



April 23, 2021

Honorable Mayor Treece and Honorable Members of the City Council:

It is my pleasure to send on to you the attached Community Oriented Policing Program. This Program is the result of the community outreach, hard work, and extensive research of Board Member Carly Gomez and newly elected Vice Chair Heather Hickman-McKenna.

Ms. Gomez and Ms. Hickman-McKenna have crafted a program that will provide officers of the Columbia Police Department an opportunity to further integrate and understand the communities they serve, providing the officers with the education and support needed to embrace and implement Community-Oriented Policing tactics.

The Columbia Citizens Police Review Board is looking forward to your feedback and suggestions. The Board is ready to work with all invested stakeholders to implement this Program as part of the Board's mission to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community to help increase trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Pringle".

Travis Pringle, Chair

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## Community-Oriented Policing Program

### Overview of Columbia & Community-Oriented Policing

The City Council of Columbia declared support for Community-Oriented Policing in Resolution 23-18 in February 2018. Their resolution cited the 2014 Mayor’s Task Force on Community Violence which recommended a Community-Oriented Policing model four years previously.<sup>1</sup> Also cited in Resolution 23-18 are the “Vehicle Stop Reports” which have shown racial disproportions since data was first collected. The Vehicle Stop Report in 2016 showed a disparity index of 3.13 for black drivers<sup>2</sup> and in 2019 the disparity index was 3.51 for black drivers.<sup>3</sup>

The Community-Oriented Policing report written in 2018 failed to take into account community member suggestions and failed to propose an actual community-oriented policing plan.<sup>4</sup> However, what is included in that report are specific and various suggestions by community members in different wards. Stakeholders were invited to share their thoughts and ideas; such suggestions simply weren’t taken into account.

Since 2018, there has been a Vehicle Stop Committee which was created under Chief Jones’ supervision. Among his requests, he charged the committee to “Find solutions/methods/processes to fill data gaps and set a timeline for research. Identify policing training/best practices that should be examined for changes...Make recommendations to me as the committee comes to consensus.”<sup>5</sup> Such analysis, factfinding, and recommendations for further data collection are obviously important, but the disparity index that remains is egregious and demonstrates a more immediate need for action.

In “Comments on 2019 CPD Data” written by Don Love to comment on the 2019 Vehicle Stop Data Report, Committee member Love, points out that saturation patrols and pretext stops may contribute to disparity. While Chief Jones is cited saying that the CPD will not use saturation patrols, there is no cited response yet to the discussion of pretext stops. In a draft of the Committee’s “Data Check-off List” from their September meeting, they recommend further check-offs for pretext stops—requiring officers document more information regarding those stops which would allow for closer review of disparities. The draft of the report explains that check-offs that document facts leading to arrest is a part of bias-free policing. Both the “Data Check-off List” and Don Love’s “Comments on 2019 CPD Data” request further data and the latter asks for an explanation from CPD as to the legitimacy of stops and justifications for the disparity in traffic stops. Although Community-Oriented Policing is mentioned and praised in

<sup>1</sup> Council Bill No. R 23-18, Columbia, MO.

<https://www.como.gov/CMS/granicus/downloadfile.php?id=17786&type=attachment>

<sup>2</sup> Vehicle Stop Report, Columbia, MO. 2017. <https://www.como.gov/CMS/pressreleases/view.php?id=4933>

<sup>3</sup> Love, Don. “Comments on 2019 CPD Data,” May 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Pratt, Pat, “CPD Community Policing Report Now Dead On Arrival,” *Columbia Daily Tribune*. Jan 12, 2019. <https://www.columbiatribune.com/news/20190112/cpd-community-policing-report-now-dead-on-arrival>

<sup>5</sup> 2019-04-23 Chief’s Charge, Vehicle Stops Working Group

Love's "Comments on 2019 CPD Data", there are no actionable items suggested to make a Community-Oriented Policing plan—there are only further questions.

