

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Again I wish you the best in your important yet difficult effort.

Regards

Paul Casagrande

Source: Alvydas Civinskas

To the Task Force:

Many people are now clamoring for the fact that police should have medical training for a wounded suspect. What happens with the medical liability issue? What happens when the officer is trying to help and the suspect starts shouting "police brutality, police brutality!" because the officer is using an clotting agent and it stings a bit? Can the suspect's family sue the officer for medical malpractice or emotional distress for the suspect's death or botched care then? Will there be a limit on how much someone can sue? If a department doesn't have enough money to cover the lawsuit, who will? The state? The federal government? If the suspect and suspect's family is poor, are they not going to be more of a risk to sue officers? If so, why would an officer do their job if they are put in a lose-lose situation? What happens when you can't find competent people to do an officer's job and then basic first aid and therefore increase the short staffed departments? Does the training time increase and therefore the turn around time for new police officers is slower and therefore the department is short staffed and you can't do community policing?

Thank you,
Alvydas Civinskas

Source: Doretha

I would like to suggest that as much as possible police should live in the community they police. They should know the names of as many residents as possible and not just the criminals they encounter.

The President has requested body cameras for officers. This is a good start, however if there is no policy to REQUIRE them to wear them and have them turned on, this will not work. There should be consequences for disobeying this mandate.

Lastly, there needs to be some uniformity of investigation and or punishment when an officer assaults or shoots an unarmed citizen. An officer that is found to have filed a false report against any citizen should face automatic termination. When this occurs the citizen's Constitutional rights have been violated. Citizens should be treated with respect by the police during any encounter.

Thank you,

Doretha Gill

Source: Cliff Karchmer

Cliff,

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This material relating to NHTSA is very helpful -- thank you so much.

Laurie

On Tue, Feb 3, 2015 at 1:35 PM, Clifford Karchmer [REDACTED] wrote:
Laurie:

Another thought re: traffic enforcement and community policing: sustained levels and increases in NHTSA police technology and traffic enforcement funding should not go unnoticed...or unmentioned:

<http://www.dot.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/FY2016-DOT-BudgetHighlights-508.pdf>

Also, NHTSA devotes this page to "bias free traffic enforcement"

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/enforce/biasbased03/resources.htm>

Regards,

Cliff Karchmer

Source: Amelia Royko Maurer

Young, Gifted and Black will be out today, again, attending the PPJ meeting Tuesday Feb 10th at 5:15pm. We will begin with a teach-in, inside the City County building at 4:30pm.

In the PPJ meeting, Sheriff Mahoney will be arguing for monies to be spent on jails. We the YGB, and all of us who are on the side of freedom, will be there to advocate that monies be instead invested in Black communities. Build the people, not the jail!

We must all show up, share our stories, speak our truth, share our data—and continue to fight for liberation!

Show up today and say yes to communities, no to jails! As the chant goes, "show me what democracy looks like"

We continue to push for our demands:

- We demand an injunction of the proposed 8 million dollars for the study related to the remodeling or building a new jail, and for that money to be relocated to Black community led resources
- We demand the release of 350 Black people incarcerated due to crimes of poverty from the Dane County Jail

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- We demand the end of solitary confinement

#BlackLivesMatter
#BlackPowerMatters

Source: Annie McKee

This paper is from Annie McKee who unfortunately cannot make it to Phoenix. Her recommendation for us is the need for formal leadership development programs within police organizations that includes competencies like self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, emotional intelligence and relationship management.

From: Annie McKee
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 5:41 PM
To: CHR
Cc: Sarah Renio
Subject: Draft input

Hi,

Again, I am so disappointed that I will be far away when the meeting happens! I felt compelled to draft a short piece for your review. It's a first draft. Do you think this will help? Any feedback? All the best, Annie.

Annie McKee, PhD

Senior Fellow

Program Director

PennCLO Executive Doctoral Program

MedEd Master's Program

Graduate School of Education

University of Pennsylvania

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Source: Doug & Jan Parker

Law enforcement policies

American law enforcement is so decentralized that without the work of organizations such as IADLEST there will never be anything close to national standards for policies, recruiting and in-service training.

This is one of the core issues for the Task Force. What are your recommendations to address this?

