ability to talk about guns in any way related to policy. So first I want to make a more general statement, which I hope some of our thinking might reflect. Which is that Washington, DC must be the model of the best for the country. And that violence prevention is one of the most important things to accomplish in Washington DC.

I, um. I think that it's – there's been a big attempt made to separate guns from violence. Rhetorically. And I think that when you look at how most people are dying that separation is impossible. And I think that we need to find ways to save lives. And that's absolutely essential to all of us.

Joe Torre: We have time for two more questions. Dr. Cooper and then Robert.

Sharon Cooper: This question is for Larry, and thank you very much to everyone who's speaking. We've been talking a lot about what I would consider community or physical violence. I'd like to just ask a question about sexual violence. There is this new concept of the normalization of sexual harm that is promoted to society. Which results in perhaps a mindset that allows sexual harm by offenders and resignation sometimes on the part especially of youth that sexual violence is going to be what's gonna happen to me. That's just how life is gonna be. Can you talk to us a little bit about counter messages to this normalization of sexual harm?

Male 1: I mean just to begin with, you may be implying this, but just to be clear, when I'm thinking about the sexual harm I'm thinking of it both as harm related to sex but also as harm related to just standard gender relationships and dating relationships. And it's not even always heterosexual relationships or it's not always male toward female, though that's much more typical obviously.

There really is in our culture, and I had actually thought I was gonna be showing a PowerPoint today and I had a number of pictures from advertising and from videogames. And there's a very strong emphasis on male roles and female roles. And the – and I've noticed recently, say the last year, and I really since we're in Detroit I'll raise Detroit as one example of it. I've increasingly

noticed auto ads which are really very gender centered and are really anti-women.

I think we need to be very clear that that's related to all types of violence. That it's unacceptable. I think that there are sports figures and sports leaders and there are entertainment leaders. And because of the prominence of sports and entertainment those are two groups that need to play a strong role in anti-gender – in changing gender norms.

We have had a few examples recently. For example, a broadcaster who was taken off the air for a little while for being inappropriately sexist and racist. And I wonder – I don't know, but I wonder how much that got raised by many of us talking about the need to challenge those kinds of sexist norms. I listen to a lot of sports radio. And it's mostly men. And sometimes there's as much talk about women's body parts as there is about sports. I remember listening to one show where a basketball star I know mentioned that if the British opened banned – they were gonna have some ban of scanty costumes or whatever you call it. Scanty uniforms. That why would anyone then ever watch women's tennis. And I felt like it was my job, particularly as a man, cause I thought a woman would kind of get laughed at, it was my job to call him up and say, "You know I'm listening for sports. And if you're not gonna talk about sports, I'm gonna let you and the advertisers know I'm gonna stop listening." And I certainly think focusing on the advertisers as we see it again and again is the cue.

There was a, I believe it was Walmart had a t-shirt with a picture of a young guy pushing a young girl off the side of a cliff and it said, "Problem solved." And in one community here in the Midwest they boycotted the store. They circled and picketed the store. And within two hours that t-shirt was off the shelves. And within six hours it was off the shelves of every store in the United States. And I think we have to act up.

Sharon Cooper: Yes.

Joe Torre: Larry, you've got a strong stomach for listening to sports radio shows. I can tell you that. Robert.

Male 1: It's easier for me than for you.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: I'd like to address this question to Mr. David Esquith. But also to other members of the panel. We've talked today a great deal about

violence, but we haven't focused specifically on schools. And I'd like to ask you if you could recommend to us perhaps three programs that have effectively dealt with the issue of violence in schools.

Male 2:

I'm hesitating only because you know this question of effectiveness is still – it's nuanced. We have a number of promising practices out there. I think one of the most exciting things that's kind of on the horizon is a program, I believe it's called BAM, in Chicago. And it is being studied by researchers at the University of Chicago. And it attempts to address improving social cognitive skills.

So I think rather than specific programs, the types of programs that we see are promising are programs that give students, teachers, people in the schools tools and skills. Those two components are key to any program that may be effective.

One of the researchers was talking about the fact that when you, and we do a lot of work around bullying. Bullying seems to be a very popular topic these days. It's interesting, one might ask, well, why is bullying getting so much attention? And I think it might answer some of your earlier questions of what can we do to give violence more attention is to take that apart a little bit. I mean bullying is part of the violence continuum here. But it is getting a significant amount of attention. We're spending an awful lot of time on bullying. And it's a critical important issue. But why? Why bullying, why now? How long will this last? Will there be another issue that replaces it?

But some of the folks who have studied bullying kind of have identified an empathy deficit on the part of individuals who engage in it. An inability to see things from another person's perspective. To understand what's happening to the person who they are bullying or victimizing. Programs that attempt to address that.

At the Department of Education, we (*Audio Skip 13:30*) students tools, and the work on skills on a regular basis. We have in the field of education issues with teachers who stop teaching. Who get burned out. They generally don't get burned out because they are tired of the academic subjects that they're teaching. They get burned out because they are struggling to manage the behavior of their classrooms. How much teacher preparation is going into behavior management and positive behavioral supports.

Joe Torre, Robert Listenbee, Jr., Alicia Lieberman, Sharon Cooper, Steven Marans, Tony Taguba, Sarah Deer, Georgina Mendoza, Thea James, Robert Macy, D. Tilton Durfee, Gregory Boyle, Jim McDonnell, Larry Cohen, David Esquith, Mary Lee

So I think we have to look at all of the promising programs are those that look at things holistically, that look at the training people get, the in-service training that they receive and give them tools and skills.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Thank you very much.

Joe Torre: Well, I want to thank this panel very much. It was very informative and obviously very thought provoking. Let's recognize the panel.

[Clapping]

[End of Audio]

Joe Torre, Robert Listenbee, Jr., Alicia Lieberman, Sharon Cooper, Steven Marans, Tony Taguba, Sarah Deer, Georgina Mendoza, Thea James, Robert Macy, D. Tilton Durfee, Gregory Boyle, Jim McDonnell, Aisha Stubbs, Rodney Nelson, Joron Burnett

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: The subject matter of all of our other panels that have been before us today. We're gonna talk about Youth Pushing Youth, Reaching for a Better Future. The youth involvement is critical to bringing change to the lives of children and to our communities. Panelists will highlight examples of their experiences with the Chicago Area Project and their work combating violence. We have on our panel this afternoon Ms. Aisha Stubbs from Struggling Youth into Successful Adults. Ms. Stubbs, who's 21 years old, grew up on the southeast side of Chicago. She is a former member of Chicago's Youth Advisory Board and an employee of Career Development Training Education Services, an affiliate of the Chicago Area Project. She hopes to pursue a career as a defense attorney. Which I strongly recommend.