The Community-Oriented Policing report failed to create a plan that CPD could follow and although the Vehicle Stop Committee is the source of important data collection recommendations, they are not a source of action. This is not to say that Community-Oriented Policing has been removed from the city's agenda. In September 2020's "Columbia Policing Update" by Chief Jones, the "Columbia Policing Plan Intended Outcome" describes that it shall "Provide citizens with proximity to the officers who serve them to promote shared power and responsibility" (2) and included in "Key Actions to Achieve the Outcome" are "Training for police officers will be infused with community-oriented philosophy" (5). The report states that "It is proposed that instruction in policing tactics and competencies should be meshed with these principles: guardianship; partnership; human connections; cultural awareness and understanding; fairness; life consequences; and quality of life" (5) but what exactly does this look like? Has the CPD included these many principles and how do they intend to accomplish such training?

In the later discussion of "Data Collection" within the "Columbia Policing Update," the importance of the Vehicle Stop Committee comes to light once more. "When evaluating training and practices, CPD will use data to help measure effectiveness, fairness and efficiency. The Department will work with the community to examine areas of concern, eg., vehicle stops, and seek solutions to help address community and policing issues. As described in section I.A. above, the Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee is advising on data collection, officer training and changes in procedures and practice" (10). In "Comments on 2019 Columbia Police Department Incident-Based Data," suggestions about future data collection are clear, but recommendations regarding training aren't evident, and implied suggestions in procedures and practice will achieve little.

The Columbia Policing Update also includes "2020-2021 Strategies" which focuses on adopting community policing into CPD.<sup>6</sup> This section goes so far as to say that "Everyone at CPD contributes to community policing, but there is uncertainty about what people in the community expect" (24). However, there is also a lack of specificity on how community policing is being put into effect, in terms of both policy and training.

What can be gleaned from the Community-Oriented Policing report, the Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee, and the Columbia Policing Update, is that there is a strong foundation of data relating to vehicle stops and community members' perceptions, values, and recommendations. And although there may still be more data needed, also evident is a sustained interest in enacting community-oriented policing. What is missing from these initiatives and reports, are actionable steps toward community-oriented policing.

One such step toward community-oriented policing could be a Columbia police officer leadership program modeled after Police for Tomorrow and New Orleans's police program, EPIC. The program I propose, Columbia-Oriented Police Program, is a competitive 12-month program with monthly 4-hour sessions that provide peer-on-peer support, workshops taught by University Professors and other community members on topics specific to Columbia, and discussion forums and activities involving the public. The program would culminate in a capstone project of officers' own choosing.

This program would fulfill several "Key Actions to Achieve the Outcome" within the Columbia Policing Update. It would ensure that "Training for police officers will be infused with community-oriented philosophy" (5), it would be a "joint training opportunity" (5) in which

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<sup>6</sup> Chief of Police Geoff Jones, *Columbia Policing Update*, 23, September 2, 2020

community members will be included, and it will be conducted in “various formats and by a wide range of community instructors...” (5).

Such a program would also further the “Columbia Police Department Accountability for Task Force Recommendations” from the Mayor’s Task Force on Community Violence relating to “CPD Contributions to Fulfilling Enforcement Recommendations.” This leadership program will include training in several areas which officers may request: “community policing philosophy; cultural competency; bias-free policing; implicit bias; customer service; and Columbia history and culture” (61). One of the Enforcement Recommendations is, “A system of professional development and promotion should be instituted that rewards the softer skills of relationship building, community involvement and cultural competency” (61). This competitive program which focuses on those softer skills could serve as a preference point toward future promotions. Another recommendation is that “The Columbia community should develop programs to help officers feel appreciated and respected, to aid in recruitment of the highest quality officers that are representative of the diversity of Columbia” (62). This program would provide support for officers and aid in developing mutual respect between community members and police.

