

Community Views on Criminal Justice: Quarter 2 Report

Working Paper #2016-09

April 2016



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This research is part of the Rochester area Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative, which is supported through the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

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The Center for Public Safety Initiatives (CPSI)'s Community Views on Criminal Justice project records public perception of policing and the criminal justice system in Rochester, NY. This quarterly report discusses results from six focus groups on community relations and procedural justice. Research findings lay the basis for actionable recommendations to improve police-community relations. Groups surveyed include two community organizations¹, one each of a neighborhood organization, police-citizen group, groups of young people and people in reentry². Results indicate:

- 1) Half of groups reported that when an officer approaches you the interaction generally goes poorly. Respondents believed that the officer's attitude when approaching each situation greatly determines how an interaction goes.
 - 2) Groups varied in their satisfaction with police responses to community concerns: two groups were somewhat satisfied, two groups were split between satisfied and unsatisfied, and two groups were very unsatisfied. About half of participants trust the police to what is best for the community. Trust is eroded through profiling, lack of respect, and some aspects of Rochester Police Department (RPD) culture.
 - 3) A slight majority of participants disagreed that officers are generally fair in the way they enforce the law (53%) and that police generally treat people with dignity and respect (56%). Responses to both questions followed a similar pattern: the community organizer and police-citizen groups agreed; the life-skills training group was split between agreement and disagreement for enforcement though the majority were favorable for dignity/respect; and, the majority in the remaining three groups disagreed.
- Perceptions of frequent police profiling continue to be the most common complaint.

¹ In this project, "community organizations" include respondents from across the city of Rochester; in contrast, "neighborhood organizations" have participants from a geographically bound area.

² Descriptive and demographic information on each group surveyed can be found in Appendix 1.

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- 4) Participants reported a slightly greater sense of fairness and belief that police try to do what is best for the community compared to the justice system. The majority of participants disagreed that the justice system tries to do what is best for the community, and that the system treats people fairly. Almost all participants believed the system is influenced by money, race, and/or politics.
- 5) About half of participants agreed and about one-third of participants were neutral when considering if body-worn cameras are good for the relationship between RPD and the community. A couple of groups reported reserving judgment on cameras until policies are released by RPD, and almost all groups expressed concern over the possible manipulation of camera footage.
- 6) A few group approached to participate in this project declined reportedly because they had participated in prior research yet “nothing changed” (two community groups and one church group). Another church group did not want to participate because, “police will not allow themselves to be policed.”

Interaction with Police

Questions: *Have you had any contact or interaction with a member of the Rochester Police Department (RPD) in the past 6 months? Would you describe your most recent interaction with the police as good, bad, neither good nor bad, or no interaction? Did the interaction with the police get started by you calling or approaching the police or the police approaching you?*

In four out of the six groups, all participants had contact with police in the last 6 months. Three of these groups engaged with police through community meetings; both the police-citizen and community organizer group reported all interactions were good while the reform-advocacy group reported almost all bad interactions. The fourth group, young people from Northwest

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Rochester, reported 43% of interactions were good and 43% were bad. Youth believed contact with police was mostly due to with racial profiling, though a few contacts reported were conversations with officers due to issues in the challenged neighborhoods where they live. In contrast, the reentry participant and the life-skills training groups generally did not have interaction with police. The reentry group explained trying to avoid police because they fear the consequences of contact.

Bad interactions. Half of the groups (life-skills training participants, youth and reentry groups) reported that when an officer approaches you, “9 out of 10 times it doesn’t go well.” All groups (except the police-citizen group) believed that the attitude of officers can cause a good or bad interaction. The life-skills training group felt this was because of officers’ pride in their authority, and their expectation for people to “kiss-up” to them. Young people added that the officer’s mood was also important, and community organizers added how if an officer is having a bad day it often causes him/her to have a negative demeanor when interacting with residents. While each of these groups acknowledged that the community member’s attitude influences a situation, participants believed the officer’s attitude most greatly affects how the interaction goes. A few groups also discussed how the outcome of an interaction (i.e., receiving a ticket or not) as well as the way the officer treats you (i.e., whether they explain their actions, listen to you, and their attitude) affects whether an interaction is good or bad.

