The New Era in Community Policing

August 27, 2015
Introductions
VRN Co-Director

Kristie Brackens
VRN Co-Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
kristie.brackens@usdoj.gov
Objectives of This Webinar

- Review key concepts and definitions related to community policing, such as “procedural justice,” “collaboration versus engagement versus cooperation,” “intelligence-led policing,” and “smart policing”

- Present contemporary and promising police practices regarding outreach and collaboration in communities that are characterized by chronic high violence
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
(top-row photos, left to right)
Chief of Staff Melanca Clark
Acting Asst. Director Deborah L. Spence

President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing Members
(bottom-row photos, left to right)
Commissioner Charles Ramsey, Cochair
Chief Roberto Villaseñor
Director Sean Smoot
Dr. Cedric Alexander
Chief Michael Davis
Director of Public Safety for Northeastern University, Boston, MA
Former Chief of Brooklyn Park, MN, Police Department
VRN Strategic Site Liaison for Detroit, MI
President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing

Melanca Clark and Deborah Spence
The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
Mission of the Task Force

The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing was established by an Executive Order signed by the President on December 18, 2014. The Task Force examined, among other issues, how to strengthen public trust and foster strong relationships between local law enforcement and the communities that they protect, while also promoting effective crime reduction.
Over three months, the Task Force conducted seven public listening sessions across the country and received testimony and recommendations from more than 100 witnesses representing a wide range of civil rights, community, and faith leaders; law enforcement officials; academics; and others to ensure their recommendations would be informed by a diverse range of voices.

The Task Force also considered over 200 written submissions.
Developing the Final Report

- 59 recommendations in 6 “pillar” areas
- Most recommendations include one or more “Action Steps” to aid communities in implementing ideas
- Final report available for immediate download and print copy ordering
The COPS Office is supporting efforts to implement Task Force recommendations in a number of ways:

- Supporting innovation
- Convening stakeholders
- Advancing reform
- Building capacity
- Partnering with the field

For more information and ongoing updates, visit www.cops.usdoj.gov/policingtaskforce
Task Force Web Site

Includes:

- All submitted testimony
- Links to watch Listening Session videos
- Background information on pillars and members
- The opportunity to share how your community is implementing Task Force recommendations
Commissioner Charles Ramsey

Appointee for Member and Cochair, President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing
Philadelphia Police Department
Constitutional Policing
“It Is Not Even Past”

“The past is not dead. It is not even past.”
—William Faulkner
We Protect Constitutional Rights
Chief Roberto Villaseñor

Appointee for Member,
President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing
Tucson Police Department
In 2010, “Show me your papers” became the moniker from the press for state legislation that required Arizona peace officers to contact federal authorities to determine immigration status of persons during any “contact” with law enforcement, to include consensual encounters.

Controversy surrounding the scope of this requirement and potential for profiling resulted in language limiting the circumstances for requesting and requiring citizenship information to detentions and arrests.
Knowledge and Expectations: Fear Created by Gaps

- Community expectations regarding enforcement
  - The average citizen in favor of immigration enforcement thinks enforcement is simple and has no understanding about limitations of authority and resources

- Misperception and misunderstanding of the law
  - Civil vs. criminal enforcement
  - Immigration law is complex and nuanced

- Lack of understanding and knowledge creates uncertainty and fear in groups affected by immigration efforts
  - Fears of immigrants and their advocates, whether founded or not, are real and must be addressed with information
Challenges

- Maintaining community relationships and public trust
  - Officers must strike the right balance between enforcement efforts and community engagement
- Demands for enforcement and competing demands to refrain from enforcement
  - Polarizing issue evoking a lot of emotion
  - Advocates for both viewpoints are vocal and inflexible
- Enforcement vs. profiling—providing appropriate training and policy
  - Good policy and training are necessary to keep officers within an appropriate range of enforcement responses
  - Clear statement of department philosophy communicated to the agency and community
- Political posturing from various perspectives
  - Legislators, fellow LE Executives, other elected officials, media outlets
  - Handling political pressure
Continuing Efforts