Mr. Rodney Nelson, team captain and assistant instructor South Shore Drill Team. Mr. Nelson is 19 years old and joined the South Shore Drill Team in 2006. He plays with the group's most elite performing unit. Mr. Nelson was featured in a New York Times article about the challenges his unit overcame on their journey to winning the Winter Guard International World Championship in 2011. He is a freshman at Chicago State University, and plans to become an airline pilot. We had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Nelson perform in Washington, DC at the conference sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in October.

Mr. Joron Burnett, founder and CEO Green Light Movement. Mr. Burnett founded the Green Light Movement, a nonprofit organization, to use hip hop based initiatives and community service to attract youth and plant a positive seed of empowerment. The basis of GML is youth pushing youth. Mr. Burnett, known professionally as JNAN, has recently completed projects with Bobby V, Do or Die, **Rhymefest**, **Shawwna**, **Kayan** West and others. Okay. At this point –

[Laughter]

Sharon Cooper: Kanye.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Kanye West. My daughter's going to abandon me on that one. We will start with Ms. Aisha Stubbs. Ms. Stubbs.

Aisha Stubbs: Good afternoon everyone.

Robert Macy: Pull that closer to you.

Joe Torre: That should be good. Little closer.

Aisha Stubbs: Over the years I've saw and witnessed a lot of violence with close friends and families or have friends who knew them. Although hearing these stories affected me, the event that affected me the most was on Marcy 24, 2007 when my sister was shot and killed by her son's father while her three children, ages 9 months, 2 and 5, and other nieces and nephews watched. She was in a relationship where she thought she was in love. They would always fight and arguer and he would tell her it wouldn't happen again, but it would.

That night they were arguing he accused of her of cheating and told her she couldn't go out. Then he pulled the gun and put to her head. My sister's friend snuck out the back door and called the police. About five minutes later there was a knock at the front door. When her son's father looked out the peephole and saw that it was the police, he ran to the back door and opened it. And when he saw the police were there too, he then shot her in the head.

This event affected me tremendously because she was my support system. She was the only person that I knew we grew up together. We did everything together.

Another story that affected me was when my cousin was shot and killed by a friend that we grew up with. It was a Sunday. We were leaving church. He was walking to the bus stop and he was approached by four young men, all of whom he grew up with. One of the young men then shot my cousin. When later asked, he said it was because he couldn't catch the young man that he wanted to catch and that my cousin hung with him.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Mr. Nelson. Thank you very much, Ms. Stubbs. We are going to ask questions of the entire panel after all panelists have had an opportunity to speak.

Rodney Nelson: Good afternoon everybody. As you know, my name is Rodney Nelson. I was born and raised on the south side of Chicago in a single mother household. I've been in and out of countless neighborhoods, you know. And I've seen things that a child should never see. Basically sometimes I would hold drugs for the older gang members just to make a quick buck, like about 35, 45 dollars. You know something just to – you know I was young. That was a lot of money to me. You know I felt. I mean I did it, but ____ _____. My mother, she wasn't aware of my doings. But

she knew that the neighborhood was terrible. So one day she spotted the South Shore Drill Team in a parade and found it like as an outlet, you know for me to escape with my neighborhood.

So as a member of the drill team, you know I've developed into the person that I am today. You know I've been with the drill team for seven plus years. They have kept me safe and comfortable to call it my second home. You know another place where I'm at where I could feel free and be myself. They have pushed me for several years and encouraged me to succeed in school. And the drill team is also the reason that I am in college today.

The one thing I love performing. Performing is a thrill. The one thing I love to do is travel with my teammates. When I'm traveling, it gets me away from my neighborhood. I love to experience different places that I've never seen before. Like as you spoke of, in October, that was only like my second time being to Washington, DC. But both times I went was with the drill team. So it's actually a fun thing. It's a positive thing. It's a thrill. And I'm glad that I get to travel and do things other kids aren't able to do.

Another thing, including the drill team we established a brotherhood. Like I have established a brotherhood with Mr. Michael _____, right here on my right. Also my teammates that he teach. You know so it's a _____ and a group he take care of us. He love us. And he give us that brotherhood, you know and that father figure that some of us may not have.

One of my hugest accomplishments I wanted to let you know was when you said we won the WGIA Class world championship. You know that was a big accomplishment. And our team had a bunch of chemistry to pull that off. You know after everything we done went through, how hard we worked, you know we finally pulled it off.

And although, you know the drill team bring good times, there are obstacles that we all face outside of drill team. The drill team is there to help, but we still face dangers when we leave. So one thing is that we all have to meet up in one spot. And everybody comes from different neighborhoods. So different neighborhood have different crime rates, different crime rates have different people that, you know just all over the place. You never know.

Yeah, I see people who get _____ the streets. I mean and a lot of people think that money is their salvation. You know so, I mean that's what a lot of people think in my neighborhood. I can have a hard time walking to the corner store, you know so to escape trouble I go to drill team. You know to get away from neighborhood I go to drill team.

But like I said, violence is just the root of all evil. You know. On April 8, 2011, I lost a very close friend, almost a brother. I knew him all my life. I lost him to gun violence. He was brutally murdered as he was shot in the face. You know like shot in the face with a gun, you know. Unintentionally. It wasn't even meant for him. So, you know who knows what would have happened _____? You know.

When that incident was going on, you know I was out of town with my team being crowned world champion while my friend was fighting his life. That's like a blessing to me. And I'm glad to tell my story about it today, you know. Because of the drill team – if I wasn't with them, I would have been with him the same day. You know the same day that he got killed. And who knows what would have happened, you know. I'm out of town and he in the hospital fighting for his life trying to make it, you know. You know it's real strong. It's a moment I'll never forget. We getting this first place trophy, beating out hundreds, thousands of – not thousands, but hundreds of other groups, you know. So it's a good feeling. I was struck when I found the news out, but then again, you know I was happy because of our accomplishment. But, you know basically, you know the drill team always like a family thing. And I think, you know more youth need programs like this. They need to, you know get help with getting off the streets. But the drill team behind me 100 percent. And for that I'm eternally grateful. So.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Thank you very much, Mr. Nelson. Mr. Burnett.