Good interactions. Two groups reported spending time developing relationship with RPD over a few years. The police-citizen group described a “reciprocal relationship” similar to being “colleagues” with the officers and community organizers described the relationship as a partnership with officers to work on neighborhood issues. (Both groups were referring to Community Resource Officers (CROs), the RPD Captain, and some beat officers.) Community

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issues identified by both groups are drastically different: quality of life concerns (police-citizen) versus crime issues (community organizers). The community organizer group also reported that RPD has improved over the last eight years both in its relationships with and listening to challenged NE quadrant communities, and gave examples of how RPD shows care for the community.

Safety

Question: *How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night?*

In half of the groups, all participants reported feelings of safety (very or somewhat safe) in their neighborhood at night (community organizers, police-citizen and reform-advocacy groups). The majority of participants in the life-skills training and reentry group reported feeling somewhat safe in their neighborhoods.

Influences to safety. The group of youth felt the least safe and was the only group where participants reported feeling very unsafe in their night in their neighborhood (25% of participants). Conversations suggested that race (i.e., profiling) and the neighborhood (i.e., not being familiar with the area and high crime) play a large role in their responses about safety.

Almost all groups reported that safety mostly had to do with being familiar with people in the neighborhood (your own or another area), and knowing what goes on in your neighborhood. Groups that felt safe or somewhat safe at night (in the paragraph above) represent a variety of demographics racial/ethnically and has a mix of people living in challenged neighborhoods. Participants reported safety when they trust people in the neighborhood through having rapport or a relationship with them. Respondents in any group that have moved recently tend to feel less safe because they are less familiar with people and the patterns of activity in the

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neighborhood. Also, some participants felt safer with more and some with less activity on the street.

Keeping yourself safe. A few groups expressed how it is necessary to keep themselves safe (“I carry mace... a razor, [or] a pocket knife, to make me feel safer.”) and do not rely on police for safety (the life-skills training and group of youth). Young people believed youth need to be ready to fight in school or in the community in order to keep themselves safe. In direct contrast, the life-skills training participants felt safer with police present.

Community Concerns and Trust

Questions: Overall, how satisfied are you with police responses to community concerns?

(Responses range from very satisfied to very unsatisfied.) Rate how strongly you agree or disagree with these statements: I trust the police to do what is best for the community.

Overall, the criminal justice system (police, courts, probation, prisons, parole, etc.) tries to do what is best for the community.

While two groups were somewhat satisfied with police response to community concerns (community organizer and police-citizen group), two groups were split between satisfied and unsatisfied (life-skills training and reentry participants), and two groups were very unsatisfied (young people and reform-advocacy group). The majority of reentry participants chose not to answer this question (three out of eight responded); conversationally, all respondents reported not feeling safe with police, though reentry participants acknowledged the role of police as keeping people safe and protecting the community from “people like us.”

Community concerns. Community concerns reported by the majority of groups included drugs/drug markets, prostitutes, guns, violence, and panhandlers. Participants concerned with these issues live throughout the city as well as specifically in Northwest Rochester and work in Northeast Rochester neighborhoods. One person captured many participants’ frustration with police responses to community concerns by stating he is

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unsatisfied because, “We are *still* working on the same issues.” That said, two groups (community organizers and police-citizen) highlighted how helpful it is for community members to see police frustrated by the same neighborhood issues year in and out (i.e, drug markets or theft by people from outside of the neighborhood). This helped residents find common ground with RPD and be more understanding of police constraints to address these issues.

Distinctly different were the quality of life issues reported the police-citizen group whose participants live in low-crime neighborhoods in Southeast Rochester. Issues reported include illegal parking, parking block-ins and drivers under-the-influence of alcohol at festivals, and a lacking sense of ownership by renters and college students. This group acknowledged how distinct their concerns are from other areas of the city because their area has low crime.

Police response to community concerns. The community organizers and police-citizen groups were most favorable toward RPD. They reported faster response times due to having developed regular communication channels and a “back and forth” working relationship with officers, especially CROs. Compared to almost all other groups this was very unique; other groups reported complaints about police response times. Rather than calling 311 or 911, respondents often contacted officers directly for assistance with an issue, reported officers occasionally provide their direct work number for follow-up if a problem persists, and that the Captain is occasionally available and responsive for working with the group. Both groups served the role of relaying information between the community and the police. Community organizers uniquely described seeing the role of police as collaborators on neighborhood issues.

Trusting the police. While the majority in half of the groups agreed that they trust the police to what is best for the community (police-citizen, community organizer and life-skills

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training group), the majority in the remaining three groups disagreed (young people, reform-advocacy and a slight majority, 62%, of the reentry group). It should be noted that reentry participants did not see any distinction between police, probation and parole (“they are all the same”), reportedly because any group can arrest them if they violate their parole/probation terms.

