

Questions or Comments from the Community Public Forum June 22, 2011

Questions

- Recommendations in Stakeholders Report: has any of that been approved?
- Is there still a special unit to address mental health?
- How do we make a change not just a place to talk about problems with the police?
- How many police officers have been terminated or reprimanded who were found guilty?
- How many guilty police officers were promoted?

Comments

- Profiling youth by “the hoodie” — by “Officer Burnie Cody” (correct name is Officer Cody Bern).
- Pulled over by unmarked police.
- Police doing things that are not being reported.
- People of color are being held for two hours who have not committed any crime and then released.
- Notice of this event is not reaching the community.
- Take notice to juvenile court.
- Face book.
- Too hard to find on the Portland website.
- Take it to the Gang Task Force meeting 2Xs a month.
- Follow up with the police training on mental health.
- Consider police who want to work with mental health clients vs. enforcing all police.
- Some police do not want to work with mental health citizens and end up treating them poorly.
- Police trained in common symptoms between brain injury, PTSD, and other mental health symptoms.
- Police cars saying “the heat is on” should not occur.
 - This does not build the community.
 - This creates police vs. all citizens in Portland.
 - It can cause children and people to be afraid of police.
 - This is unprofessional of the police who are held at a higher standard than the general public.
 - This makes police seem like a gang.
- Pattern of the police since the choking incident: it was reported that the slogan “smoke them — don’t choke them” was put on t-shirts and some officers wore them.
- In 2001, a citizen reported that “Officer Surrey” (correct name is Jason Sery) checked the identification of a youth of color who called the police because he was hit by a car and the driver refused to give youth his name.

- Officer did not get the name of the driver of the person who hit the youth and challenged the youth who called the police for help.
- An officer put down a youth who was asleep in his car and the youth ended up being charged with a felony.
- Over excessive charges and bails for youth of color.
- Continued constitution violation of youth of color.
- Check with a report by Portland State University's coalition of community of color about racial injustice in Portland Oregon.
- City pays out a lot of money for police misconduct – being found at fault/guilty – but police are not being reprimanded instead are being promoted.
- A citizen who is disabled reported going to the police for being assaulted by security guards at Lewis & Clark College — spent two hours in the precinct trying to get a police officer to take down the report only to have the Captain stop the process and not take the report.
 - Police are not taking reports about assaults by campus security on college campus (i.e., Lewis & Clark College).
- Officer “John Miller” (not able to identify officer by this name) stopped a youth and the youth told the officer he was racially profiling him. Officer in a threatening voice told the youth you don't want to go around saying that.
 - Things are different now.
- We have an injustice legal system — not a justice system.
- The legal system is for the rich.
- Issues around shootings.
 - 9 police shootings since January 2010 — till now.
 - Slow pace in addressing these issues.
 - Only 1 out of 9 shootings is being investigated.
 - People are pulling back their complaints when they find out that their complaint will be investigated by police “Internal Review” (correct name is Internal Affairs) — fear of retaliation from the officer who is in the report.
- Tort payments.
 - 89 separate settlements.
 - 2 million dollars annually spent on police.
 - Payments should come out of the police officer general fund.
 - Better to solve a problem before it gets started.
- Cultural environment change is needed for the police
 - Concerns about displacement & gentrification.
 - Profiling of young men of color.
 - Positive police interaction with mentally ill citizens.
 - Police should live within jurisdiction.
 - Many mental health issues have similar symptoms.
 - Training to assist police effectively to address the mental health issues.