Joron Burnett: Good afternoon. My name is Joron Burnett. I'm also known in the hip hop world as rapper/songwriter JNAN. All of my life since I can remember I've been around music. And all my life the closest person to me, my cousin, has been around me to push me. Up until 2004, 2005. I won a event called the Chicago _____ given by WGCI, one of our Clear Channel stations in Chicago. And it got me a lot of face recognition. My cousin was a senior at a university, so he wanted to throw a rent party, you know to make his funds. Him and his frat brothers. So they asked me if they

could put my face on the project and try to bring some more people out. And they did. And it was a success up until the end of the night. My cousin was – he got me out of the building. Told me I had to leave and come back or whatnot. And a gentleman came – because a fight kicked off. A gentleman came back with two pistols. And he confronted my cousin. And my cousin said, “Hey, you have to leave.” He confronted my cousin and my cousin’s friend, which was also my friend. And he said, “You have to leave.” And the gentleman said, “I’m not going anywhere.” My cousin hit the pistol out of his hand, he picked the pistol up, he told him, “You got to go.” The guy said – he walked up to my cousin and he said, “I’m going to shoot everybody here and I’m gonna start with you.”

So as the gentleman turned around and begins to walk away, he draws. Well, he turns around like this. And the gentleman next to my cousin says, “Shoot, shoot.” So my cousin had the gun in his left hand, even though he’s right handed. But the first thing he did was pull the pistol up and shot five times. Well, he shot the gentleman. The gentleman is now deceased and my cousin’s now serving 45 years in prison. And my friend that was with him is serving 38 years for being there.

Now amongst this time I was getting ready to go back into the city to begin my career. I was going into the studio with hip hop artist Kanye West. And I remember I was so struck, like just not having my cousin there, I couldn’t even think about the music. I couldn’t even think about the career. I was thinking about my cousin the whole time. You know. And I remember Kanye telling me, like, “Look, this is a lot of money. You know people would die to be in your shoes right now.” And the whole time the only thing that’s really on my mind is my cousin. That’s who really pushed me in the music.

So later on I go to the barber shop and my barber’s like, “Yo, your influence, you need to use it for some good. As you cross over in your career fully and really get stable in your career, you need to use it for some good.” And I thought to myself, “Why wait till then? Why not do it now?” Because it affected me more now. Like I’m still in those areas. My friends are in those areas, why not start now?

So I created the Green Light Movement, nonviolence through community service, youth pushing youth. We use hip hop based initiatives pretty much to attract the youth, plant a seed. We hope

for it to manifest. Like plant a positive seed. We've thrown several rallies at community centers where I've networked to get other artists out to come and put on a show for the kids. And also get some of the older men and some of the people that can really plant a seed in the kids, in the youth there. And also get the youth to perform on the show. So they're singing in front of their peers.

We also do a lot of other things for the community. But that's how violence touched my life. We're gonna continue to proceed with it, the Green Light Movement. Go.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Thank you very much, Mr. Burnett. At this time we will have questions from the task force. I'd just like to say that our prayers and thoughts are with each of you. The violence that you've experienced in your life is unimaginable for many of us. But we know that it is has touched you deeply, and we appreciate you being with us and talking to us about it this afternoon. So we'll start with Dr. Cooper who would like to have the first question.

Sharon Cooper: I have two questions. One is for Mr. Nelson and one is for you, Mr. Burnett. Mr. Nelson, I am really happy for your drill team, and I have no doubts that you all have extreme discipline in order to have won the awards that you have. You're probably aware of what happened with the Florida A&M University marching band and the hazing that went on and the violence that was occurring with that particular extraordinarily well-known over many, many years band. I'd like to ask you if you feel that there's subtle violence sometimes in organizations, such as drill teams or bands, that can intimidate participants? Or do you feel that that was an isolated situation in Florida?

Rodney Nelson: I feel that – yeah. To be honest, yeah, I do think like that was like a isolated thing as far it happening in Florida. But like as far as people getting initiated, hazing, you know I'm saying is like a serious matter. You know as far as being initiated. Cause I know some fraternities out here and some Chicago universities, you know may have a procedure where as they'll haze someone to get into the fraternity or the sorority. So on that Florida A&M thing, I think that, yeah, that was just something that happened in Florida. But honestly, in my opinion, I haven't experienced anything, you know what I'm saying, with hazing. So it's just kind of like 50/50 you know.

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Sharon Cooper: Do you think participating in drill teams or marching bands, etcetera, would be responsible bystanders if they saw violence and hazing occurring to other youth?

Rodney Nelson: Of course. You know especially me. If I see something I didn't like, you know happening to another person I'll – you know approach a higher authority and let them know what's happening. I mean I think so. It depends on if they brave enough to do it or if they just let it happen, you know. So either they gonna take the courage and go tell somebody or just make it seem like they a punk. You know so. I mean yeah.

Sharon Cooper: Okay. And Mr. Burnett, thank you very much for your talent as an artist. As an artist with the Green Light Movement, do you feel that there are some rappers who really promote violence in their music and that it has an impact upon youth and adults who listen to the music on a regular basis?

Joron Burnett: Definitely. I think when it comes to – it's a separation. And when it comes to that, the rap and the music, it's a business. So a lot of times the youth don't see the people behind the artists that's telling them, "Here, this is what we want you to promote. Continue to promote this cause this is what's making money." A lot of the times artists don't get to come to a situation like this or to a situation, to a school and be like, "Hey, this is what we really do. This is how we really make our money." But we're screaming A, we're selling this, we're doing this, we're shooting people, we doing this. And it's the lifestyle we live in. But you see them on TV every day living a better lifestyle. Which makes the youth want that lifestyle cause they feel like this is what I have to do to attain that. So it definitely, it definitely impacts the youth.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Chief McDonnell.

Jim McDonnell: Thank you. Mr. Burnett, if I could as a follow up to that question, you almost hit was I looking for. But given the fact that the violent stuff, the gagster stuff sells and has done so well, now you're going into it from a different approach to try and do violence prevention, do you see that as having the potential to take off here and do you see yourself as being a vehicle to be able to push that in that direction?

Joron Burnett: Well, what I'm doing is more so, to be honest, a middle ground. I feel like you can't really relate to these people unless you've been there some way. So I'm not going straight into the field, and I'm

not gonna go straight in the field and lie and say, “Hey, I’ve been positive my whole life. I’m doing positive things. But I’ve done this. I’ve been here. I’m still there in the streets all the time, because I come back to the neighborhood. This is where my friends are. So I feel like yeah, I can make impact by telling my story, but I can also make an impact by giving them the positive side. So maybe I give them a chance, a 50/50 at least. Cause right now I feel like in the streets it’s just the streets. That’s all we know out there. It’s 100 percent that. They talk to you opposed to getting talked down to. And that’s where the youth relate. Like we feel like you’re talking to me, you’re on the same page as me. You on the streets. You in the same predicament. Okay, this might work. But when they look at somebody else who’s not living a lifestyle that they’re accustomed to and they’re telling them what to do and how to live it, they’re like, “Nah, we gonna go back to the hood and we gonna talk to the person who’s living good in the hood that’s going to talk to me.”