Source: Jean Public

PUBLIC COMMENT ON FEDERAL REGISTER

THESE TELECONFERENCES ARE WASTEFUL OF TAX DOLLARS. FIRST OF ALL, IF YOU DO THE RIGHT THING, ITS CLEAR THE POLICE WILL NOT BOTHER YOU. IT IS RARE THAT THEY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HARASS. OF COURSE, WHEN IT HAPPENS AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF RANDOMLY ASSORTED TAXPAYERS/CITIZENS SHOULD BE CALLED IN ON THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT BY THE POLICE, NOT THEIR BROTHERS IN THE POLICE DEPT. YOU NOW IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ALLOW POLICE BROTHERS TO JUDGE EACH OTHER. THEY CONSTANTLY WORK FOR EACH OTHER. SO BRING IN RANDOM CITIZENS TO JUDGE WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN MISCONDUCT OR NOT. SECONDLY, THIS COUNTRY CANNOT COUNTENANCE SOME RACIST THINKING THEY ARE FREE TO STEAL AND ROB AND RIOT WHEN THEY ARE ANNOYED. IT NEEDS TO BE STOPPED. IF YOU WANT TO PROTEST, YOU DO IT CIVILLY. YOU GET THE PERMIT. YOU GO WHERE THE COMMUNITY TELLS YOU TO GO. YOU DON'T SHUT DOWN BRIDGES AND ROADS BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE IT. THAT KIND OF CONDUCT DESERVES JAIL. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. LET'S RESPECT CIVIL DIALOGUE. LET'S NOT RESPECT SOME KID ASSAULTING A STOREKEEPER BECAUSE HE WANTS TO STEAL FROM THE STOREKEEPER. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. PLEASE REEPT. JEAN PUBLIC [REDACTED]

Source: Marjori A Robinson

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues raised in recent months about police actions and public safety. Both the public and the police need to feel safe. We all need to be able to trust that, in most cases, members of the public and the police are on the same side - the side of freedom within the law. While the police are responsible for protecting all citizens, they also need to know that they are not being asked to take unnecessary and unreasonable risks.

I would like to address just one piece of this issue: the proliferation of firearms. It seems unlikely that police will be convinced to talk more and shoot less often as long as they know that many civilians do carry guns. Fear

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combined with racial stereotyping, intentional or not, often leads to tragedy. By the same token, we need restraint on the part of the police for the public to feel and be safe. How can we reach the condition that police officers and citizens feel safe in each others' presence?

Of many steps that can and must be taken, it seems to me that stronger regulation of guns and gun ownership is essential. A civilian should have a lawful purpose (e.g. hunting) for a gun. The gun should be appropriate to its purpose. Appropriate safety equipment and storage should be required. Military style weapons have no place in civilian life. The gun owner's background should demonstrate the ability to act responsibly. None of these are new ideas, but the law needs to reflect them, strongly. In fact, most civilians should feel that gun ownership is unnecessary. Perhaps, if the police didn't fear a proliferation of increasingly lethal weapons in our communities, they would be more willing to re-consider their own weapons and practices.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer ideas and suggestions to the task force. Thank you, too, for giving your time and talents to help strengthen safety, peace and cooperation in our communities.

Yours truly,
Marjorie A. Robison

Source: Trudy Dana

February 11, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS: comment@taskforceonpolicing.us

Dear Ms. Rosenberger:

My suggestion to encourage strong relationships between law enforcement and the community is not costly, it is not political, it is not complicated or glitzy. It does not require complex administration. It is racially all-inclusive. It can be easily undertaken by every law enforcement agency, large or small, rural or urban. It can be implemented immediately with minimal effort. It is rarely criticized or faulted. It is probably the most effective program to build lasting bridges between the people and the police who serve them.

Perhaps it is too simple to be considered by the President's Task Force on 21st. Century Policing.

However, oftentimes the basic strategies prove to be the most effective. This is true of a police citizens' academy.

Since 1994, the City of Lynnwood, north of Seattle, Washington, has offered a fourteen-week police citizens' academy, where residents learn about police procedures, policies and the reasons behind them. We have conducted nearly thirty separate citizens' academies and our average enrollment is at least seventy individuals in each session. We have had great success with this program and find that each person in

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class carries our positive message to at least six additional people, such as neighbors, coworkers, friends and family.

