



# TOWN OF ORLEANS

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SELECT BOARD

TOWN  
ADMINISTRATOR

## SAFER COMMUNITY TASK FORCE CHARGE

### Background

Massachusetts has put in place several laws that promote the safe and responsible use of firearms. The Town of Orleans, primarily through the Police Department, has a proactive community based problem-solving approach for violent crime.

While we recognize the leadership here, in the Commonwealth, and the recently enacted Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 signed into law on June 25, 2022, national measures have failed to stop the loss of life to violence in the United States. In 2021 there were a total of 692 mass shootings and over 45,000-gun violence-related deaths in the U.S (<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls>).

Prevention of violence is critical to maintain the high quality of life enjoyed by our citizens.

### Charge

On July 6, 2022, the Select Board directs the creation of the Town of Orleans Safer Community Task Force (“Task Force”). The Task Force shall meet with a frequency it decides necessary to perform its functions under this Charge, meeting at least once per month. The Task Force consists of the following nine (9) members, or their designee appointed by the Select Board: Chief of Police, Chief of Fire-Rescue, Board of Health, Nauset Regional School District; Chamber of Commerce; a Select Board member, and three (3) at-large members, one of which shall have experience in the fields of mental health.

The Task Force is an advisory body to the Select Board charged with researching how the public safety and public health systems are currently used and could be improved to address individuals in need of behavioral health services who may be at risk to commit or be a victim of violence.

The Task Force is also charged with researching and compiling data related to violence in Orleans and Barnstable County, including how many and what kind of acts of violence are seen each year, what kind of weapons are used and how are the weapons obtained. The Task Force shall investigate circumstances in which violent incidents in Orleans have occurred and how and why they happened.

The Task Force shall produce a report with actionable recommendations to keep Orleans a safe community. A preliminary report of the Task Force shall be provided to the Select Board summarizing its progress and initial findings by September 2023. The Task Force shall send a final report to the Select Board by December 31, 2023.

Date Approved: July 6, 2022

Date Amended: March 1, 2023