



GEORGIA

# Status Report

# Governor's Commission On Criminal Justice Standards & Goals -

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STATUS REPORT

## ORIGINS AND CURRENT PROGRESS

### CRIME: THE NUMBERS GROW

Every 4½ minutes, another Georgian becomes a victim of a reported crime. During the five years 1968-72 . . . the latest period for which figures are available . . . the incidence of crime in the state jumped 89 percent, from 71,599 to 116,533.

This increase, according to the 1974 Profile of Crime and Criminal Justice in Georgia, included not only property crimes but also the high-fear crimes: homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault and robbery.

For example, homicides in Georgia in 1968 totaled 636, but in 1972 totaled 871. Forcible rapes had risen from 619 to 984, robberies from 2,181 to 6,340, and aggravated assaults from 6,467 to 9,628.

The problem of how to reduce this rising crime rate and provide greater protection throughout the State while assuring equal justice to all citizens prompted Governor Jimmy Carter in May to form The Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals.

Establishment of the Commission also is a response by Governor Carter to the work of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (NAC). NAC was created in 1971 and was composed of leaders in criminal justice from throughout the nation, including two from Georgia. It recently completed its 14-month study with publication of a national strategy to reduce crime.

The strategy includes 495 standards and goals recommended to the States to improve their criminal justice systems and provide ways for the various segments of the systems to support each other and work together in a joint effort to reduce crime.

The Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals is now at work determining which of the NAC recommendations can best be applied in Georgia and how they can be implemented. Their findings will be submitted to Governor Carter by November 1 for actions that can be effected at the State level.

Creation of the Commission was the first of several steps taken this summer by Governor Carter to accelerate improvements taking place in Georgia's criminal justice system.

Other steps include efforts to reduce the prison population and combat the establishment of organized crime.

Examples of improvements already effected in Georgia that meet the NAC standards include the State Judicial Qualification Commission, which can investigate charges bearing on a judge's competence to continue on the bench, and the Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts, equal to the NAC recommendation that each State have "an office of State Court Administrator".

"We've got some very serious problems in the State", Governor Carter said. "I feel very deeply about the inequity in our criminal justice system. Before I leave office, I want to be sure that our criminal justice system operates without discrimination, even though it is inadvertent discrimination, to the poor, the black or any citizen without influence."

### COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

The Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals is composed of 28 members representing police, courts, corrections and the general public. It is organized into six Task Forces, with each Task Force chaired by a member of the Commission. The Task Forces, designated by subject areas of responsibility, are Police, Courts, Corrections, Personnel Development, Systems, and Community Crime Prevention.

Members of each Task Force were selected for their demonstrated ability in a particular field and for their working knowledge of various aspects of the criminal justice system in Georgia.

The Task Force approach provides a mechanism for completing a concentrated, detailed study in a short time. The approach was used in both the Reorganization and the State and Local Government studies and was chosen for use in the Standards and Goals study because of the Governor's desire to see significant improvements in the criminal justice system recommended to the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

### COMMISSION PROGRESS

The Task Forces have completed the first stage of the project, the identification of issues that must be addressed

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if the State's criminal justice system is to be upgraded and a reduction in crime made possible. These Task Forces are now moving into detailed studies of each issue, studies that will result in the specific recommendations that will be made to Governor Carter.

The 39 issues, categorized by Task Force responsibility, are:

#### **POLICE TASK FORCE**

##### Authority of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation

For what types of criminal activity should the GBI have the authority to investigate and to obtain and execute warrants?

##### Specialized Services

What specialized investigative services, including crime laboratory services, should the State make available to assist local police agencies?

##### Full Time Police Services

Should the State assist local governments in providing full-time police services?

##### Coordination for Natural Disasters and Civil Disorders

What coordinating activities should the State perform during civil disorders, natural disasters and other unusual occurrences requiring the resources of the State?

##### Management Consulting and Technical Assistance Services

What methods should the State employ to identify agencies that need assistance and how should the State publicize the availability of services?

##### Police Misconduct

How should misconduct of State and local law enforcement officers be handled?

##### State Role in Police Transportation Needs and Safety

Should the State establish minimum requirements and specifications for transportation equipment employed by law enforcement agencies?

##### Interagency Cooperation and Coordination

Should the police cooperate and coordinate with the various components of the criminal justice system?

#### **COURTS TASK FORCE**

##### Diversion

What criteria and procedures should be established for diversion of persons from the criminal justice community?

##### Plea Negotiation

Should plea negotiation be abolished in Georgia, and if not, what steps should be taken to ensure proper and effective utilization of this procedure?

##### Pretrial Release

What agency, criteria and procedures need to be established to govern release of persons prior to trial? What penalties should be imposed on persons who fail to appear for criminal proceedings?

##### Discovery

What evidence should be disclosed between the prosecution and the defense and how should the disclosure be governed?

##### Jury Size, Selection and Composition

What should be the size of the juries in criminal cases in Georgia? Should unanimity of the jury verdict be required and should selection of the jury be on a regional basis?

##### The Prosecution Function

Should an organization be established to assist prosecutors and to prosecute corruption and other specialized crimes? What role should the prosecutor and his staff play in the investigation of crime?

##### Statewide Indigent Defense

What organization, criteria, procedure and standards need to be established for the statewide provision of defense services to indigents accused of crime?

##### Sentencing

How can sentencing be made a more efficient and effective element of the criminal justice system?

#### **CORRECTIONS**

##### Juvenile Intake Emphasizing Diversion and Informal Disposition

What are the juvenile intake services that can most effectively accomplish diversion of juveniles from the criminal justice system in Georgia?