Issues with trusting police. Many groups felt that trust needs to be earned, captured well by this participant:

“It is too much to give trust to all police officers. It’s not an individual officer, it’s a whole force. How am I going to give you trust or respect if I don’t know you?”

Half of the groups believed police abuse their power (i.e. using their sirens to run red lights, see themselves as above the law, or are not held accountable) (life-skills training, youth and reform-advocacy groups). Two groups reported that RPD’s culture of brotherhood makes people not trust the police (life-skills training and reform-advocacy groups). Both groups discussed how individual officers need to encourage one another to stand up for what is fair and what is right instead of covering for each other. Finally, two groups described the police as militaristic (youth and reform-advocacy groups). The reform-advocacy group reported that police always escalate situations with community members, and the majority of participants want to abolish policing and create a new system.

Profiling. Profiling was a major concern expressed by all groups as harming trust in police. Almost all participants in half of the group (young people, community organizers and reentry groups) and many in the life-skills training group reported incidents of racial profiling happening to themselves or a close family member (i.e., street stops of African Americans or “driving while Latino”). A few groups discussed profiling as a concern they hear about from

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people they know well (reform-advocacy and community organizer group) or see in the media about incidents in Rochester (police-citizen group). While the reentry and community organizer groups were most concerned about racial profiling, young people could not agree whether age or gender put more African Americans at risk for profiling. Profiling experiences are described as unfair and disrespectful.

A couple groups believed profiling on the basis of urban` wear and affiliation are common (young people and reform group). Though young people acknowledged that how a person looks and acts matters in terms of how you are seen by others, the majority believed officers should not treat people like criminals due only to fashion or age. The life-skills training and community organizer groups reported that officers seem to create a reason for stopping minorities after you are already stopped.

The community organizer group suggested that officers need have a clear reason for a stop *and* explain why they pulled someone over. While young people believed more Black leadership is needed in the criminal justice system overall, they did not believe this will help to reduce profiling (i.e., the badge still makes them a cop).

Call for community education. Another major theme from half of groups (life-skills training, police-citizen and community organizer groups) was the need to educate more community members on police procedures. Two of these groups reported more realistic expectations of police and their roles, and better overall relationships with police due to the education they received on RPD processes and procedures (i.e. RPD Citizen’s Academy, meetings, and information sessions). The life-skills training group pointed out how police-community meetings are often in locations that residents do not feel comfortable going (i.e. “City Hall or these business places”). Instead:

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“They [police officers] need to go to barber shops and hair salons and reach these Black men and women.... They should come out into the community and meet us halfway.”

Justice system impressions. In half of groups, the majority of participants strongly disagreed (young people and reform-advocacy) or were split between strong and general disagreement (reentry group) that the justice system tries to do what is best for the community. The community organizer and police-citizen groups were completely split, and the life-skills training group was overall split between agreement and disagreement on whether the justice system tries to do what is best for the community. Two groups believed that different agencies in the system place blame on other parts of the system (i.e., when evidence is lost) so reform never happens (community organizer and reform-advocacy group).

The reform-advocacy group was the most critical of the system. These respondents believed all people who work in the justice system had good intentions but do not care about anything beyond completing their jobs. Participants described the police department as a small part of a larger, corrupt justice system and believed discussing one-on-one interactions with police was not relevant; officers are reportedly corrupt because they are trained to comply with an unfair system.

Dignity, Respect and Fairness

Questions: Rate how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements: Police officers in my community are generally fair in the way they enforce the law. The police in my community generally treat people with dignity and respect. The criminal justice system generally treats people fairly.

All participants in both the community organizer and police-citizen groups agreed to strongly agreed that officers are generally fair in the way they enforce the law, with the police-

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citizen group slightly more favorable in their responses. The life-skills training group was almost equally split on whether officers are fair in the way they enforce the law, with one participant more in agreement than disagreement. In contrast, the majority in three groups disagreed that the police are fair in the way they enforce the law: 100% of the reform-advocacy group strongly disagreed, 86% of the youth people and 75% of the reentry group disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Influences to fairness. The reentry group reported a strong sense of “us versus them,” and described all of the system on “team blue” working together against them. The reform-advocacy group discussed unfair enforcement based on race and class, and specifically named disparities in enforcement between the St. Patrick Day Parade versus Clarissa Street Reunion or Puerto Rican Festival (i.e., allowing people who had been drinking to get behind the wheel and other disruptive behavior). The community organizer group overall held a more positive outlook towards police and gave RPD the benefit of the doubt more often than other groups that reported similar community concerns, likely in part due to their relationship with police.

