



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
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COPS

L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award Nomination Criteria

The award may be given to individuals involved in a single, high-impact project or to those involved in a pattern of transformative projects that exemplify this integrated approach to policing in a democracy. As beacons to the field, the success stories celebrated by this award will be summarized succinctly for wide dissemination. These summaries will highlight what the collaborators did, how they did it, how they overcame obstacles to achieve important results and especially how their work was inspired and guided by civic imagination—creative ways the awardees identified and synergistically linked a variety of “civic assets” (public and private organizations and community members) to produce breakthrough accomplishments in community policing to improve neighborhood safety and livability.

The ideal nominee for this award:

Creates sustainable collaborations that are innovative, creative, and transformative.

A law enforcement officer or executive whose vision of new or more robust civic interaction and working relationships has stimulated and guided activities that made a community or neighborhood demonstrably safer and engendered a greater quality of life for the residents. Imagination about civic interaction and working relationships includes ways to holistically integrate police expertise and capacity into local governance and into healthy community functioning. The efforts being honored should have achieved transformative and readily observable improvements. The award recognizes those who have solved existing problems in imaginative, exemplary, and sustainable ways and also those who, with foresight, vision, and initiative, anticipated and demonstrably prevented community problems that would have generated or attracted crime, disorder, and fear.

Displays civic leadership through problem solving and collaborative partnerships.

The award is given to individuals who have done truly original thinking and problem solving, harnessing these ideas to connect police and other entities productively; recognizing others' valuable concepts and tailoring and implementing them successfully to create new, effective civic linkages. What distinguishes this award from others is that the police engaged the community substantively in high-impact, collaborative work. The community partners whose capacities are identified and linked imaginatively and synergistically may include neighborhood organizations, businesses, advocacy groups, community developers, non-traditional groups, service providers, and other agencies.

Institutionalizes sustainable, positive observable public safety outcomes.

Awardees should have displayed the courage to address problems that have defied conventional solutions and the creativity and dedication to devise and deploy nontraditional approaches. The solutions arrived at should be affordable, sustainable, and portable (or replicable). The outcomes and methods used to produce them should affect how others in the same community and elsewhere address a variety of problems that generate or attract crime, disorder, and fear. The trailblazers honored for their civic imagination will be truly innovative practitioners who have helped make communities more sustainably safe and livable.

Promotes public safety through a dedication to the community policing philosophy.

The methods used to advance public safety should reflect community policing principles and practices. It should be clear that police and their collaborators, by their words and deeds, inspired, respected, and supported the affected community's own vision of how to improve conditions. The affected community should therefore embrace the outcomes and honor the legitimacy of the methods used to achieve them. Thus, the honored approaches should exemplify the spirit of community policing as "democracy in action." Awardees should demonstrate respectful, trust-building approaches to inspiring, motivating, and supporting the community members and others who need to be most directly involved in making a shared vision of change a reality.



Awards will be announced at the
2011 COPS Conference | August 1–2
Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC