



Showing Up for Racial Justice – Northeast Ohio
CPC Working Group

November 2, 2017

Hon. Frank Jackson
Mayor, City of Cleveland
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Chief Calvin Williams
Cleveland Division of Police
1300 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Dear Mayor Jackson and Chief Williams:

We have been following the consent decree process with interest for some time. We have attended meetings and heard Clevelanders speak up. The input and involvement of the multi-racial public is so important. Clearly, the consent decree process is vitally important to everyone in the region.

We are writing to offer support for efforts to institute a bias-free policy as a specific General Police Order (GPO) for the Cleveland Division of Police. The Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC) did really good work drawing out suggestions and ideas from the community about the policy. Their proposed changes to the original draft by the CDP are quite good.

Our conversations with other people at the town halls, and with the police officers present, lead us to believe that as much clarity and specificity as possible will give us all the best policy. Eliminate discretion. Make a default norm and have the whole chain of command stick to the expectation of discipline.

Bias among officers is dangerous for City residents. Perceptions about bias among officers is dangerous for the police as well. Everything we can do to eliminate bias, and any perception of bias, is crucial. Creating an unambiguous

policy is vital. The CPC proposal does this. Please move quickly to adopt or strengthen their proposed policy statement.

If you choose not to include CPC suggestions in final CDP policy, please let members of the public know how you came to that decision. You can write to us at cpc@surjneo.org to schedule a meeting.

Signed,

Members and friends of the Showing Up for Racial Justice CPC Working Group

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