Jim McDonnell: I appreciate that.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Ms. James.

Thea James: I wanted to say thank you to all of you for your testimony today. It’s, you know some of it is quite painful and I think it’s very brave of you to be able to share those things with us today. I think maybe you know that the charge of this task –

[End of Audio]

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Thea James: - force in the end our work will culminate in a report with recommendations to the Attorney General about what we can do to defend children being exposed to violence. And one of the things I think your voice is so important in that report. And what I would like to – the question I'd like to pose to all of you is what recommendations do you have for us? What do you think we should tell the Attorney General?

Rodney Nelson: First I think you should tell him, you know –

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Could you speak more directly into the microphone so the people in back can hear?

Rodney Nelson: Well, first off, tell him, you know more organizations as far as youth, but youth based organizations. You know get more youth involved. Find something – like get suggestions from the youth as far as what they like. Something that, you know saying they're interested in. and then saying can form a certain organization and get it done, you know what I'm saying? Invite kids out to check it out. Like have different little stations or whatever. Just like I said, more community youth based organizations. That'll definitely work, you know. Definitely.

Thea James: Thank you. Ms. Stubbs or.

Joron Burnett: I definitely agree with him. We need more so a sense of community. Like I don't feel like we really have a sense of community. I feel like we have community centers planted here and there, but it's like with the streets, it's certain places that you just can't go. So if that community center is on a side of town that you just can't go, you're not gonna see that community center. Cause that means – it could mean anything. It could be fatal.

I feel like we need to plan them in more areas. I feel like we need to evolve the interest. Like times are changing. I guess the reason that we use hip hop well is because I have experience in it, and also it's one of the leading most influential things in youth today. Hip hop. So I feel like if the streets move along with the youth, everybody else should. This side should. The opposition should move along. You can still keep the things that you do and how you do it, but compromise. I think that's what we're looking for. Some sort of compromise.

Aisha Stubbs: I agree with them both. Also, I think that the youth should be more – like they should know more about these organizations. Because

a lot of youth don't know anything about any organizations. And I think that the organizations need support in what they are doing. Because not only funding them but also going out there to see what they're doing.

Thea James: Thank you.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Father Boyle.

Gregory Boyle: Thank you, again, for your courage and your insight. You know all three of you have been impacted not just by violence but by gun violence. And how would you communicate – I mean it's a thing that I always have to encounter working with gang members is had guns not been involved in any of those tragic moments people would be alive. You know things would have gotten resolved or there would have been a fight or somebody just fleeing. But because there guns it was this tragic outcome. How do you get at that whatever it is, you know I need a gun for protection? Or if I don't have a gun, somebody else will. And how do we break that kind of thinking? From your perspective, from the places where you live, and you already know what the arguments are. Where people will say, I need to have this for my own safety. And yet I don't know anybody who's ever been protected by a gun really. It always ends in tragedy.

Rodney Nelson: As far as where I come from, kids are scared to fight, like fistfight. Thrown down fistfight. They assume as if like if you lose a fight you like a punk, you a sell out to the rest of the kids that did seen the fight. You know so some kids may feel as if, you know if I lose this fight, you know I'm gonna be a different man towards everybody. They'll look at me a different way as far as being weak. So sometimes – then that might turn into him getting jumped on by other people. So, you know if you losing fights, getting jumped on, you afraid, you know but you got sources as well, you know people that got guns, why not have it? You know what I'm saying? To protect yourself.

But some people, you know just don't have the right mind as far as, you know what I'm saying, having guns. They think that it's cool to be in a gang. It's cool to shoot. You know what I'm saying, a person. Just shoot a person down, you know in plain sight. So, I mean our generation, you know my generation. Matter of fact my generation, mine, you know the whole state of mind is off balance as far as these tough neighborhoods go. You know some kids live to hold a gun, live to shoot somebody with a gun,

you know. That's all they know. That's all they think about. That's the only way to protect yourself in Chicago, you know what I'm saying? In high crime rate neighborhoods, you know. The only way to protect yourself is to have a gun. So I mean, yeah, that's just they state of mind. That's just how some youth think in the city. I can recall a time when my friend was like, "Rodney, I'm fixin' to go down the street get a gun." You know what I'm saying? For what? You know what you need it for? He's like, "Man, you know how it is out here." I'm like, "You ain't even going through nothing, so why are you going to get a gun?" He don't cause no problems. He usually stay to hisself. But that just a state of mind. One person come up to you be like, 'Yeah, I just got this gun from such and such.' You know, oh, I fixin' to get me a gun too. You know so what I'm saying? It don't make sense.

But, you know as far as that guns is guns, you know people gonna have them, people gonna use them. It's just you need to find a way to stop them. So.

Joron Burnett:

I would definitely agree. Coming up on the south side of Chicago, a lot of people look at it as a trap when it comes to guns. Cause it's like everybody has guns on the streets illegally. And whether you get a gun legally or illegally and you have it, it's like say somebody pulls a gun out on you and you have no gun. Well, you know what you gonna do? And say you do have a gun so you are prepared, but the police pull you over and now you got to do time. So it's like what you gonna do? It's kind of like a trap.

So it's like everybody kind of picks what works for them, cause they really have no one really over them saying, "Here, this is what you can do," and it seems fair. It just seems like a trap. Like don't get a gun. Don't get a gun. But then if something goes down and we're not there, hey.

Like I remember – this had to be like two weeks ago. My friend called me over in the city. He said, "Somebody's robbing my auntie's house right now. They're inside here right now." He called me. He said, "We called the police, but it's been a hour. They still in the house." So me and my homies, we go over there. His auntie's there and she's like, "Don't go in the house. Don't go in the house." I see four police cars. This is like a neighborhood I'm from, so pretty much everybody knows me there. I go to the police. And I say, "Hey, there's somebody in the house right now robbing that house." He like, "Where?" I'm like, "Right here." Two cars. Four police officers. And they're like, "Oh, right here

on this block?" I'm like, "Yeah." He said, "Oh, that's not our district." I'm like, "They're robbing it right now." He said, "Got to call the police."

So right then and there I felt like – I really felt like, I need a gun. Because if I call the police and it's been an hour there's a man in my house with a gun, I have nothing. It's been an hour. They not coming. I feel like the police around me won't even help me because it's not in their district, what you want me to do? It's a trap. That's how we look at it.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: General Taguba.

