



## **SAFER COMMUNITIES** **TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

### **CURTIS GRAVES**

#### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY | CITY OF MOBILE**

Curtis Graves has over 32 years of experience in law enforcement, public safety administration, and community engagement. Formerly the Commander of Strategic Initiatives for the Mobile Police Department and later Deputy Director of Public Safety, he now serves as Director of Public Safety for the City of Mobile. Graves has led transformative initiatives including the Family Intervention Team, Victim Services Unit, Mental Health Co-Response Program, and the Second Chance or Else (S.C.O.R.E.) programs. His vision integrates data-driven policing, mental health collaboration, and community partnerships to reduce gun violence and build safer, more resilient neighborhoods.

### **RONALD ALI**

#### **PRESIDENT | ALABAMA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP**

Ronald Ali brings decades of leadership and advocacy in advancing civil rights, equity, and public safety throughout Alabama. His statewide reach and commitment to justice make him vital to ensuring the Task Force's strategies promote trust, fairness, and systemic reform in addressing gun violence.

### **ANDREW HOWARD**

#### **COMMUNITY EDUCATOR | DRUG EDUCATION COUNCIL, RETIRED SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Andrew Howard combines his background in school safety and substance abuse prevention to address the root causes of youth violence. His extensive experience in education and mentoring equips the Task Force to strengthen prevention programs that reach students and families before crises occur.

### **PASTOR MICAH GASTON**

#### **LEAD PASTOR | 3CIRCLE CHURCH, SAGE AVENUE CAMPUS**

Pastor Gaston is a respected spiritual leader known for building strong connections across diverse communities. His compassionate leadership and focus on faith-based outreach make him a valuable contributor to the Task Force's mission to promote hope, healing, and unity in communities affected by violence.

### **PASTOR JUSTIN WALKER**

#### **YOUTH PASTOR | 3CIRCLE CHURCH, SAGE AVENUE CAMPUS**

As a dedicated youth pastor, Justin Walker works closely with teens and young adults to provide mentorship, guidance, and purpose. His experience with youth ministry helps the Task Force develop faith-based prevention models that engage young people and redirect them from cycles of violence.

## **PASTOR MICHAEL FOSTER**

**SENIOR PASTOR | HIGH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH,  
RETIRED MONTGOMERY POLICE OFFICER**

Pastor Foster combines pastoral leadership with over two decades of law enforcement service. His understanding of policing, community trust, and moral development strengthens the Task Force's approach to both prevention and reconciliation within neighborhoods impacted by crime.

## **JOHN JORDAN**

**CHIEF TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR | MOBILE AREA WATER & SEWER SYSTEM (MAWSS)**

John Jordan brings a community focused perspective shaped by nearly 30 years of public service with Mobile Area Water and Sewer Service. His leadership in critical infrastructure operations emphasizes neighborhood safety, quality of life, and civic responsibility. As an employee of MAWSS, Mr. Jordan has over 30 years of embedded community knowledge of the geographic, social, and economic landscape of Mobile. His perspective will ensure that gun violence prevention strategies address not just crime, but the conditions that allow it to persist.

## **JUAN PEASANT**

**PRESIDENT | 100 BLACK MEN OF GREATER MOBILE, INC.**

As president of a leading mentoring and leadership organization, Juan Peasant fosters youth empowerment and civic engagement. His network and commitment to mentoring provide the Task Force with critical access to community-based prevention and role-modeling programs for at-risk youth.

## **MICHAEL DEKLE**

**CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER | STRICKLAND YOUTH CENTER**

Michael Dekle oversees juvenile probation and diversion programs designed to rehabilitate young offenders. His expertise supports the Task Force's data-driven approach to reducing recidivism and helping youth successfully reintegrate into their communities.

## **BRADYN ULMER**

**OWNER | ATLAS INDUSTRIES,  
DIRECTOR | PROJECT THRIVE**

Bradyn Ulmer combines entrepreneurship and trauma-informed leadership as the Director of Project THRIVE, which promotes healing and resiliency following traumatic events. His focus on trauma recovery and workforce development complements the Task Force's holistic approach to breaking cycles of violence.

## **PATRICK MITCHELL**

**WARDEN | MOBILE COUNTY METRO JAIL**

Patrick Mitchell contributes valuable insight into detention trends, inmate rehabilitation, and community reentry. His leadership supports the Task Force's efforts to identify intervention opportunities within the correctional system and connect individuals to services upon release.

## **DR. GERARD TATE**

**DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION & MITIGATION | CITY OF MOBILE**

**FORMER DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT | SHOTSPOTTER**

Dr. Gerard Tate is a national expert in data-driven gun violence reduction. His background in community impact, technology integration, and public-safety analytics helps the Task Force utilize evidence-based strategies and precision-based prevention models to address violent crime at its root. He joined the City of Mobile's Department of Public Safety in late 2025 at the Director of Prevention & Mitigation.

