

## **Illumination Project Update**

**November 21, 2016**

The mission of the Charleston Illumination Project is to further strengthen relationships between citizens and police that are grounded in Trust and Legitimacy. Through this year long process, 86 strategies were developed by citizens and police officers through a series of “Listening Sessions,” review of three national police studies, and survey data. The strategies are broad based and require the engagement of both citizens and the police.

Since the report was completed, important work has been ongoing and much has been accomplished in a short amount of time, and much more is beginning to happen. Therefore, it is important that we keep the community and supporters informed about our progress.

Below you will see the first grouping of actions that have been completed or are in progress. We are excited about our efforts to date and know that as we continue to implement additional strategies, the trust and legitimacy that we need to build stronger relationships will grow and help us make our community the best it can be.

In an effort to keep the community updated on the projects progress, we will send out updates chronicling our progress every 60 days and will communicate more often about specific items as required.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support as we move forward with this critical work.

- Signed on as participant in the White House Police Data Initiative. Working with White House group to begin posting initial data sets in January 2017.
- Implemented policy of gaining written permission for consent searches.
- Implemented pilot program for cite and release for a series of minor violations.
- Identified a 10-member citizen team made up of local community influencers to continue the work ahead and hosted training on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for an additional 10 community influencers to host 2017 Listening Sessions with a deeper reach into the community. Second training session to be held in December.
- Video script has been written for both traditional methods and social media describing proper protocols to follow during citizen/police encounters to reduce the likelihood of conflict and confrontation
- Have identified liaisons to begin working with various community groups to build relationships and share information. (AFFA, Hispanic Community, college and university, military and black community associations).

- Conducted first session of Policing 101 for citizen information and awareness of police policy and practice.
- Coalition to research and recommend actions dealing with social determinants for a healthy community is formed and meeting.
- New position of Community Resource Specialist is working in 5 key neighborhoods in support of Community Outreach Unit.
- Review and analysis of five Collaborative Reform reports completed through the DOJ's Community Oriented Policing Offices' "Collaborative Reform Initiative" from Fayetteville, NC, Las Vegas, NV, St. Louis County, MO, Philadelphia, PA, and Salinas, CA police departments have been completed and compared to current Department policies and practices. Sixteen recommendations outlined in the reports by the assessment teams have been identified as applicable to our agency and are currently being proactively implemented. Additional recommendations from the analysis will be implemented in 2017.
- The PEAK Academy process improvement initiative is underway and team-members have been trained. The RFP for the external consultant to assist with the city-wide initiative has been completed and responses from several firms received. The selection process is underway and expected to be completed by January 2017.
- A clergy council has been started to work with the city on various issues and continue the successful faith-based components of the Illumination Project.
- Working collectively with the Charleston County Library and other community partners to begin a study in Civil Rights history for officers and community members. Initial meeting has taken place and follow up is ongoing to make this available in 2017.

Mark R. Ruppel  
 Executive Director  
 Charleston Police Fund  
 (843) 480 – 1919  
[mark@charlestonpolicefund.org](mailto:mark@charlestonpolicefund.org)