Antonio Taguba: Thank you all for coming. We always like to hear upfront and personal from youngsters like yourselves. Thank you very much for what you're doing to have a lateral view on things in helping your community. In a couple of hearings that we've had, one in Albuquerque and the other one in Miami was the issue of mentoring. Albuquerque, the ones who testified there said it was working. With the Boys and Girls Clubs and other associations that they're actually reaching out. I think that one organization had like thirty-five hundred members for that example. Then in Miami we heard where mentoring is not exactly working because it's a matter of association. That some of the adults are probably out of touch with mentoring their kids, for example. We have organizations like AmeriCorps, I don't know if you've heard of that organization. It's a nonprofit organization out of – that's funded by the US government, that does mentoring. It also includes Senior Corps which also does mentoring or you might say a retiree are mentoring kids and helping out in the community. All of you, in your perspective, do you have mentors? And if you do, can you give us an assessment of how important that would be in helping your fellow friends and having a mentor in your lives?

Rodney Nelson: Well, yeah, actually a mentor does actually help. This guy right here on my right, known him a long period of time. Like about eight years. But, you know he's definitely a mentor. Not towards me but also other kids. He don't – you know what I'm saying, he try not to settle. Just focusing on one kid and mentoring, you know he takes all the kids. We have about – you know we have a tremendous amount of kids that's, you know what I'm saying, on the drill team. So he try to take care of them all. He try to talk to them all. And he try to, you know what I'm saying? Give them some support and provide them with the knowledge that they need. You know this man developed. You know so he helped me

develop to the person I am today. You know so he taught me how to be responsible, you know as far as being on time and hygiene and everything. He tells you how it is. You know that's one thing I can say. He lets you know how it is. He don't sugarcoat. You know what I'm saying, he break it down to you as far as how life goes. You know what I'm saying? He gonna let you know step by step, you know what I'm saying, every way how it's gonna go.

And I think kids actually need that. When somebody sugarcoats something you're not giving them direct information. You hiding things from them. This guy right here lets it be known. You know he gives you everything that you need to know. And that's where more mentors need to look into, you know what I'm saying. Like helping kids out. Giving them what they want. Giving them information that they need.

So yeah, it's definitely, definitely a big thing to have a mentor in your life. Because some kids might come from a single mother household where they have no father. My instructor right here probably a father figure for some of my friends. Some kids might live with they father. Might not have a mother around. But it's also women, you know what I'm saying, staff a part of the drill team that mentors the women or might mentor the young men, you know as far as letting them know how to be respectful, responsible men. So yeah, it's definitely a big thing. You know mentors are definitely a huge part in kids' life. And I think every kid should, you know what I'm saying, have a mentor or experience some type of mentoring or counseling or somebody just who they could just talk to. So, yeah, it's really important.

Antonio Taguba: Thank you. Aisha?

Aisha Stubbs: Well, I have a couple mentors in my life at the moment. I had most of them for a while. I think that they are a really important part of my life, because whenever I'm going through something, I don't have to run to the streets like other youth do. I have somebody that I can go talk to. And I do think all youth need mentors in their life. Whether it's a parent or just a teacher that they can go talk to to get them out of predicaments that they're in.

Joron Burnett: I agree. Mentors are very important. I came up. I had my father coming up. And a lot of my friends I want to – I mean we didn't have always the greatest, but a lot of my friends didn't have their fathers or different have their parents at all. I felt like it's pretty much the reason why I'm on the fine line. Like opposed to where

they are. Or where the direction that they would want to go to. Because you're going to find a mentor. The thing is it's like where are you gonna find it. They're gonna find it where it's promoted in the streets. Like you may have the official deal, like the real deal. But they won't know unless it's promoted amongst them. So the dude who has the **janky** deal, it looks like the official deal. Cause it's there. You know. So it's very important.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Dr. Lieberman.

Alicia Lieberman: Thank you to all of you for what you've told us and for your courage in doing that. I have a question for Aisha. You've talked about the mentors that you've had. And I keep thinking of your sister's children and the nephews and nieces who also, who were there witnessing their father shooting their mother. And I want to ask you, did they get help? Did they get a response to their pain and their loss? And if you had the possibility of choosing what help they would have gotten, what would you suggest? What would you recommend? Cause so many children are in that situation.

Aisha Stubbs: Actually, they haven't been to like a therapist or anything to help them. The oldest, which was five at the time, he can tell you everything that happened word for word. Who did it, how it happened, when it happened. Well, at the moment, I was talking to one of my mentors about getting him into counseling and how to go about it. But all, you know in my opinion, I think all of them should be in therapy and mentoring. Because whether it's now that they think about it or when they get older it could really hurt. It could really take a turn.

Alicia Lieberman: Thank you.

Jim McDonnell: Yeah, if I could. Just a question. You heard, you know what we've done. We've been through now this is the fourth city across America to hear the message from different people, different perspectives. In order for us to be able to share that message, and I think it's a very valuable one, what would be the best vehicle to do that so that we hit the different, you know demographics across the country? Different groups. Is it on the web? What you'd traditionally do would be a hard copy report. That may not be the best way to get it to everybody. How would you do it? Knowing that a lot of people aren't gonna read any kind of report, but how do we share the message from that report with everybody?

Aisha Stubbs: I think actually going out to talk to people about it. Maybe going to different organizations or having a group of people that you actually go to and talk about it. Because just cause it's on a hard sheet of paper doesn't mean I'm gonna read it. Or just because it's on the web, I just might pass it. But by you coming out there and telling me and actually, you know me going through it and then you're telling me, I'll actually pay attention to it.

Rodney Nelson: And to piggyback on that. I agree with Aisha, as well as, you know get into the community. Like hold conventions where different organizations can come in. you know what I'm saying? Set up. You understand. Set up type of stands and, you know just have kinds all over come in. You know check out the different stands or different organizations or things that's going on. Like she said, interact. Actually come out. I'm sure that all of you up there, you know are located in different places instead of one. So, you know you might have a connection in California. You might have a connection in, you know Arizona. You might have a connection in Florida. So on and so forth. But, you know just get out there and talk to them. Basically. Actually set up places and things where kids can actually see is this something that I'm interested in, is this something that I like, is this something that I could see myself doing?

Jim McDonnell: Thanks.

Joron Burnett: I agree with both of them. I would just say take the hold off the limitations. It's like the opposition has taken a hold of the limitations of – you stated like a media, TV, internet. Like it's so many kids that do so many different things. Some people read, some people watch TV, a lot of people watch TV. It's like if the opposition is using all of them, they're using blogging, they're using the internet, they're using TV. They're using everything. Why would there be limitations on the other side of the fence? Use everything. Cause that's the only way you're gonna really be able to fight.

Jim McDonnell: Thank you.

Joe Torre: You mentioned that to get the message one of us would go and talk to a group. Do you think the message would be better delivered if say one of you were with us to talk to that group?

Rodney Nelson: Definitely.

