

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Pillar Three: Technology & Social Media Potential Recommendations for Deliberation Draft February 24, 2015

3.1 RECOMMENDATION ONE: The Department of Justice, in consultation with the law enforcement field, should establish national standards for the research and development of new technology. These standards should also address compatibility and interoperability needs both within law enforcement agencies and across agencies and jurisdictions.
3.1.1 Action Step: In addition to the research and evaluation of new technologies already conducted by the National Institute of Justice, the Department of Justice should support the development and delivery of training to help police departments learn, acquire and implement tools and tactics that are consistent with the best practices of 21st century policing.
3.1.2 Action Step: As part of national standards, developers should be prohibited from creating or adopting technology that limits the ability of law enforcement to protect the public and investigate crime, notably technology that causes devices to “go dark/off the grid.”
3.2 RECOMMENDATION TWO: The implementation of appropriate technology should be a decision for local control.
3.2.1 Action Step: Local agencies should encourage public comment and collaboration when developing a policy for the use of a new technology.
3.2.2 Action Step: Local agencies should also include an evaluation or assessment process to gauge the effectiveness of any new technology, soliciting input from all levels of the agency, from line officer to leadership, as well as assessment from members of the community.
3.3 RECOMMENDATION THREE: The Department of Justice should develop best practices that can be adopted by state legislative bodies to govern the acquisition, usage, retention, and dissemination of data by law enforcement.
3.3.1 Action Items: As part of the process for developing best practices, the Department of Justice should consult with civil rights organizations such as the ACLU, and law enforcement research groups such as PERF, and other experts concerning the constitutional issues that can arise as a result of the use of new technologies.
3.3.2 Action Items: The Department of Justice should create toolkits for the most effective and constitutional use of all forms of technology that will provide state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies with a one-stop clearinghouse of information and resources.
3.4 RECOMMENDATION FOUR: Encourage federal, state, local, and tribal legislative bodies to update public record laws.
3.5 RECOMMENDATION FIVE: Agencies should adopt model policies and best practices for technology-based community engagement that increases community trust and access.
3.6 RECOMMENDATION SIX: Support the development of new, “less than lethal” technology to help control combative suspects.
3.6.1 Action Step: The DOJ should expand its efforts to study the development and use of new, less than

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lethal, technologies and evaluate their impact on public safety, the reduction of lethal violence used against citizens, constitutionality, and officer safety.

3.7 RECOMMENDATION SEVEN: Support and expand the use of segregated spectrum and Internet, giving special consideration to the nationwide implementation of FirstNet.