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Safer Upstate Discover Committee Releases Recommendations

Greenville, SC [October 29, 2020] – Following a series of four meetings convened through Ten at the Top (TATT), the Creating a Safer Upstate Discovery Committee has announced a series of recommendations designed to promote collaboration among stakeholders in fostering a culture in the Upstate that respects and values the lives of all officers and residents.

The Discovery Committee was originally convened by Terence Roberts, Chairman of the Ten at the Top Board of Directors and the Mayor of the City of Anderson, following a number of highly publicized instances of police force across the country.

“While our region has been fortunate not to have seen the violence and social unrest that has occurred in other parts of the country, we do recognize that not every Upstate resident feels safe or trusts our law enforcement officers, Roberts said. “We felt with the platform already established by Ten at the Top to be a neutral convener, that we had an opportunity to proactively engage stakeholders across the region around the topic of creating a safer region for all residents.”

The Creating a Safer Upstate Discovery Committee consisted of more than 50 representatives from local governments, law enforcement, community organizations, faith leaders and Upstate businesses. The committee met virtually four times to discuss opportunities for how to create a united Upstate region where all stakeholders work collaboratively to ensure that we foster a culture that respects and values the lives of our law enforcement officers and all residents.

As the primary strategy, the Discover Committee recommends the development of a Safer Upstate Steering Committee to represent, support and communicate local efforts to improve relationships between law enforcement and community residents across the region. The Safer Upstate Steering Committee will focus on the following three goals:

1. Engage law enforcement officials, community leaders and residents to work together to build healthy working relationships that elevate mutual respect, value cultural differences, and acknowledge the roles and responsibilities that each play in creating safer Upstate Communities.

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2. Provide regular opportunities for law enforcement and community leaders to convene to proactively discuss community issues and emerging law enforcement topics while exploring approaches that can be implemented across the Upstate Region.

3. Enhance public trust by identifying, sharing and implementing best practice approaches for developing a sustainable, healthy relationship between law enforcement officials and the greater Upstate Community.

The Steering Committee will be under the leadership of co-chairs Sheriff Rick Clark and Stinson Ferguson. Both Upstate natives, Sheriff Clark has been the sheriff of Pickens county since 2013 while Ferguson is Special Counsel for Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. in Greenville.

More information about the Safer Upstate initiative can be found at www.tenatthetop.org. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Safer Upstate Steering Committee is invited to reach out to Justine Allen, TATT Program Manager, at jallen@tenatthetop.org or 864-283-0346.

ABOUT TEN AT THE TOP

Comprised of public, private and civic leaders from across the ten-county Upstate South Carolina Region, Ten at the Top was created to connect and encourage regional collaboration through data-driven research and regular convening of leaders and citizens to address key issues facing the region. Ten at the Top works with regional partners to foster collaboration and strategic planning to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for Upstate residents both today and as the region continues to grow. For more information, visit www.tenatthetop.org.

Creating a Safer Upstate Discovery Committee Members

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position
Katherine	Amidon	Synterra	Market Leader, Environmental Planning
Bill	Barnet	Barnet Development Group	CEO
Steve	Brown	Greenwood County	Chairman
Carol	Burdette	United Way of Anderson County	President
Paul	Cain	Oconee County	Councilman
Becky	Callaham	Safe Harbor	Executive Director
Rick	Clark	Pickens County	Sheriff
Roy	Costner	Pickens County	Chairman
Michael	Cunningham	AnMed Health	Vice President for Advancement
Rick	Danner	City of Greer	Mayor
Chandra	Dillard	SC House	Representative
Sean	Dogan	Urban League of the Upstate	Interim CEO
Stephanie	Enders	Ripple of One	Executive Director
David	Feild	Colliers International	Market President
Stinson	Ferguson	Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd	Special Counsel
Santana	Freeman	City of Abbeville	Mayor



TEN

at the top

Ten Counties. One Upstate. Stronger Together.

Freddie	Gault	Office of Congressman William Timmons	Outreach Director
LaTorrie	Geer	Community Works	Chief Operating Officer
Danielle	Gibbs	Senator Scott Office	Upstate Director
Charlie	Hall	Upstate Warrior Solution	Executive Director
Matt	Hamby	City of Greer	Police Chief
Michael	Hildebrand	Upstate Mobility Alliance	Director of Inclusion & Diversity
Dan	Holland	Oconee County	Cultural Diversity Director
Todd	Horne	Clayton Construction	Vice President
Missy	House	City of Inman	City Administrator
Tammie	Hoy Hawkins	Community Works	CEO
Dean	Hybl	Ten at the Top	Executive Director
Scott	Junkins	Harris Flooring America	Owner
Kimbrelly	Kegler	Michelin	Future Product Portfolio Leader
Dennis	Kelly	Greenwood County	Sheriff
Mitch	Kennedy	City of Spartanburg	Assistant City Manager
Butch	Kirven	Greenville County	Chairman
Sonny	Ledda	City of Clinton	Police Chief
Jil	Littlejohn	Hubbell Incorporated	Director of Inclusion & Diversity
Erwin	Maddrey	Maddrey & Associates	CEO
David	McCuen	City of Anderson	City Manager
Keith	McDaniel	Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church	Pastor
Adela	Mendoza	Hispanic Alliance	Executive Director
Stacey	Mills	USC-Upstate	University Center Executive Director
Amanda	Munyan	Laurens County Chamber	President
Floyd	Nicholson	SC Senate	Senator
Carlos	Phillips	Greenville Chamber	CEO
Andrena	Powell-Baker	Lockhart Power	Senior Manager
Tricia	Ravenhorst	SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	General Counsel
Terence	Roberts	City of Anderson	Mayor
Jim	Shew	Marsh & McLennan	Vice President
George	Shira	Milliken	Vice President of Human Resources
Paige	Stephenson	United Way of the Piedmont	President
Jim	Stewart	City of Anderson	Police Chief
Harold	Thompson	City of Union	Mayor
Alonzo	Thompson	City of Spartanburg	Police Chief
Theresa	Thompson	Upstate Warrior Solution	Deputy Director
Wendy	Walden	Greenville Tech	Associate Vice President
Greg	Whitaker	Clemson University	Deputy Campus Police Chief