### **Impact of a Police Officer Leadership Programs**

In New Orleans, NOPD and community partners developed EPIC, Ethical Policing Is Courageous, in 2014. Although focused on peer intervention, the program does more than empower intervention, “At its core, EPIC is an officer survival program, a community safety program, and a job satisfaction program.”<sup>7</sup> Among its outcomes are “Higher morale; Better retention and recruitment; Increased public trust; Happier, healthier, and more stable officers.” After completing EPIC, they also see “Fewer citizen complaints.”<sup>8</sup>

Another Police Leadership program is ProjectABLE, created by the Georgetown University Innovative Policing Program and Sheppard Mullin law firm. Police departments, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, and experts have all helped develop this program. Among their upcoming virtual events is “ABLE Virtual Open House” during which “...a series of experienced speakers will discuss the principles of active bystandership in the context of policing, and share concrete steps any department can take to employ active bystandership training to reduce harm to civilians, reduce harm to officers, and drive cultural change.”<sup>9</sup>

A more all-encompassing project is the “Police for Tomorrow,” a two-year fellowship program for newly recruited officers with monthly workshops. This program includes mentorship, educational workshops, and community action. The program is fairly comprehensive: “Among the topics covered are new approaches to policing, current issues in criminal justice, the role of police in a diverse and democratic society, race and criminal justice, and the future of policing. Some workshops are led by speakers from community organizations, universities, and government, and all the fellows are offered an opportunity for mentoring by

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<sup>7</sup> EPIC, City of New Orleans. <http://epic.nola.gov/home/#what>

<sup>8</sup> EPIC Overview, EPIC, City of New Orleans. <http://epic.nola.gov/epic/media/Assets/EPIC-Overview.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> “Upcoming Active Bystander Events,” Georgetown Law. <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/innovative-policing-program/active-bystandership-for-law-enforcement/events/>

senior MPD personnel.”<sup>10</sup> Data-driven effects can be hard to determine but Professor Brooks who developed the program describes other effects, “...some departmental leaders say they have seen a positive change in the officers on the street and that they have gotten positive feedback from the community members.” Participants have “overwhelmingly positive” feedback.

Programs such as these three have demonstrated the many great effects of investing in our community-police relationships through alternative types of training and education. The city of Columbia could also benefit from an Officer Leadership program. Home to multiple universities and an invested community, Columbia is well situated to develop a similar program. Stakeholders are asking for community-oriented policing and programs like these create an environment for real cultural shifts.

### **An Overview of the program**

The Columbia-Oriented Policing Program will start as a one-year, competitive program for new police officers with monthly workshops that focus on different topics related to community-oriented policing. The program will begin with an interview process, wherein officers who have been on the CPD for two years or less will be invited to apply. Applicants will be interviewed by three people—a city official, police representative, and a community member. Eighteen officers will be selected on the basis of their openness to community-oriented policing and discussions of social injustice, and their interest in future police leadership positions. These criteria are based off of the “Police for Tomorrow” program at Georgetown.

Monthly sessions will include peer-to-peer support time, an educational component run by professors and other community members, and an activity with community stakeholders such as an open discussion forum. Some subjects will be taken from EPIC, ABLE, and Police for Tomorrow, and others will be Columbia specific to further community-police relationships.

The program will culminate in an independent capstone project of the officer’s choosing. It must in some way engage the community and it must draw on techniques or topics they’ve learned from previous sessions. This will help officers cement understanding and demonstrate the way these concepts can be put into practice in the community.