Dignity and respect. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the same three groups (reform-advocacy, reentry, and young people) also did not feel police treat people with dignity and respect. The reform-advocacy group reported stronger negative feelings (100% strongly disagreed) compared to reentry participants (100% strongly or generally disagreed) and youth (87% strongly or generally disagreed). A slight majority of the life-skills training group agreed or strongly agreed (63%) that officers treat people with dignity and respect, while everyone in the community organizer group was in agreement and the majority of the police-citizen group (three out of five) strongly agreed. An important variation between the police-citizen and community

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organizer groups was almost unanimous reports by community organizers of being treated rudely (i.e., being treated with suspicion or as a criminal) by officers when racially profiled.

This group believed they would feel more respected if officers explained why they pulled you over (i.e., a random check, something that made you suspicious, or if your taillight was out). Other suggestions included officers beginning the encounter with a simple acknowledgement or smile, and approaching community members with an attitude of curiosity or helpfulness instead of suspicion (i.e., “Are you lost? Can I help you find your way?”) if the person looks out of place in the area.

Cultural and sensitivity competence. The community organizer group reported witnessing officers that lack sensitivity when dealing with people in domestic violence situations. This group and young people believed police needed training for dealing better with people with disabilities as well as domestic violence. Many groups believed that police needed more training on racial/ethnic and cultural competence. Developing better communication skills was important to participants: verbal communication, tone of voice and being less “harsh,” and officers needing to work on their own body language. Youth and reform-advocacy groups reported that police do not know how to deescalate situations. Other policy and training suggestions reported by groups include how police should consider alternative tactics to using guns (i.e., better communication, de-escalation strategies, and using Tasers before drawing guns).

Justice system lacks fairness. The majority in every group disagreed that the criminal justice system treats people fairly: 100% of reform-advocacy group, 83% of reentry group, 80% of young people, 75% life-skills training and community organizer groups, and 60% of the police-citizen group (percentages adding disagree and strong disagreed responses). Almost all

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groups believed that the system is made unfair by money. Most groups discussed how race, and a couple groups discussed how politics, affects the system (community organizer and police-community group). The Charlie Tan case from Pittsford was raised in a number of groups, discussed by participants as an example that shows how people with money are not held accountable (for manslaughter or purchasing a gun for someone else), and people believed the case would not have been dismissed if the defendant was from the city and/or was African American. Another group discussed the Texas “affluenza” case (teen Ethan Couch as defendant) of how people with money are not given the same sentences as other people.

Other justice system concerns. The reentry group was unique in describing the system as unfair, reporting that history follows people even when a person faces different charges and has worked to transform his life. Jury bias, specifically how juries are not made up of peoples’ peers (i.e., juries that are mostly White or not made up of young people), was a concern raised by a few groups (reentry participants and the police-citizen group). Two groups reported that neighborhoods are victimized by failures of the justice system such as: people on parole/probation committing additional crimes in the community, people with multiple convictions getting plea bargains, prison overcrowding, and not reforming offenders (community organizer and police-citizen groups).

Body-Worn Cameras

Question: Rate how much you agree or disagree with this statement: The use of body-worn cameras is good for the relationship between police and this community.

About half of participants agreed or strongly agreed and about one-third of participants were neutral regarding whether body-worn cameras are good for the relationship between RPD and the community. Groups responded with a full range of results: in two groups the majority of participants agreed (reentry and life-skills training groups), and two other groups were split

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between agreement and neutral responses (community organizer and police-citizen groups). Young people and the reform-advocacy group had a large amount of internal disagreement.

Reasons provided by groups for neutral responses involved seeing both positive and negative consequences for police-community relations. A couple groups reported wanting to review policies prior to making firm judgments on whether cameras will be helpful (police-citizen and reform-advocacy groups), and a few were concerned about who would have access to footage (reform-advocacy, police-citizen, and young people). The possibility of footage being manipulated continues to be most common concern expressed by almost all groups. While some groups believed that body cameras will not be “a fix” to stop citizens nor officers from behaving poorly, others believed they will help hold both groups accountable. In contrast, the police-citizen group was concerned that body cameras will make officers’ jobs more difficult. Overall, participants seemed slightly less hopeful than last quarters’ respondents that body cameras will assist police-community relationships.