## **DR. CINDY GIPSON**

**DIRECTOR | ALTAPOINTE HEALTH CRISIS CENTER**

Dr. Gipson oversees mental health crisis services for the region, connecting individuals in crisis with treatment rather than incarceration. Her expertise ensures the Task Force integrates behavioral health as a key pillar of gun violence prevention and trauma recovery.

## **DR. ASHLEY WILLIAMS**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND TRAUMA SURGEON | USA HEALTH UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

Dr. Williams is a trauma surgeon and academic leader specializing in critical injury care and community violence prevention. Through her frontline experience treating gunshot victims, she provides the Task Force with clinical insight into the human toll of gun violence and supports initiatives aimed at prevention, data collection, and hospital-based intervention.

## **CHRIS "CHAMP" NAPIER**

**CLIENT ADVOCATE | MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**

Chris "Champ" Napier serves as a client advocate with the Mobile County Public Defender's Office, where he works directly with justice-involved individuals to connect them to social services, treatment programs, and reentry resources. His first-hand experience engaging individuals at critical intervention points provides the Task Force with valuable insight into the social and economic challenges that often contribute to violence. Napier's deep commitment to advocacy, mentorship, and community restoration strengthens the Task Force's ability to bridge the gap between the criminal justice system and the community it serves.

## **PEBBLES KING**

**BUREAU CHIEF OF PREVENTION AND WELLNESS | MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Pebbles King leads Prevention and Wellness programs at the Mobile County Health Department, advancing community health and resilience. She brings a public health and trauma informed perspective to the Gun Violence Task Force, emphasizing prevention, mental health collaboration, and access to care. Her leadership helps connect health, safety, and community well-being to reduce violence across Mobile.

## **DENISE RIEMER**

### **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES | MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Denise Riemer oversees student support programs across MCPSS, focusing on the academic, behavioral, and emotional well-being of students. She leads initiatives that address truancy, attendance, and crisis response while fostering partnerships that strengthen student safety and resilience. Riemer's expertise ensures that the Task Force integrates education-based prevention and early intervention strategies that identify and support at-risk youth before they encounter the criminal justice system.

## **ANDY GATEWOOD**

### **DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY | MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Andy Gatewood serves Mobile County Public Schools, where he plays a key role in advancing student safety, school security, and collaborative problem-solving across one of Alabama's largest school systems. With direct insight into the challenges facing students, educators, and families, he brings a prevention-focused perspective that connects school-based concerns with broader community safety efforts. Andy's experience working across education, public safety partners, and community stakeholders makes him an invaluable voice on the City of Mobile Safer Communities Taskforce, particularly in addressing youth-related crime, violence prevention, and early intervention strategies that strengthen neighborhoods and improve long-term public safety outcomes.

## **KEITH BLACKWOOD**

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY | MOBILE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

District Attorney Keith Blackwood was elected in November 2022 as the District Attorney for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. A proud graduate of Auburn University and the Cumberland School of Law, DA Blackwood has been with the Mobile County District Attorney's office since 2008. Before his election, Blackwood served as Chief Assistant District Attorney and successfully prosecuted thousands of cases. He is also nationally recognized for excellence in complex and capital litigation.

As the chief law enforcement official in Mobile County, DA Blackwood leads a team of over 90 prosecutors, trial coordinators, investigators, victim service officer, social workers, financial unit coordinators, technology coordinators and other staff who fight each day in pursuit of justice and giving victims of crime a voice in the justice system.

DA Blackwood is committed not only to prosecuting crime but also to pursuing innovative and alternative strategies aimed at preventing and reducing crime over the long term.

**RON JOHNSON**  
**RAIN GROUP, INC.**

Captain Ronald S. Johnson (Ret.) served 31 years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and is nationally recognized for his leadership during the 2014 Ferguson crisis, where he emphasized communication, trust-building, and de-escalation. Now leading Lodestone Solutions Group, he provides leadership and crisis-response training to law enforcement and community organizations nationwide. Capt. Johnson brings invaluable experience in community engagement, crisis leadership, and violence-prevention strategies, making him a strong asset to the Safer Communities Task Force while strengthening community partnerships, reducing conflict, and supporting long-term neighborhood safety.

**CASMARAH “CAZ” MANI**  
**COMMUNITY FACILITATOR | CITY OF MOBILE**

Casmarah “Caz” Mani has been involved in the community for years prior to joining the City of Mobile. As a community facilitator, Casmarah Mani works directly with residents, community groups, youth, and local stakeholders throughout Mobile. He helps identify safety concerns, builds public trust and promotes collaborative solutions all in an effort to prevent crime. Community facilitators are trained in conflict resolution, trauma-informed engagement, and culturally competent communication.

**MONIQUE ROGERS**  
**RAIN GROUP, LLC**

Monique Rogers founded RAIN Group, LLC in 2015. In late 2024, the RAIN Group purchased a 214-acre property on the Shelton Beach Road Extension from the City of Mobile to construct affordable housing for the city’s unhoused population. At the RAIN Group, unhoused individuals will receive help with workforce development, financial literacy and assistance with their overall wellness. The concept also includes plans to build out space for critical nonprofit resources on site.