This proposed program takes into account the data from the community feedback meetings from the “2018 Community-Oriented Policing Report” while also taking substantial actions to manifest such a philosophy. Every single workshop developed for this program directly addresses suggestions and/or possible measurements of success brought up in the “World Café Community Meetings.” In four of the seven meetings the relationship between the police and youth was explicitly mentioned. One of the sessions will focus on juvenile brain development and the community-based activity will involve local youth. Many community members suggested more racial bias training which this program provides. There were many who also suggested that there should be more interactions between community members and police—each session provides an opportunity for this.<sup>11</sup>

Similarly, intended results for this program are aligned with many community stakeholders’ measures of success. In the “2018 Community-Oriented Policing Report,” raising

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<sup>10</sup> “Police for Tomorrow: Creating a New Generation of Leaders,” March 2019, Volume 12, Issue 2, *Dispatch*. [https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/03-2019/police\\_for\\_tomorrow.html#:~:text=Designed%20to%20inspire%20and%20challenge,mending%20frayed%20relations%20with%20minority](https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/03-2019/police_for_tomorrow.html#:~:text=Designed%20to%20inspire%20and%20challenge,mending%20frayed%20relations%20with%20minority)

<sup>11</sup> Chief of Police Geoff Jones, *Columbia Policing Update*, 20-35, September 2, 2020

officer morale and citizen satisfaction were mentioned multiple times as ways to determine how successful Community-Oriented Policing is. The models which this program is based upon tout these exact results. In community meetings held by the NAACP and the City Manager, they described a range of priorities community members would like to see in community-oriented policing. In regards to their discussions of police and “Cultural Diversity,” their list of priorities include training, interaction, and that it should be ongoing.<sup>12</sup>

The Columbia-Oriented Police Program would directly fulfill many of the stakeholders’ suggestions, it provides new opportunities for education and support for officers, and it brings Community-Oriented Policing tactics and philosophies to the CPD.

### **Program Goals**

1. Create and sustain a philosophy of community-oriented policing within officers
2. Steadily develop a cultural shift within the police department wherein community-police partnerships are encouraged
3. Peer-to-peer mentorship that increase morale of officers and increase accountability
4. Community and police interactions and conversations that address social justice issues
5. Education on topics meaningful to the Columbia community and that uphold long-term community-oriented policing goals
6. Leadership training with a focus on equity and community

### **Program Sessions**

Each of the monthly sessions will include peer-on-peer mentorship, activities with the community, and educational workshops run by experts in various fields. The community activities will be directly related to the educational workshops. The workshop topics follow below:

Trauma Informed Policing\*

Systemic Racism\*\*\*

LGTBQIA+ Safe Space\*\*\*

Overcoming Implicit Bias\*\*\*

Columbia History

Juvenile Brain Development\*\*\*

Personal Wellness and Mental Health\*\*\*

Over Criminalization and Mass Incarceration\*

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<sup>12</sup> Chief of Police Geoff Jones, *Columbia Policing Update*, 37, September 2, 2020

\* Topics derived from “Police for Tomorrow”

Homelessness\*

Bystander Action\*\*

Community Leadership\*

Disability\*\*\*\*

The program will culminate in a capstone project of each officer's own choosing in coordination with community groups who are involved with the monthly sessions. The projects will build upon and solidify understanding of topics taught in the various sessions.

### **Future Iterations**

After the first year of the program is completed, the officers will participate in exit interviews to help guide and modify the structure to best suit the needs of Columbia and its police officers. Due to the size of CPD, the future cycles of the program can begin to bring in officers who have been with the department longer. Eventually, this program could reach most of the officers leading to better community-officer relationships long term, productive discussions relating to social justice, and community-oriented policing.

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\*\* Topics derived from EPIC

\*\*\* Topics derived from community members suggestions in Community-Oriented Policing meetings

\*\*\*\*Topic Recommended by People's Defense

## **April Updates and Recommendations**

Since the Citizens Police Review Board met in January 2021, we met with the Director of the Police for Tomorrow fellowship. During that discussion we learned how they began the program, how it currently runs, and we received advice on how best to approach a program like this in our community.

