What is the Community Views of CJ Project?

Soda or Pop?
What influences your perceptions?

The Community Views on Criminal Justice Project seeks to understand various local groups’ perceptions of Procedural Justice, a theory currently at the forefront of the criminal justice field.

The concept emerged in the pioneering work of Thibaut and Walker (1975).

They showed that processes that were perceived to be fair led to the acceptance of undesired outcomes.

Presumably fair processes are perceived as indicative of fair outcomes.

PJ refers to the fairness of processes by which the police exercise their authority: the way that police treat citizens and how they decide what to do.

OBJECTIVITY FAIRNESS RESPECT DESIRE TO BE HEARD

Methodology:
Group Feedback Analysis

- Year one of the project started October 2015 and will conclude in August 2016.
- Approximately two focus groups a month will be conducted over this period.
- The focus groups are conducted using group feedback analysis which combines a traditional survey and focus group discussion.

Stage 1
Cluster of 2-3 survey questions

Stage 2
Display of polled results

Stage 3
Probe question guided discussion

Who We’re Taking To...

Community Views of Criminal Justice
Christina Burnett, Chaquan Smith, Mary Beth Spinelli, and John Klofas, Ph.D.
Center For Public Safety Initiatives

What People are Saying...

First Quarter Results Indicate:
1. Half of respondents felt interactions with police are poor when outside of their work roles. Many respondents perceive that Rochester Police Department (RPD) officers approach community members as if they are criminals even in situations not involving crime. Officers usually do not explain what warranted a stop, which increases tensions.
2. The majority of participants are unsatisfied with RPD responses to community concerns and do not trust the police to do what is best for the community. Participants want officers to get to know the community better.
3. Approximately half of participants believe police are fair in the way they enforce the law. In contrast, about two-thirds of respondents perceive RPD does not treat people with dignity and respect, and perceptions of frequent police profiling are a common complaint.
4. Respondents report relatively more trust, sense of fairness and belief that police try to do what is best for the community compared to the justice system.
5. About half of participants support body-worn cameras and report hope for more police and citizen accountability due to camera use.
6. All the groups were grateful to have a voice, to offer input and suggestions on these issues, and that the information is submitted to criminal justice leadership.

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Police officers need to know the community to do what is best to address community concerns.

“They [police officers] need to go to the barbershop and hair salon and reach these black men and women... They should come out into the community and meet us halfway.”

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