

# COMMUNITY PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING!

## *It's on the horizon for The CLE*

The Cleveland Community Police Commission emerges out of the settlement agreement between the Department of Justice and the City of Cleveland. On September 8, 2015, thirteen (13) individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences were sworn in to serve as Commissioners for four years. We pledged to volunteer our time and energy on behalf of the citizens of Cleveland to participate in rebranding the way service is delivered by the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP).

The Commission has actively participated in overhauling the Citizen Police Review Board, making it more effective in its role of reviewing and processing citizen complaints against Cleveland Police; set guidelines to eliminate implicit or unconscious and explicit or conscious bias decision making; guidelines regarding Use of Force that promote skills that create an environment of cooperation and de-escalation alongside tactical skills; and supporting the rewriting and reframing the mission statement for CDP.

A major centerpiece to moving our work forward and addressing the concerns of the Cleveland community is arched in a philosophy change in how safety services are delivered. The best solutions to seemingly intractable community concerns and problems arises from citizens co-creating possibilities through open and open relationships. The Commission remains committed to reaching out to and bringing forward the voice of those who are most vulnerable amongst us. The Community and Problem-Oriented Policing draft policy invites us to actively participate in policy making. It connects to our earlier work as captured in the executive summary below:

“The Consent Decree (“the Decree”) requires the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) to “develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated community and problem-oriented policing model” to “promote and strengthen partnerships with the community . . . and increase community confidence in the CDP.”<sup>1</sup> The Decree also requires that the Monitoring Team work with the CDP and the Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC) to engage the community as the CDP develops its community and problem-oriented policing (CPOP) Plan. In the first half of 2017, the Monitoring Team, the City of Cleveland, the CDP, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the CPC (collectively the “Stakeholders”) embarked on a collaborative engagement process (“community engagement process”) to solicit meaningful community feedback to guide the Division as it develops its CPOP Plan. This report summarizes this engagement process and the feedback received through it (Cleveland Police Monitoring Team, Executive Summary, 2017 CPOP Report).”

This CPOP draft policy is a response to community member voices where you asked for a policy that –

- Demands respect of Community Members;
- Demands for officers to have time to get acquainted with residents in their work zone.
- More intentional connection between the community and District Policing Committees and the Police Commission.
- More intentional connections between CDP and organizations like CDCs.
- Community members would like ongoing opportunity to provide input on CDP policies.

Our question, to you community members ... “Does the draft CPOP policy address your documented concerns?”

Please check back to this conversation as we continue analyzing a response to the draft CPOP policy!