Police for Tomorrow began in the Georgetown Law department. It was created with support from the local law enforcement in recognition that education and creating ties with the community is key for the development of mutual respect. However, it was *not* housed in law enforcement itself. The Police Chief promoted the program and was involved in the selection of participants, but he/she did not oversee the program itself. The law department ran the program. After learning this, we believe that a public employee who is not part of the Citizens Police Review Board might be best to create and run a program that is tension-free and focused on education.

The program was also created on a shoestring budget. Officers were not paid to participate, as it was a competitive program meant to enhance their skills and benefit them at work and when seeking promotions. The speakers and educators also received no pay in the beginning—there simply wasn't a budget for it. When Police for Tomorrow began, food was essentially the greatest cost. Now however, they pay stipends to speakers and educators, and hired a director to run the program. Our following sample budgets includes these stipends, project supplies, food, and an employee.

Police for Tomorrow also did not limit the applicant pool to police. Staff and the public were allowed to apply. Preference was given to officers, but others participated in the class of eighteen as well.

### **Three key recommendations after meeting with the Police for Tomorrow director:**

- 1. We recommend that this program be a competitive voluntary leadership program which is offered to Columbia police officers and city employees who wish to learn more about their community and wish to advance in their place of employment.**
- 2. We recommend that a city employee who reports to the city manager run the program with hands-on support from the Citizens Police Review Board.**
- 3. We recommend that the Police Chief, or a police representative, be involved in the selection process of participants.**



## Sample Budget

This sample budget reflects an ideal scenario wherein speakers and teachers get a stipend for their time, there is a dedicated city staff member who runs the program yearly, and programming takes part throughout the city rather than only in City Hall.

Human Resources Budget	
C6 Employee	\$65,514
Telephone for staff person	\$312
Computer and electronic items	\$1,645
Office Supplies	\$77
Postage	\$286
Furniture for staff person	\$1,200
Travel and training	\$2,000
<b>Yearly subtotal</b>	<b>\$71,034</b>

Average budget per session <sup>13</sup>	\$427.50
<b>Yearly subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,130</b>

Other	
Capstone project supplies	\$3,600
Misc contractual services	\$720
Instructor & speaker stipends	\$2,400
<b>Yearly subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,720</b>

**Yearly Budget: \$82,884.00**

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<sup>13</sup> This estimate comes from the averaging of four sample weekend sessions over one year. That breakdown can be found on the following page.

### Weekend Session Budget

The Columbia-Oriented Policing Program will be comprised of three-hour monthly sessions on various topics such as youth brain development, history of racism in Columbia, local homelessness, etc<sup>14</sup>. Each month will be taught by local experts and instructors. Local community members may be invited for a portion of each session.

Each session should include an educational workshop or presentation, informal program participant discussion, social time, and conversations with community members. The basic necessities will include a location, a stipend for the instructor, and food.

### Sample Budgets for Individual Sessions:

Table A

Ragtag Session Budget	
Line Item	
Theater	550
Snacks	180
Documentary Rights	150
Total	\$880

Table A: One such session could be a documentary screening and conversation at Ragtag.

Table B

State Historical Society Budget	
Line Item	
Classroom for two hours	100
SHSMO staff member	60
AV	100
Shakespeare's Pizza	270
Total	\$530

Table B: A session that focuses on local history could begin at the State Historical Society of Missouri and end along the African-American Heritage trail.

Table C

Boone Regional Public Library	
Line Item	
Cost of space	0
Snacks and refreshments	150
Total	\$150

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<sup>14</sup> The full session list can be found on page 5 and 6 of this document.

Table D

Columbia City Hall	
Cost of space	0
Snacks and refreshments	150
Total	\$150

Tables C and D: A more economical approach can be seen in tables C and D. By hosting the sessions at City Hall or at the public library, the cost would be much less.

**Final Budgetary Note:**

If this budget prevents the program from moving forward, there are other line items that can be cut. For one, we could attempt to gain sponsorship for the food at each session. Another way to cut costs is that capstone projects could be focused on organizations that already exist in the community. We would be happy to provide alternative budgets as you require them.