

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Pillar Four: Community Policing & Crime Reduction Potential Recommendations for Deliberation Draft February 24, 2015

4.1 RECOMMENDATION ONE: Law enforcement agencies should develop and adopt policies and strategies that encourage policing to reinforce the dynamics of informal social control in communities.

4.1.1 Action Step: Law enforcement agencies should adopt preferences for seeking “least harm” resolutions, such as warnings or citations in lieu of arrest, for minor infractions.

4.2 RECOMMENDATION TWO: Community policing should be infused throughout the culture and organizational structure of law enforcement agencies.

4.2.1 Action Step: Law enforcement agencies should evaluate officers on their efforts to engage members of the community and the partnerships they build. Making this part of the performance evaluation process places an increased value on developing partnerships.

4.2.2 Action Step: Law enforcement agencies should evaluate their patrol deployment practices with a view to developing sufficient time for officers assigned to patrol to participate in problem solving and community engagement activities.

4.2.3 Action Step: The Department of Justice should support research that strives to understand the factors that have led to dramatic successes in crime reduction through the infusion of community policing in communities (such as in Camden County, NJ and Richmond, CA) in an effort to determine replicable factor that could be used to guide other agencies.

4.3 RECOMMENDATION THREE: Law enforcement agencies should engage in multidisciplinary, community team approaches for planning, implementing, and responding to crisis situations with complex causal factors.

4.3.1 Action Items: The Department of Justice should collaborate with others to develop and disseminate baseline models of this team approach that can be adapted to local contexts.

4.3.2 Action Items: Communities should look to involve peer support counselors as part of multidisciplinary teams when appropriate. As people who have experienced the same trauma, they can provide both insight to the first responders and immediate support to the individual in crisis.

4.3.3 Action Items: Communities should be encouraged to evaluate the efficacy of these team approaches and hold agency leaders accountable for outcomes.

4.4 RECOMMENDATION FOUR: Communities should support a culture and practice of policing in the U.S. that reflects the values of protection and promotion of the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.

4.4.1 Action Items: Because offensive or harsh language can escalate a minor situation, law enforcement agencies should adopt policies directing officers to treat individuals with respect and underscore the importance of language used.

4.4.2 Action Items: Agencies should develop programs that create opportunities for patrol officers to

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

regularly interact with neighborhoods, faith leaders, and businesses.

4.5 RECOMMENDATION FIVE: Community policing emphasizes working with neighborhood residents to co-produce public safety. Departments should endeavor to work with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on the implementation of solutions that produce meaningful results for the community.

4.5.1 Action Items: Agencies should schedule regular forums and meetings where all community members can interact with police and help influence programs and even policy.

4.5.2 Action Items: Agencies should engage communities in joint training with law enforcement, citizen academies, ride-a-longs, neighborhood watch and mobile neighborhood watch groups, problem solving teams, community action or quality of life teams.

4.5.3 Action Items: Agencies should establish formal community/citizen advisory committees to assist in developing crime prevention strategies and agency policies as well as provide input on policing issues through a model of civilian governance. In larger agencies, multiple committees would be needed to ensure they inform all levels of the organization. The makeup of these committees should reflect the demographics of the community or neighborhood being served.

4.5.4 Action Items: The Department of Justice should conduct research on the efficacy of civilian governance in departments currently adopting these approaches.

4.6 RECOMMENDATION SIX: Communities should adopt policies and programs that address the needs of children and speak to the needs of youth most at risk for crime or violence and reduce aggressive law enforcement tactics that stigmatize youth and marginalize their participation in schools and communities. Education and criminal justice agencies at all levels of government should work together to reform policies and procedures that push children into the juvenile justice system.

4.6.1 Action Items: To prevent youth from criminal and violent behavior, schools should create alternatives to student suspensions and expulsion through diversion, counseling and family interventions in order to maintain school attendance.

4.6.2 Action Items: Schools should be encouraged to use alternative strategies that involve youth in decision making, such as restorative justice, youth courts and peer interventions.

4.6.3 Action Items: Schools should adopt an instructional approach to discipline that uses interventions or disciplinary consequences to re-teach behavioral expectations and help students develop new behavior skills and positive strategies to avoid conflict, re-direct energy, and re-focus on learning.

4.6.4 Action Items: Schools should develop and monitor school discipline policies with input and collaboration from school personnel, students, families, and community members.

4.6.5 Action Step: Schools should attempt interventions prior to the disciplinary process but create a continuum of developmentally appropriate and proportional consequences for addressing ongoing and escalating student misbehavior after all appropriate interventions have been attempted.

4.6.6 Action Step: The Federal government should assess and evaluate zero tolerance strategies and examine the role of reasonable discretion when dealing with adolescents and to consider their stage of maturation or development.

4.6.7 Action Step: Communities should establish programs and procedures to reintegrate juveniles back into their communities as they leave the juvenile justice system.

4.7 RECOMMENDATION SEVEN: Communities need to affirm and recognize the voices of youth in

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

community decision making; facilitate youth-led research and problem solving; develop and fund youth leadership training and life skills through positive youth/police collaboration and interactions.

4.7.1 Action Items: Communities should look to restore and build trust between youth and police by creating programs and projects where there is positive youth-police interaction that is both consistent and persistent.

4.7.2 Action Items: Communities should develop community and school-based teen courts, as well as peer mediation programs that mitigate punitive and authoritarian solutions to teen problems.

4.7.3 Action Items: Communities should promote and incorporate community-school collaboration around service delivery and safety initiatives.

4.8 RECOMMENDATION EIGHT: Assess, evaluate and report on strategies in which police target crime and the perpetrators of crime in order to assure the public that they are not unnecessarily targeted or profiled.

4.8.1 Action Items: Law enforcement agencies should adopt policies that require officers to provide to individuals they have stopped their name, the reason they have stopped them, and the reason for a search if one is conducted.

4.8.2 Action Items: Unless otherwise permissible under established law, officers must be required to seek consent before a search and explain that a person has the right to refuse consent when there is no warrant or probable cause. Furthermore, officers should obtain proof of consent to a search in these circumstances.

4.8.3 Action Items: Law enforcement agencies should establish search and seizure procedures related to LGBTQ and Transgender populations and adopt as policy the recommendation from the President's HIV/AIDS Task Force to cease using the possession of condoms as sole evidence of vice.