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[Laughter]

Joe Torre: You got it. Because I want to say one thing. You're part of the solution.

[End of Audio]

Joe Torre: Cause you speak the language. And you've been there. You've hurt. And you know they're hurting. I think that's, you know it's a great responsibility. And as everybody up here has said, you're very brave for being here. And the fact that you never stop fighting to get to where you're sitting here right now and feeling pretty good about yourselves.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Dr. Cooper.

Sharon Cooper: This is a question/comment to Aisha. Ms. Stubbs. New York had a special project where they did some training of high school students to talk about teen dating violence. Recognizing that a lot of girls and guys didn't recognize that they were in a violent relationship with their girlfriends and boyfriends. And so they did some training of youth who then went to the schools, to their own schools and had some special times, were given special times by the school systems on a regular basis to have group conversations regarding, hey, is this true love? What is this? Is this power and control? You know that sort of thing. Have you seen anything like that happen in the Chicago school systems or in any – or in the organization that you're in? Do you have the opportunity to ever go in and talk at school system settings?

Aisha Stubbs: Actually, we just did – I'm on the youth advisory board, so we just did a segment in one of our meetings where we talked about dating violence and what's considered domestic. You know what's considered violence. Cause it's not just you putting your hands on me. It's how you talk to me and, you know how you treat me. It's everything in one. It's not just what we think it is. It's more to it.

Sharon Cooper: Was that well received? Did people really get that aha moment? Oh, wow, I didn't even now that, really?

Aisha Stubbs: Yeah. A lot of people did know it. A lot of didn't know that a lot of things that they were in that, you know that that's domestic violence.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Dr. Macy.

Robert Macy: Mr. Burnett and Mr. Nelson and Ms. Stubbs, thank you for your truth today and your courage. You've probably heard, I've heard for my whole life that even when I was a kid I've heard grownups say, children are our future. Have you ever heard that? What do you think about that quote?

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Rodney Nelson: Yeah, of course, children are the future. Because once you all were a child. You know.

[Laughter]

I mean, you know some people look up to you. You know you guys are all successful. You wouldn't be here today if you weren't successful. But as far as that, definitely we are the future, you know because we hold our own future. And as far as my generation, well, as far as I see it in Chicago, you know a lot of kids' future is going down a wrong path. There are some things that really need to be done about it. You know I feel that's a strong quote. You know because as far as the future, I'll probably be able to need to help my mother later on in the future. But I can't help her if I'm struggling. So, yeah, the children are the future. And the way things could get better is if our future is better. So, yeah. That's a powerful statement.

Joron Burnett: I agree. I agree. Children are the future. That's why you need leaders amongst the youth. Because soon as that adult leaves, everything goes out the door with them. So, I mean just planted within certain children that can be looked at amongst their peers as somebody doing something good or well or something cool or whatnot, they'll turn into the leaders. So they're the future.

Robert Macy: This is actually a two-part question. Sorry. So thank you. Ms. Stubbs, did you want to – okay. So, and this is only if you'd like to answer it, cause it's a – I don't know if it's a tough question, but it's asking you to look forward. Where would you like to see yourself each of you ten years from now? What would you like be doing? What dream would you like to have actualized?

Aisha Stubbs: Well, ten years from now I plan on being a lawyer, a defense attorney. I'm sorry.

Robert Macy: A defense attorney?

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Yes.

Sharon Cooper: Outstanding.

Robert Macy: Someone you should talk to.

Rodney Nelson: I got a couple of goals. More mainly like backups. But as far as things goes, I want to have my name on ESPN. That's my – that's

a good goal. But actually if that don't work out then I want to be a airline pilot. Like fly for Southwest. Or if that don't work I'll be a chef. If the chef don't work, I'll be a firefighter. So I got a bunch of backup plans.

Robert Macy: That's the man with the plan. Good for you. Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

Joron Burnett: Honestly, I'm shooting for the stars. To be a mogul. Like I want the entertainment business, I want to take it by storm. I don't really want to put a box on what I really want to do. I just know while I'm doing it I want to increase with like my philanthropy. I want to build. So I'm not quite sure where this is going to go. I just want to stay at it, you know.

Georgina Mendoza: Mr. Burnett, I love that you said you don't want to put your ambitions in a box. Sky's the limit. And I really see that everything that all three of you said will happen. Ms. Stubbs, you're gonna be an amazing attorney. I can already tell. I'm a prosecutor, but, you know that's okay.

[Laughter]

I have friends that are defense attorneys too. So we need. You know we talk often about, and we hear this a lot, that it's cool to be in a gang. It's cool to have guns. It's cool to be from the streets. It's cool to be, you know a certain way. Do you all think that there's a way where we can change that message where it's not cool? If somebody shows you a gun be like, "that's not cool anymore." I know one of the ways that possibly you can do that, cause I've heard this from other youth, is that youth need to speak to each other. And like you've all said, youth are the ones that have to be the leaders. So your message of what's cool and what isn't is gonna be stronger if it comes from one of your peers. So then I would like to ask you all what can we do to help you be those leaders? Not just from resources, funds, money, we all need that. But how can we support you? Say if you wanted to have some sort of conference or summit where you can exchange ideas, what would that look like? What can we do to help you?

Aisha Stubbs: I think all youth, like you know even the ones who carry guns, I don't think they really want to do it. I think that – because me and my friends were talking one day. And we were talking like, you know if they see they friends getting killed, you know like why is it that they still want to sit around here with guns and still be _____

with somebody else. Like, you know you don't want to end up like them. And I think, you know seeing them in that predicament, you know should change what you're doing. I think it should change something around. And I think it's something within all of us that should – that we got to want to change. Can't nobody else change, you know if you not trying to change yourself.

Joron Burnett:

I think – I well obviously I feel like guns will be around, gangs will be around. I just feel like it's no way to really escape it. But to just go ahead on with it. You know. Fire with fire pretty much. But – it's so many things that can be done. I think the youth just need someone to step behind them. We really just need someone to step behind them. But not just step behind them and take over. But step behind them, play your position and guide them as they play theirs. That's really what we need. So if you got people throwing concerts and getting all these people here and then you see well, something kicked off at the end of the concert, people got shot up at the end of the concert. Well, why we don't have no concerts where we got the big names the people coming in and you give it for free to the hood and you also have positive things going on. If you're talking about positivity through the whole thing, chances are it's a lot less people getting shot. But if you talking about 100 percent negativity, I mean then you know what you working with. So I pretty much think that's just on that page.

