



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Nevada Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Public Meeting: The Impact of Nevada Policing Practices  
on the Administration of Justice**

Las Vegas, NV – On August 9, in Las Vegas, the Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing on policing practices in the state. The Committee will hear testimony from academics, law enforcement, state government organizations, mental health professionals, and other interested individuals regarding implications for the administration of justice of police practices as they relate to mental health, with special emphasis on the impact on veterans and people of color. The Committee intends to view these issues through the lens of Pillar 4 (Community Policing & Crime Reduction) of the [Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#).

The briefing will take place on Thursday, August 9, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT, at the Embassy Suites (Flamingo Ballroom), 4315 Swenson Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119. This meeting is free and open to the public. Parking is available on site.

Members of the public will be invited to speak during two open public comment sessions, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov) by September 3, 2018. Following the meeting, the Committee will issue its findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission.

Wendell Blaylock, Chair of the Committee, stated: “As the concerns of police shootings and excessive force have become more engrained in national discourse, it is important for Nevadans to review the impact and possible solutions for our state. In addition to examining effective police practices with people of color, the Nevada Committee will, for the first time, include veterans as a potentially impacted group and will also assess the unique issues that relate to policing and mental illness, including PTSD and traumatic brain injury as well as other mental health issues.”

**AGENDA**

**Opening Remarks and Introductions (9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.)**

**Community Policing & Crime Reduction (9:15 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.)**

- William Sousa, Professor & Director, Center for Crime & Justice Policy, University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Understanding Mental Illness & the Criminal Justice System I (9:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.)**

- Linda Marie Bell, Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court
- Bitia Yeager, Hearing Master, Eighth Judicial District Court
- Lisa Ann Rasmussen, Attorney
- Nita Schmidt, Captain, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

**Understanding Mental Illness & the Criminal Justice System II (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)**

- Dr. Aaron E. Bomer, Director of Inpatient Social Services Department & Mobile Crises Team, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Jason Schwartz, Director of Community Support, University of Nevada Las Vegas Medicine
- Sara Gordon, Professor of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law

**Open Public Comment (12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Break (12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.)**

**Potential Solutions I (1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)**

- Damon D'Amato, Founder, Qi United
- Will Scott, Captain, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
- Nicole McGee, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- James Oscarson, Assembly Member, Nevada District 36

**Potential Solutions II (3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)**

- Jeff Detrick, University of Nevada Las Vegas Military & Veteran Services Center
- Daniel Solow, Lt. Col., Nevada Highway Patrol
- Anne Carpenter, Deputy Chief, Nevada Parole and Probation Department
- Roberta Pike Oates, Senior Master Sergeant, Retired, U.S. Air Force; President, Thunderbird Chapter, Air Force Association; Vice President, Women Veterans of Nevada

**Open Public Comment (4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.)**

**Closing Remarks (4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).