Discussion

Groups interviewed this quarter represented a wider range of people from the Rochester community than last quarter³. Six different types of groups participated: two community organizations (reform-advocacy and life-skills training groups), a neighborhood organization (community organizer group), police-citizen group, group of young people and group of people in reentry. Despite the variation between types of groups and demographics (just more than half were men, half of groups were predominately African American or Latino, and a range of ages within groups), themes about police-community relations and system concerns are rather similar. The majority of participants did not believe the justice system tries to do what is best

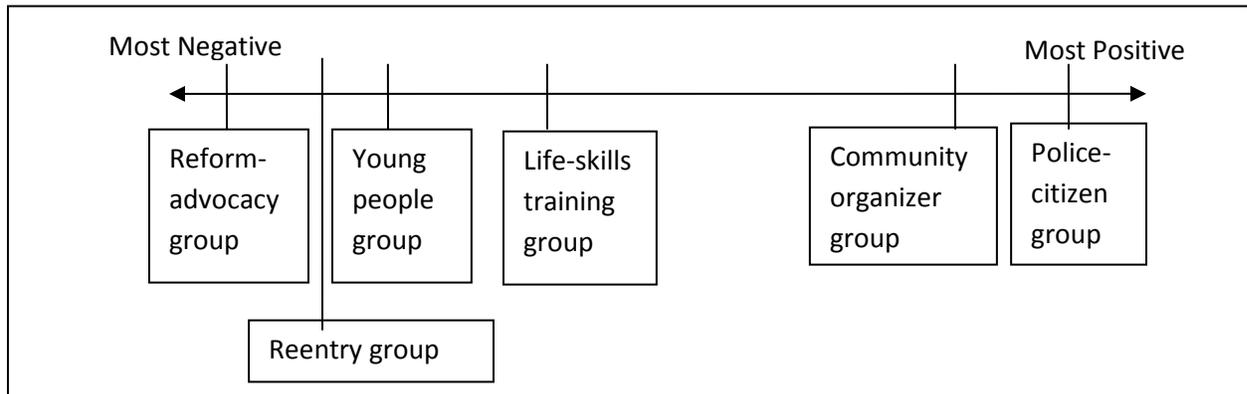
³ See Appendix 2 for a complete list of groups interviewed since the beginning of this project.

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for the community or treats people fairly, and almost all participants believed the system is influenced by money, race, and/or politics.

The largest variation in responses occurred based on subcategories, as show in Figure 1 below. The most positive were the police-citizen and community organizer groups which have developed relationships and have somewhat frequent contact with police.

Figure 1. Overall impressions of RPD based on each groups' full (verbal and survey) responses.



There were many similar themes to last quarters' responses. The majority of participants felt police presence does not have anything to do with feelings of safety, and a few groups this quarter discussed needing to keep themselves safe. In terms of safety, there seems to be a subset of people in both quarters who report feeling safer because of experiences that have taught them street smarts and an awareness that allows them to understand patterns of activity in the neighborhood (i.e., being able to tell in people are just hanging out or if drugs are being sold). Young people, a couple people in the community organizer group, and the majority in groups that work with young people from first quarter report this to be true. This allows people to feel safe regardless of the type of neighborhood they are in, which is in direct contrast to groups feelings of safety has to do with aspects of their neighborhood (police-citizen group).

There were two major differences between responses this quarter and last quarter. First, the police-citizen and community organizer groups were more favorable towards RPD than any

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groups last quarter. Second, groups this quarter responded with a full range of results regarding if body cameras are good for the relationship between police and this community. This is rather different from first quarter where most respondents were overall split between agreement and neutrality about body cameras. The reasons for neutrality are the same as those reported first quarter, though more respondents were neutral last quarter.

Another significant difference is that a few groups this semester specifically mentioned the need for reform in police department policies or justice system reform. The reform-advocacy group continually focused on the need for system reform and accountability within the system before police-community relations will improve. A few groups (reform-advocacy, community organizer, and reentry) discussed police as working within a corrupt system, and acknowledged the need for organization to system level change. While not explicitly stated, a few groups seemed to believe that trust in police is earned through individual interactions as well as through changes in the culture of the police department. Earning the community's trust seems to involve respect in one-on-one interactions as well as changes within the police department to address negative aspects of RPD's "brotherhood" culture and "abuse of power."