##### Diversion and Other Pre-Sentence Programs

What treatment programs . . . including counseling, training and programs for special offender types such as alcoholics, drug addicts, the mentally retarded and the emotionally ill . . . should be available for (1) persons in pre-trial status, whether detained in jail or released on bond; and (2) persons tried but not yet sentenced?

##### Jail Standards at Local Level

What steps are required to insure that local jails in Georgia are safe and sanitary?

##### Adult Detention Facilities

What facilities are most appropriate for detaining adult offenders prior to trial and during incarceration?

##### Incarceration Alternatives

How can effective alternatives to incarceration be developed?

##### Institutional Treatment Programs

How can present institutional treatment programs, including those in county correctional institutions, be made more effective in rehabilitating adult and juvenile offenders and reintegrating them into society?

##### Institutional Treatment Program for Women

How can present institutional treatment programs for females, both adult and juvenile be made effective in providing for the rehabilitation of female offenders and their reintegration into society.

##### Juvenile Parole Practices

What kinds of juvenile parole practices are necessary for the protection of the public and the rehabilitation of the offender?

##### Adult Parole Practices

What kinds of adult parole practices are necessary for the protection of the public and the rehabilitation of the offender?

##### Overall Correctional System Involving State and Local Governments

Is an overall correctional system involving State and local governments, including institutional and community-based programs for adults and juveniles, desirable and feasible for Georgia?

#### **PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

##### Recruitment, Selection and Retention of Police Personnel

What mechanisms will appropriately assure an adequate level of police competency in Georgia?

##### Police Training

Should increased training standards for police and other criminal justice personnel be established?

##### Training for Judges, Prosecutors and Defense Personnel

What administrative structure, statutory authority, funding, and means of communication should be provided to facilitate training for publicly-employed professional courts personnel?

##### Minimum Selection Standards and Training for all Correctional Personnel

What minimum selection standards and training are required to improve the quality of correctional personnel and their work skills and provide for retention or removal?

##### Selection, Retention, Pay and Removal of Judges

How should judges be selected, retained, paid, and removed from office if necessary?

#### **SYSTEMS**

##### Criminal Justice Planning

What are the best ways to provide effective comprehensive criminal justice planning in Georgia?

##### Protection of the Individual's Right of Privacy with the Computerization of Criminal Records

How can we insure individual rights to privacy and still provide law enforcement personnel with data necessary for the effective operation of the criminal justice system?

##### Inefficient Use of Limited Radio Frequency Resources Available to State and Local Agencies

How can State and local criminal justice agencies be provided with effective radio communications capabilities?

#### **COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION**

##### Youth Service Bureaus

What is the best method for providing to young people the social services that are responsive to their special needs and will result in the prevention of crime and delinquency?

##### Drug Abuse Prevention

What programs will prevent drug abuse by individuals and thereby prevent their involvement in the criminal justice system?

##### Educational Program Re-Evaluation

What educational programs are most effective in preventing criminal activity?

##### Criminal Opportunity Reduction

What programs can be adopted to reduce criminal opportunity and, consequently, crime?

##### Gun Control

What can be done in the area of gun control to reduce criminal activity that results from the use of handguns?

These 39 Task Force issues address 192 of the 495 standards and recommendations published by the NAC. As each Task Force completes its work, its findings will be evaluated by the full Commission, which by November 1 will submit its recommendations to the Governor. The Commission will then remain in force through December as an advisory body to the Governor.

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## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chairman: Governor Jimmy Carter

## POLICE TASK FORCE

Chairman: Representative Walter B. Russell, Jr., Decatur  
Sheriff Franklin Thornton, Walton County  
Police Chief Curtis E. McClung, Columbus  
Ted King, Director of Security, Southern Bell, Atlanta  
Prentiss Q. Yancey, Jr., Attorney, Atlanta

## COURTS TASK FORCE

Chairman: Robert H. Walling, Attorney, Atlanta  
Judge Curtis V. Tillman, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit,  
DeKalb County  
Mrs. Bettye Kehr, Director, Georgia Criminal Justice  
Council, Atlanta  
W. Terence Walsh, Attorney, Atlanta  
Richard E. Allen, District Attorney, Augusta Judicial  
Circuit  
Aaron L. Buchsbaum, Attorney, Savannah

## CORRECTIONS TASK FORCE

Chairman: Judge C. Cloud Morgan, Macon Judicial Circuit  
Dr. Allen Ault, Commissioner, Department of Offender  
Rehabilitation, Atlanta

Cecil McCall, Chairman, State Board of Pardons and  
Paroles, Atlanta

Hugh W. Gibert, Attorney, Atlanta

John L. Cromartie, Jr., Attorney, Atlanta

## PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chairman: James L. Maddex, Jr., Assistant Academic  
Dean and Associate Professor, School of Urban Life,  
Georgia State University, Atlanta  
Charles R. Taylor, Superintendent, Georgia Police  
Academy, Atlanta  
John E. Girardeau, Attorney, Gainesville  
Thomas S. Chambless, Attorney, Albany

## CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Chairman: Emmet J. Bondurant, Attorney, Atlanta  
Dr. William Wieland, Director, Drug Abuse Services,  
Section, Department of Human Resources, Atlanta  
Albert L. Thompson, Jr., Attorney, Atlanta  
Warren N. Coppedge, Jr., Attorney, Dalton

## SYSTEMS TASK FORCE

Chairman: Irving K. Kaler, Attorney, Atlanta  
James Dunlap, Director, Administrative Office  
of the Courts, Atlanta  
Representative Larry Walker, Perry

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## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND GOALS

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