- Our Statement of Principle regarding immigrants in our community:
  - “The Tucson Police Department is committed to the safety and welfare of all persons within the City of Tucson”
- Open dialogue with immigrant groups and transparency with the community
- Continued commitment to participate in the “Tucson Immigrant Welcoming Task Force”
- Expanding participation in community forums (Proactive vs. Reactive)
- Changes in departmental General Orders
  - We are providing mandatory updated training to all officers regarding the departmental expectations regarding Immigration Policy
- 2010 Declaration in U.S. District Court case—United States v. The State of Arizona
- 2012 Declaration in U.S. District Court case—Valle Del Sol v. Michael B. Whiting
Sean M. Smoot

Appointee for Member, President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing
Director and Chief Counsel for the Police Benevolent and Protective Association of Illinois
Illinois recently enacted a package of reforms by state statute—
SB 1304 (now P.A. 99-0352)

- Result of various negotiation meetings with and input from interested stakeholders, including law enforcement entities, police labor groups, civil liberty and community organizations

- SB 1304 passed the Illinois General Assembly with bipartisan support, resulting in a vote of 45-5-6 in the Senate and 107-7-3 in the House of Representatives. It was signed into law by the Governor on August 12, 2015

- Police labor groups were largely credited for leadership during the bill drafting and negotiation process
  - “This would not have happened without the strong leadership and support of the rank and file law enforcement groups.”

—State Rep. Elgie Sims, Chief Sponsor and Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Accountability

- Statewide codification of best practices and minimum guidelines for police use of body-worn cameras
  - Requires cameras to be turned on at all times when the officer is on duty and responding to calls for service, during any law enforcement-related encounter, and when the officer is engaged in any law enforcement-related activity that occurs while the officer is on duty
- Requires data collection on pedestrian stops that result in an arrest, frisk, or search
  - Officers must also provide stop receipts for all “stop and frisks”
Use of Force

- **Independent review** of all officer-involved deaths
- Requires law enforcement agencies to report, on a monthly basis, the number of officer-involved shootings and arrest-related deaths
- Defines *chokeholds* and limits the use of chokeholds to situations when deadly force is warranted
- Creates a database for law enforcement to identify and keep track of officers dismissed for misconduct
Training

- Expands the basic training curriculum to include courses on *procedural justice*, *cultural competency*, *implicit bias*, *proper use of force and law enforcement authority*, dealing with the disease of addiction, the mentally ill, sexual assault victims, and more

- Requires *annual* in-service training on law updates and use of force, *including scenario-based training*

- Requires training every 3 years on *procedural justice, civil rights, cultural competency, and proper use of force*

- Establishes the *Commission on Police Professionalism* to review performance standards governing the professionalism of officers, including the current training requirements and whether law enforcement officers should be licensed
Dr. Cedric Alexander
Public Safety Director, DeKalb County, Georgia

Appointee for Member,
President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing
The DeKalb County Police Department has implemented many of the guidelines outlined in the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report. Through continued education, targeted implementation, and transparency, we will gain the trust and confidence of the citizens we serve.
Outside Agency Oversight

- In the interest of transparency, we have partnered with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and have requested that they be the lead investigative entity in the following cases:
  - Use-of-force incidents resulting in death or serious bodily injury to a suspect
  - Any other incidents deemed necessary by the chief of police
Training modules were developed to instruct the public on citizen-police encounters involving use-of-force incidents

- Use-of-force scenarios to demonstrate split-second decision making
- Role-play activities showing common law enforcement encounters
- Highlight policies and procedures surrounding use-of-force incidents
Department Education

- Implemented mandatory training for all officers, to include the following:
  - Critical Incident Training
  - 21st Century Executive Leadership Training
  - Performance Management Training
Applied for a federal grant to purchase body-worn cameras. The money will be matched by the county government.

- Help build trust between the department and the citizens we serve
- Provide a real-time account of officer-citizen interactions
Question-and-Answer Session

Facilitated by Chief Michael Davis
VRN Closing Remarks

Kristie Brackens