Actionable Recommendations

Here we present recommendations based on concerns and suggestions raised across all focus groups from this quarter.

- 1) **At an interpersonal level, officers should always provide a specific explanation for stopping a community member, and consider their attitude when approaching any situation. Supervision should reinforce these expectations.** Participants again reported that communication and how community members are treated by officers are important to feeling respected. Participants mentioned how attitude comes across in

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what an officer says and how the officer acts, especially their body language. Beginning interactions with an acknowledgement (a smile or greeting) will help put community members at ease and assist in interactions going well. Officers should consider trying to approach general stops (when not looking for a suspect) with an attitude of gathering information or curiosity about the situation. Above all, providing a specific explanation for a stop, even if profiling played a role in the stop, will help community members feel that they are being treated with respect. Supervision on communication and attitude will assist in improving RPDs' reputation with community members.

- 2) **The most frequently discussed strained relationships were between officers and people of color. RPD should consider educating more community members on police procedures, and should target groups that have strained relationships with RPD. The majority of meetings should occur at locations where each group is comfortable gathering.** Locations for meetings should be tagged to the specific audience the meeting is trying to reach. Such locations will be different for African Americans adults, Latino adults, and young people. RPD should consult with people in each of these under-represented groups to gain information about where each group is comfortable gathering, such as barber shops or hair salons for African Americans. Meetings should be considered strategically. Content should be approached as levels of information such as general information sessions, meeting on specific topics, and, for those who want the most specifics, invitations to RPD's Citizen Academy. Initial relationship building and basic information sessions should be held in places that feel safer to community residents; more advanced trainings held in city locations since initial trust and rapport will already be built. RPD should attempt to reengage people from

each target group so that there is an ongoing building of trust with these individuals, who then can as ambassadors that share their positive relationship and new insights about RPD within their community groups.

- 3) **RPD should consider providing focused cultural competency training to help officers decide what is best for particular situations and neighborhoods. Trainings should be reviewed to include topics such as personal bias, inclusiveness, and how to deal with delicate situation.** Delicate situations include dealing with people with disabilities, mental health issues, and domestic violence situations. Though RPD likely has these topics in current trainings, participants from both quarters raised the need for greater officer sensitivity on these issues. As stated above, developing better communication skills (verbal, tone of voice, and body language) may be helpful refreshers for some officers. Training information should include examining ones' own personal biases and fostering a culture of inclusion. Training delivery that focus on application and in-class practice would be helpful. This can challenge officers to not act out of personal assumptions. RPD may want to consider asking officers to review their past on-the-job experiences of race, poverty and mental health. Supervises can enhance RPD's reputation by ensuring that officers use their position of authority with responsibility by: not taking the side of fellow officers exhibiting poor judgement, and that officers especially focus on de-escalation with people from a different background to themselves (in terms of economics, disability, race/ethnicity, gender identity) which is when discomfort naturally is raised due to implicit biases.
- 4) **The largest amount of cynicism and distrust occurs between the criminal justice system and community members. Agencies of the justice system, especially courts,**

should consider media campaigns to enhance their image with the community and enhance transparency of decision making within the system. Courts should create messaging to the public with information on jury selection and minority representation on juries. Publicizing information on court service for those who have financial issues should also be considered. The justice system should consider a press release with an easy to understand message regarding factors on how and why the Charlie Tan case was dismissed, and the friend who purchased the weapon Mr. Tan has not been indicted.

Appendix 1: Methodology - Demographics

Second quarter focus groups were held from January to March 2016. Due to researchers' use of group feedback analysis, individualized demographic information was not collected (more information can be found in the forthcoming paper Community View on Criminal Justice: Methodology). General group demographic and descriptive information are listed below by group type and each group's subcategory.

- **Focus group five: Community Organization⁴ - life-skills training participants** (8 participants). Half of participants were men, approximate age ranged from 30 to 50 with two participants 18 to 29, the dominant racial/ethnic group was African American with two Caucasians, and all but one person lived in the city.
- **Focus group six: Reentry Organization - reentry participants** (9 participants). All participants were men, approximate age ranged 35 to 50, the dominant racial/ethnic group was African American with one Latino, and all lived in the city of Rochester.
- **Focus group seven: Youth Organization - young people from NW Rochester** (9 participants). All but two participants were male, approximate age ranged 18 to 29 with one person who in the 30 to 39 age range, the whole group was African American, and all participants live in the city of Rochester.
- **Focus group eight: Neighborhood Organization - Community organizers in NE Rochester** (5 participants). Just over half of participants were women, approximate age ranged 20 to 65 with about one participant per decade-age group, and the dominant racial/ethnic group was Latino with one Caucasian, and 60% lived in the city of Rochester.