Rodney Nelson:

Yeah. And to piggyback on what he said, there are gangs, you know it's kind of impossible to stop as far as kids carrying guns. But like you said, a guide, a mentor, you know someone to be behind them and tell them that that's not cool. Older people can stop a young person. A young person should never be superior than a person that's way older than them. You know so like he said, guide them, push them. Because every kid got a story to tell on why they carrying a gun or why they, you know in the predicament that they in. It's just do they got somebody to listen or do they got somebody to talk to or, you know express they feeling towards.

You know I think an experience that changed my life as far as with guns and drugs is when I took a trip to a prison. Talked to a few guys that was – inmates that was in there. You know kind of changed my perspective about do I want to, you know what I'm saying, get this lifestyle. Excuse me, do I want to get this lifestyle or do I want to be deceased? Like one of their friends or one of my friends.

So as far as gun violence, you can't stop it ultimately but you can slow it down. I believe that there is a way to slow it down. So.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: In looking at one of the issues we've dealt with a great deal is school violence. Do you have any recommendations that we should make to the Attorney General about how to reduce violence in schools so that you have an educational environment where you can, you know further your educational goals?

Rodney Nelson: I think with school violence. Majority of time, well, I believe it's like off petty arguments or things that some students might disagree with. School fights I think aren't ultimately huge. But as far as, you know bringing it to a minimum, I don't know. More security. Talk to the students. Try to make the school seem as if you know they have a family environment. Get the student to connect with each other, interact with each other. You know because some students might not like the student sitting two seats from them. You know just because of something that he said, what he doing. Some kids tend to not like other students because they might envy them or something. So as far as school violence, I think you need to talk to the students. I think it's based off like a mature level. You know how they take things a certain way or how they might think about something. So, I mean as far as school violence, you could stop it. Not stop it, but, like I said, slow it down.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Ms. Stubbs?

Aisha Stubbs: I think – also I think another reason is because students in a certain area of where you live you're forced to go to a certain school. So it's okay, well, he's from _____ so, you know he's not one of us. So that's gonna be some violence. And then his friend's gonna come up there. So I think it should be – I know it's gonna be like a boundary of where you can go to school. But I think there should be maybe a means to it. Like, you know you should be able to go to another school. You shouldn't have to go to one school because that's where you live. That would end a lot.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Are there any programs in schools that you've seen that have worked to reduce school violence? We've heard discussion about restorative justice, teen courts and other kinds of programs in schools. Have you seen anything work?

Aisha Stubbs: Anything work?

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Mm hmm.

Aisha Stubbs: Um. Not in a school, but maybe community. I know there are community groups that work. In Chicago we have Cease Fire. And I know they work.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: They work?

Aisha Stubbs: Mm hmm.

Rodney Nelson: To piggyback on what she said. Yeah, I have seen some programs. And my school is this program called the Community _____. And they brought a lot of kids from different schools together, you know to help clean up the community. Pick up garbage, you know help clean like the curbs off of the streets. So yeah, I think that brought a lot of kids together as far as, you know interacting, mingling. Cause of course –

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Doing community services kind of things.

Rodney Nelson: Yeah. I also think like sports. Sports, you know feeling of teamwork. That'll bring students together. So yeah. I've seen a few programs work to stop school violence.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Mr. Burnett.

Joron Burnett: Yeah. I feel the same. More activities. More activities, but this is where the problem comes in. It's like you have basketball teams and you have all these other situations. But then it may cost a grip to get their jersey. You know. We need something that can help us so the parent isn't like, no, can't do it. No. So that automatically exes you out. So now you got to do something else. We need help in our schools with the funding or the research or whatever. It might be on the activity. They might, hey, basketball team – I'm not saying this is going to happen. But you make the team, you have jerseys. On the school. Now the kids is like, okay, well, I could play for the basketball team. But if you can't afford the jersey, you don't want to tell your friends I can't afford the jersey so you're either gonna do two things. Try to find the money by doing whatever just to play basketball. Or you're not gonna be on the team and you're gonna go do something else. So I think we just need a solution in that area.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: For the task force members, we have about five more minutes left before our panel ends. Does anybody?

Joe Torre: Why don't you grab a microphone? You're shaking your head yes. Let's hear it.

Male 4: I think that most school violence occurs from neighborhood violence. So I think that if the neighborhood is okay, then the school becomes okay. Because majority of the people is from the neighborhood go to the school. And if you look at some of these schools that's doing well, the neighborhood is well. But if you clean the neighborhood and get the neighborhood straight, it'll be a lot of good students from the neighborhood in the school system where they're focused on the education, where they're focused on the after school programs. And I think a lot of students need something to do once they leave the school. A lot of kids leave school and they go to the neighborhood and don't have anything to do but to stand on the streets or pick fights or sell drugs or shoot guns and stuff cause there's nothing to do.

I know when I was coming up, South Shore Drill Team was my savior. Before school start, after school, once I'm done with the drill team practice I'm tried. So I'm going home, doing homework and going to bed. That's all I did. And the whole neighborhood was about South Shore Drill Team. That's all we did in the neighborhood. Everybody in the neighborhood was South Shore Drill Team. And so there really wasn't no problems in there because you had something to do. Basketball games. They was throwing basketball concerts in the neighborhood. There was a lot of positive in the neighborhood. But once you take all that out, now it's all distorted. And there's nothing to do now. So everybody fighting each other. People you grew up with fighting each other. Everybody want to sell this. Now you selling on my turf, on my block, on my corner. _____ shoot and fight people that done grew up with and knew them for ten years. So I think it's the neighborhood. I think it's the neighborhood that's causing all these school violence.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Dr. Marans.

Steven Marans: I want to thank all of you. And General Taguba actually got closest. You brought us up close and personal. You reminded us that when we're talking about programs and interventions, we're talking about real live human beings and what it is to be a human being. And you reminded us of some of those things. Nobody likes to be afraid, do they? Nobody likes to feel ashamed and humiliated, do they? Everybody wants to feel pride and

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competence and mastery, right? And everybody wants to feel connected. I love the comment about, you know if you're – you're gonna get a mentor somewhere. And I extend it to say, you're gonna look for connections somewhere. Which is what you've reminded us of. And the question is, what do we make available to be connected to who's available to be connected and what is it that are sources of pride? So for me, the take home message is reminding us what it is to be a human being. And where there are opportunities to flourish as a human being. When those things are missing, you're reminding us of some of the ingredients that we might want to invest –

[End of Audio]

Steven Marans: - more heavily in to make sure they're there. But I just wanted to thank you.

[Clapping]

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: As this is the final panel for the day, we would like to end with some closing arguments from or closing comments from –

[Laughter]

From our co-chairs.

