

# THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

## **Minutes from the Listening Session on Technology and Social Media**

**University of Cincinnati  
Tangeman University Center Great Hall  
2766 UC Main St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45221  
January 31, 2015  
9:00 a.m. EST**

### **Attendance**

*Task Force Members:* Charles Ramsey, Laurie Robinson, Cedric L. Alexander, Jose Lopez, Tracey L. Meares, Brittney Packnett, Susan Lee Rahr, Constance Rice, Sean Michael Smoot, Bryan Stevenson, Roberto Villaseñor

*Staff and Agency Personnel:* Ronald Davis, Darrel Stephens, Steven Rickman, Melanca Clark, Katherine McQuay, Charlotte Grzebien, Deborah Spence, Laurel Matthews, Silas Darden, Michael Franko, Jennifer Rosenberger, Shannon Long, James Cople, Colleen Cople, Jessica Drake, Jason Drake, Latitia Harmon, Steven Minson

*Invited Witnesses:* Jim Bueermann, Scott Greenwood, Tracie Keese, Bill Lewinski, Michael White, Elliot Cohen, Madhu Grewal, Bill Schrier, Vincent Talucci, Johanna Miller, Ken Miller, Kenton Rainey, Richard Van Houten, Hassan Aden, DeRay McKesson, Steve Spiker, Lauri Stevens

### **Welcome and Opening Statements**

Ronald Davis, Executive Director of the task force and Director of the COPS Office, opened the listening session of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing at 9:00 a.m.

The co-chairs, Laurie Robinson and Charles Ramsey, each made welcoming statements noting the importance of this work and the timeline of producing recommendations to the President by March 2. They noted that the task force would have further hearings in Phoenix, Arizona, and Washington, DC.

They were followed by opening statements by each of the task force members in alphabetical order. Each introduced themselves for the audience.

Director Davis presented an overview of the agenda and thanked the staff who had organized the meeting before handing over to the co-chairs to introduce the first panel.

### **Panel One—Body Cameras: Considerations**

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

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Jim Bueermann stated his support of body camera technology, but wanted to remind us that, as with any technology, it can produce unforeseen problems. Ultimately, this is a human issue, not a technological one.

Scott Greenwood talked about places doing this well, namely Ft. Worth, Texas; Mesa, Arizona; and Salt Lake City, Utah. These are examples of how large agencies have deployed officer video in a way that balances all the rights and builds trust with the community.

Tracie Keesee spoke to the research that has to be done around the legal considerations of body cameras. Privacy is a legal question that is tied to reasonable expectations.

Bill Lewinski recommended research on how the public understands and how to influence them. This is about not just what a camera represents but also the true reality. He also noted that officers need to be informed about what a camera captures. All the research thus far does not cover what is not seen by a body camera that an officer is seeing.

## **Panel Two—Body Cameras: Implementation**

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Johanna Miller noted that it is important to remember that policies are being created as technology is implemented. Many private vendors who issue the data storage and the cameras are creating the policies.

Ken Miller spoke to how cameras alone cannot produce the fair and balanced policing that this task force seeks to promote. They can provide evidence of complying with policies and training but cannot guarantee it. There need to be systemic changes to policies.

Kenton Rainey said that transparency is a key to community policing. Body cameras are a tool to get there.

Richard Van Houten talked about how current body camera technology and implementation is merely the tip of the iceberg. It takes an ongoing effort to address every issue that arises. A body camera is a tool with a specific purpose and limitation. Sgt. Van Houten was wearing his body camera on his uniform at the session but noted it was turned off while he was sitting on the panel.

*The task force adjourned for a lunch break and was called back to order at 1:00 p.m. EST by Ronald Davis.*

## **Panel Three—Technology Policy**

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Elliot Cohen spoke about how the failure of agencies to define policy leads employees to use their own discretion and opinion rather than best practices. Policies on using emerging technologies should be spelled out clearly enough so that the employee understands the greater impact of their behavior.

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Madhu Grewal advised that agencies should be aware when they can disclose data to the public. Policies should outline access to data through written requests and also who views footage when a complaint is filed against the officer. Training should be required for all law enforcement officers, including supervisors and auditors.

Bill Schier talked about the rapidly changing technology landscape and how it changes how we do business and how we are as citizens.

Vince Talucci spoke about how the IACP took the lead to develop principles that can be a guide to all law enforcement agencies. Those include specification of use, privacy procedures, data usage and limitations, security, data retention, access, and use.

### **Panel Four—Social Media, Community Digital Engagement & Collaboration**

Each panelist gave a five-minute presentation and answered questions from task force members.

Hassan Aden presented on the IACP Center for Social Media which builds the capacity of law enforcement to use social media to prevent and solve crimes, strengthen police-community relations, and enhance services. He also spoke to his personal experience with social media as a police chief.

DeRay McKesson spoke about his use of social media as a protest organizer in Ferguson, Missouri. Twitter and social media are pivotal to the protest movement. He noted that the tools we now have to communicate with each other are unprecedented, so we need to use them wisely.

Steve Spiker talked about how transparency impacts decision-making and community government. Traditionally the role of data in government has been to research compliance. Government now needs to be proactive.

Laurie Stevens presented on how social media is for community engagement and data management and to prevent and solve crime.

### **Audience Participation**

During the open comment period, James Copple read a few of the emails and tweets that had been submitted by online viewers. They were unattributed. In addition, Executive Director Ronald Davis provided time for people in the audience to speak. Each speaker had two minutes and comments were made by Abby Weaver, Danny Brown, and Ken Miller.

### **Concluding Remarks**

At the end of the audience comment period, each of the task force members took a few minutes to thank all the presenters and summarize what they were taking away from the day. They spoke in alphabetical order, concluding with the co-chairs.

Executive Director Ronald Davis then thanked everyone for attending and noted that testimony would resume in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 13, 2015 and that detailed information on that listening session would be available on the COPS Office website.

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m. EST.

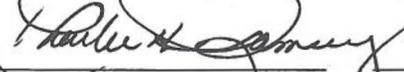
Minutes Certified By:



Laurie Robinson, Co-Chair

2/23/15

Date



Charles Ramsey, Co-Chair

2/23/15

Date