Dear

Please join (Center's Name) for a citizen deliberative forum being organized at (**Location)on (full date and Time).**

I would like to invite you and/or the (Senator or Congresswoman/man) to participate or to just observe the forum.   This group of (30) citizens will come together for about 90 minutes, with a skilled moderator using a non-partisan framing to discuss the issue of safety and justice. Citizens will share their experiences and views, weigh trade offs for specific policy solutions, and see where they may have common ground.

The issue guide,  carefully worded and tested to be accessible to all citizens, was prepared by the Kettering Foundation and will be distributed ahead of the forum.  I have attached a copy to this invite.

Through our work with the National Issues Forum and the Kettering Foundation, we have learned that deliberative forums provide useful insights about, not *what* citizens think of a particular policy in isolation, but *how* they’re coming to a position on the the issue and how it relates to their many other concerns.  Deliberative forums, in addition to polls and focus groups,  help provide policy makers with a more complete view of what constituents are thinking. We are inviting you to participate in the discussion, rather than speak to it, as we have learned that some of the most honest insights emerge from a level playing field.  We thought you might be interested to see the value of this work first hand and it would be our honor to have you join us.

I'd be happy to discuss in more detail or answer any questions that you may have.  Thank you for your consideration and I hope to see you on (date)