

# THE L. ANTHONY SUTIN CIVIC IMAGINATION AWARD



## 2016 L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award

*The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is sponsoring the 2016 L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award, which recognizes the efforts of collaborative partnerships within the community. This honor is bestowed upon a team of law enforcement officers and community members whose innovative and civic interaction has transformed public safety in their community. Nominees are those actively engaged in community collaborations while harnessing the problem-solving philosophy and those engaged with the community in a multifaceted manner that has been sustained over time and has resulted in positive, observable public safety outcomes.*

The award may be given to a team of two or more individuals—at least one law enforcement officer and one community member—involved in a high-impact collaboration that may involve a single project or a pattern of transformative projects that best exemplifies community policing.

## L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award Nomination Criteria

### The ideal nominee team for this award:

- ★ **Creates sustainable collaborations that are innovative, creative, and transformative.**

Teams should have created a vision for new or more robust civic interaction and working relationships that have 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.**

Teams should have exhibited 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 partner/law enforcement officer team whose capacities are identified and linked imaginatively and synergistically may include neighborhood organizations, businesses, advocacy groups, community developers, nontraditional groups, service providers, and other agencies.

★ **Institutionalizes sustainable, positive, observable public safety outcomes.**

Teams 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 dedication to the community policing philosophy.**

Teams should have infused community policing principles and practices throughout their methods to advance public safety. 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." Teams should have demonstrated respectful, trust-building approaches to inspire, motivate, and support community members and others who need to be most directly involved in making a shared vision of change a reality.

**To learn more, visit the L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award website.**

**[www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2587](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2587)**



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
145 N Street NE  
Washington, DC 20530

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)