Benefits of a police citizens' academy include:

- Loyal community advocates who support their police and know the truth about law enforcement
- A reputation for our police department of openness and willingness to partner with the community
- A ready source of committed volunteers
- A valuable recruiting tool
- Supportive voters who understand the needs of their police
- Law enforcement officers gain a greater awareness of the concerns of the public

The Lynnwood Police Department is a model for other law enforcement agencies in the Northwest who want to offer similar programs and we regularly share our curriculum and promotion strategies. Classes are based on a simple to use 300-page manual: **"POLICE CITIZENS' ACADEMY: The Complete Guide for Producing a Topnotch Community Program"** that enables law enforcement agencies to easily duplicate our program and our success. This manual is available on Amazon and I have sent you a copy via Express Mail to accompany this written recommendation.

In the United States, we have unfortunately witnessed a disintegration of trust that has undermined public safety and created intense resentment in many communities. A citizens' academy will not solve every problem between police and the public; however, it is a low cost and effective program that promotes community engagement and lasting cooperation between citizens and the police who are sworn to serve and protect them.

I would be glad to give you more detailed information about how the community of Lynnwood, Washington is effectively engaging citizens of all racial groups and promoting a positive relationship between residents and law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Trudy K. Dana
Lynnwood Police Crime Prevention Officer, Retired

Source: Ken Williams

My name is Mr. Ken Williams and I am a retired homicide detective. I recently attended a Task Force 'Listening Session' held at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, MA.

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--My first suggestion is to flip the listening session format to have panelists listening more to the suggestions from the audience. There was a short Q&A period immediately following an hour or more of dialogue between panelists discussing their beliefs and support for their position statements but these members should spend more time listening to the needs and suggestions of the people.

--Reform in policing certainly requires more accountability and transparency but the Task Force I want to suggest needs to recognize the police institution has taken \$15 billion of taxpayer money to create a jobs bill in the COPS Hiring Program since 1995. When the police institution agreed to take the billions of dollars it signed contracts that it would not violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. What many citizens are complaining about today is very similar to police misconduct through either policy, practices and customs which have violated the rights of certain citizens and their oaths to abide by the Constitution. This is fraud against the taxpayer; especially since the police institution certified it would no longer be discriminatory to the Federal government. My proposal is to treat the police as any other entity that is a subcontractor of the Federal government but commits Fraud, Waste or Abuse with taxpayer money. Hold the entire institution accountable for the discriminatory acts of the few and we will see the majority naturally do a better job of policing those bad apples inside the organization who are threat to their continued welfare of federal grant support.

--Brady makes it clear the police records of past bad acts are exculpatory yet many police do not produce these records to defense. Create a Federal National Law Enforcement registry to track all Federal, State, County and Local complaints against individual police officers. Police agencies are mandated to report to the OIG any complaints of discrimination to remain in compliance with the DOJ COPS grants. Police agencies are required to open their private records to DOJ audits when they are grant recipients too. Instead of having the DOJ do a small sampling audit it makes more sense to mandate the police agencies submit all complaints regarding 100% of Law Enforcement Officers to the DOJ and to make it a requirement the database be kept current for current and future grant disbursements. This would assist the OIG with investigating complaints and it would also help the DOJ make better determinations of which agencies are in need of better training by identifying trends that do not comply with Community Policing or worse violations of rights and Constitution by law enforcement that runs akin to rules governing the disbursement of grants to those agencies.

--Lastly, please see the attached FCA complaint. It details discrimination and abuse that is not reported to the DOJ by a local police department. The DOJ doesn't seem to understand that because police agencies control whether to downgrade crimes to administrative charges the police agencies are therefore circumventing discrimination reporting requirements to maintain grants.

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If anyone wishes to discuss these ideas in greater detail to help bring about accountability, transparency and to build trust please contact me.

Respectfully,

Mr. Ken Williams

Source: Nancy Zirkin

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we appreciate this opportunity to submit “written comments including proposed recommendations” relating to the importance of reforming current police practices and developing comprehensive measures for law enforcement accountability.[\[1\]](#) The Leadership Conference provides a powerful unified voice for the various constituencies of the coalition: persons of color, women, children, individuals with disabilities, gays and lesbians, older Americans, labor unions, major religious groups, civil libertarians, and human rights organizations. As discussed in our comments, we believe that thoughtful policies, developed in public with the input of civil rights advocates and the local community, are essential to ensuring that state and local law enforcement practices enhance, rather than threaten, civil rights.