

Governor Abbott Announces Texas Safety Commission

Commission Will Meet On August 22nd In Austin, August 29th In El Paso

AUSTIN – Last week, Governor Greg Abbott announced the Domestic Terrorism Task Force to combat hateful acts of extremism in Texas following the recent shooting in El Paso. Today, Governor Abbott announced the Texas Safety Commission, which will develop an immediate action plan for the State of Texas. This plan will include strategies to provide community healing, combat the rise of extremist groups and hateful ideologies, keep guns out of the hands of deranged individuals, and combat domestic terrorism, including cybersecurity threats. The commission will also produce legislative solutions the State of Texas can adopt to prevent mass shootings and domestic terror attacks.

"The State of Texas will not relent in its effort to help the El Paso community heal and keep all Texans safe," said Governor Abbott. "The Texas Safety Commission will bring together experts and community leaders to develop an action plan to combat threats of domestic terrorism, root out extremist ideologies, and address the link between mental health challenges and gun violence in our communities. By working together, we will ensure a safe and secure future for all Texans."

The first Texas Safety Commission meeting will be held on August 22nd in Austin at the Texas Capitol at 10:30 a.m., with the second occurring in El Paso on August 29th. Portions of these commission meetings will be open to the press and additional logistical details will be forthcoming.

The following individuals will attend the first commission meeting on August 22nd in Austin:

- Governor Greg Abbott
- Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
- Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen
- Senator Jose Rodriguez
- Representative Mary Gonzales
- Representative Cesar Blanco
- Representative Joe Moody
- Representative Art Fierro
- Senator Joan Huffman, Chairwoman of the Senate State Affairs Committee
- Representative Phil King, former police officer, member of the Texas State Guard
- Colonel Steven McCraw, Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Major David Cabrera, DPS Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division, Texas Fusion Centers
- Major Manuel Espinosa, DPS Criminal Investigation Division, Texas Anti-Gang Centers
- Matthew DeSarno, Special Agent in Charge, Dallas Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Dr. Courtney Phillips, Executive Director, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Ed Scruggs, Texas Gun Sense
- Dr. Juan Martinez, Superintendent, Clint Independent School District
- Jeff Murray, Protective Security Advisor, United States Department of Homeland Security
- Dr. Lina Alathari, Chief, United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center
- Dr. Susan Fletcher, Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
- Robert Chesney, Director and James Baker Chair, University of Texas at Austin

- Neil Potts, Content Policy Team, Facebook
- Tory Mayo, Lead Pastor, The Well Austin
- A Representative From Google
- Tom Tarantino, Head of US State Public Policy, Twitter
- Lonzo Anderson, Assistant Chief, Dallas Police Department
- Karie Gibson, Supervisory Special Agent, Behavioral Analysis Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Additional information on logistics and a list of attendees for the August 29th meeting will be released in the coming days.