Joe Torre: Thank you, Bob. Thank you, Bob. This has been a very moving couple of days here. And it's very appropriate for me to have these youngsters sitting here. I feel very strongly that you're part of the solution. And you are our future. But you can only be our future if you're here. And we need to take care of you. And we need your help. I've got some issues. You know we talk about violence and society. You know if you talk to the person walking down the street they just think that, whether it's domestic violence or abuse or gang violence, it's just part of the culture and it's something that we have to live with. I don't believe that. I've heard education, community, teamwork. And what it amounts to in my line of work, you know baseball, we always got a lot more done when we helped each other. You know it's very tough to win championships – you know players win games, teams win championships. And it's not an easy battle. And I'll tell you why. Because people think it's a part of our culture. If we talk about – we talked about sports radio or whatever it is. We glorify bad behavior. And that's something that, to me, is – I just can't handle that. Because we all know what respect is. We all want to be respected by one another. I know I'm 71 years old, but I still think the same principles work. We want to feel good about ourselves.

The only way we're gonna do that is I think we have to let people know that first of all, it's out of the closet now. You know all this behavior is out of the closet. We're talking about it. We're talking about it here. I think we need to spread the word. We need to let people know that no, it's not part of the culture. We have to do something about it and we want to do something about it. And we need to make people aware of it. We need to make it popular and fashionable to do the right thing.

[Clapping]

And it's our responsibility. And, again, we've heard, you know back and forth, whether we're in our closed sessions or here, well, it's not affecting me so let's – you don't have to pay attention to it. They're all our children. It's our responsibility. It's our business to help the youth. You know I just feel very strongly that unless we pay attention and listen to the youngsters and have them be a part of the solution, let's engage the youngsters. I think they want our help where we can help them through our experience. And we need their help through their voice. And I just – you know we've heard testimony, it's been powerful, painful, emotional but uplifting because there are a lot of people who sat at that table that want to do something about the problem. And to me that's the most important thing.

Since this is our last hearing of this task force I want to say publicly that it has been a privilege working with every single one of you guys. It's emotional right now because, you know it's been a great experience for me. You know what you've added to my life by just listening and more important than anything else, the caring that you have, the passion you have for something that we all know is important. Ad we just need to, you know beat the drum a little louder.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Since this is our last task force meeting, I think we're gonna perhaps break with protocol a little bit by just saying simply if there are some task force members who want to have some final comments I think it'd just be fitting that we do that.

Joe Torre: _____ Rodney wants to say something.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Rodney, go ahead.

Rodney Nelson: I just had something else to before we ended everything. But the main thing that I think is a problem, just talk to the youth. You know for you guys up there, everybody in here, you know everybody want to get involved with you, just talk to them. Because you won't believe some of the stories that they tell you. You know like my friend over here, Mr. Joron told me some things about youth pushing youth. You know I talk to some youth in my organization before, and they have a lot of stories. You know some might be stronger than mines. And I feel as if some adults might feel as if they don't have time to talk to youth, you know. They might think it's a waste of their time. But my main thing is yeah, just talk to the youth. I think, you know talking to them will make

things way much better. Because I know I put a smile on a few youth faces. That's my main thing is just talk to them. So that's all I ask from you all.

Joe Torre:

Give us your name, too.

Michael Borum:

Michael Borum. Another thing, you know I was thinking, you know we've been through this process to lead up to where we at now. I was just thinking, you know in the neighborhoods, it's a lot of negative. And if you take someone's doing, if you take someone that's doing something negative and turn them positive and their peers see that, it could change more negative kids doing something positive. Because if you doing what I was doing, now you not doing it no more, I need to do what you doing. You know. I think that we need to get in these communities and try to change some of these kids' lives by helping them. And let them see what it is out here. Because some of them really doesn't know. A lot of kids that live in the city of Chicago haven't been downtown. And that's crazy. A lot of kids on the South Shore Drill Team haven't been out of town until they got on the South Shore Drill Team. And that's why they love what we do because we here to help them every single day. You know. On and off. You know 24 hours. I experience a kid on the team, he got shot at 2:00 in the morning. He called me and said, "Mike, I got shot." I'm asleep. And I stay way south from the hospital. So I got out of my bed and went to the hospital and checked up on him. No his whole family was out there. They called me upstairs. I thought that was real **heartfelting**. Because you got your family out here and you call me upstairs to see your child. You know. And now he's still a part of the program. And he's one of my leaders today. And he works very hard. He works very hard.

So if we get in these neighborhoods and talk to these negative kids and try to change one of them and bring them back to the community and let him talk to them, and then they'll see the change. Versus someone else talking to them that really haven't did anything. I mean we got to work hard. It's overtime. It's overtime and every day 24 hours it's overtime trying to change these kids' lives because they need someone to change their lives. You know it hurts me because I've been through the system. You know I've been a part of the organization since I was eight years old. I'm 33 now. And so I seen a lot of kids like Rodney come through the program. And once they leave the program, if they don't have nothing else to do, they go down. They go down because they have nobody else to stay on them. So we just need to

keep pushing, pushing, media, pushing it, pushing it. Let it be nagging to someone. Let it be nagging. Just like the rapper Mike Jones, you was tired of hearing that name, but everybody know he was. Mike Jones. And I'm sure everybody know who he was. So just got to push it. Stop the violence or say to youth, push it, push it, push it. And hopefully it'll change something.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Again, thank you for your testimony today. It's difficult to listen because it's so painful. For those of us who have worked with young people for a long time, and Father Boyle is probably my idol in that context who's – you know I've heard him speak before and he's talked about being at the burial of over 180 young people. So it's very difficult. We take our charge seriously. I want to tell you in particular, Mr. Burnett, we had gang violence in Philadelphia. And we reduced it to the point where gang violence for a long time was almost nonexistent. It's coming back now. But it is possible to change the normal way of life that you see on the streets. The fact that you young people don't know that is because you weren't here when we started out. When we started out a lot of that stuff just didn't exist in certain communities.

So we are hopeful to bring a new normal to communities like yours, communities like the ones here in Detroit with all the different things that we know that work. We have a charge to make recommendations to the Attorney General. We will do that. And we are hopeful that the Attorney General and others who hear our recommendations will see that they are wise, and we hope they are, and that they will bring about some solutions. But we do take everything that we're doing very seriously. But we need your input. We're not gonna ask you to solve the problem because you didn't create it. We will ask for your input because we need your guidance and wisdom to explain to us what will actually work for you in your community.

We know that national solutions aren't the only solutions. That community based solutions are the ones that are gonna be driving our progress. So we thank you for your contribution today. And I'd like to, again, thank all the members of the task force. Again, I would ask if there's anybody who has a burning desire to make final comments, please, feel free. This is our last opportunity to do this in the public.

Antonio Taguba: Thank you.

Robert Listenbee, Jr.: Well, thank you very much.

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[Clapping]

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