⁴ As mentioned above, for this project "community organizations" include respondents from across the city of Rochester; in contrast, "neighborhood organizations" have participants from a geographically bound area.

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- **Focus group nine: Police-citizen Organization - participants from SE Rochester** (5 participants). All but one of participants were women, approximate age ranged 40 to 65, and the dominant racial/ethnic group was Caucasian, and all lived in the city of Rochester.
- **Focus group ten: Community Organization - reform-advocacy group** (4 participants). Half of participants were men, approximate age ranged 50 to 59 with one participant in the 30 to 39 age range, and the dominant racial/ethnic group was Caucasian with one person of mixed race, and half lived in the city of Rochester though the other half are “from the city.”

Appendix 2: Methodology - Groups

Groups were recruited to meet the goal of interviewing a wide variety in types of groups in the Rochester community (i.e., community versus reentry groups or variations in geographic location). Community groups represent all of the Rochester community; in contrast, neighborhood groups are geographically bound (i.e., community organizers in NE Rochester neighborhoods or police-citizen groups from a particular quadrant). The group’s subcategory provides more information on what brings the group together and makes participants similar.

Table 1. Types of Groups Interviewed by the Community Views of CJ Project

Focus Group Number	Type of Group	Group Subcategory⁵	Total Participants
1	Reentry	Reentry organization staff	8
2	Youth	At-risk youth organization staff	12
3	Youth	At-risk youth organization staff in Northeast Rochester	2
4	Youth	At-risk youth organization staff	7
5	Community organization	Life-skills training participants	8
6	Reentry	Reentry participants	9
7	Youth	Young people from Northwest Rochester	9
8	Neighborhood organization	Community organizers in Northeast Rochester	5
9	Police-Citizen organization	Police-citizen group from Southeast Rochester	5
10	Community organization	Reform-advocacy group	4

⁵ The Rochester city quadrant is listed only for groups that are made up of people from a particular geographically area or serve a population in a specific area.

Appendix 3: Focus Group Survey Questions with Corresponding Results

1) Have you had any contact or interaction (by phone, office, car, on the street, etc.) with a member of the Rochester Police Department (RPD) in the past 6 months?

Responses	Yes	No	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	73%	27%	33
Total Percentage from all Quarters	74%	26%	62

2) How did the interaction with the police get started?

Responses	I called 911	A police officer approached me	No recent interaction	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	39%	36%	24%	33
Total Percentage from all Quarters	34%	39%	27%	59

3) Would you describe your most recent interaction with the police as...

Responses	Good	Bad	Neither good nor bad	No contact	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	48%	26%	6%	19%	31
Total Percentage from all Quarters	42%	17%	20%	22%	60

4) How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night?

Responses	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	28%	53%	13%	6%	32
Total Percentage from all Quarters	48%	41%	7%	5%	61

5) Overall, how satisfied are you with police responses to community concerns?

Responses	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	9%	38%	25%	28%	32
Total Percentage from all Quarters	7%	34%	36%	23%	61

6) I trust the police to do what is best for the community.

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	11%	39%	22%	28%	36
Total Percentage from all Quarters	6%	34%	36%	23%	64

COMMUNITY VIEWS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Quarter 2 Report

7) Police officers in my community are generally fair in the way they enforce the law.

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	11%	36%	17%	36%	36
Total Percentage from all Quarters	6%	44%	27%	23%	64

8) The police here generally treat people with dignity and respect.

Response	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	14%	31%	19%	36%	36
Percentage Total from all Quarters	10%	32%	34%	24%	62

9) Overall, the criminal justice system (police, courts, probation, prisons, parole, etc.) tries to do what is best for the community.

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	9%	27%	33%	30%	33
Percentage Total from all Quarters	6%	27%	36%	31%	62

10) The criminal justice system generally treats people fairly.

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	0%	22%	38%	41%	32
Percentage Total from all Quarters	0%	20%	42%	38%	60

11) The use of body-worn cameras is good for the relationship between police and this community.

Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N
Quarter 2 Percentage	25%	28%	34%	6%	6%	32
Percentage Total from all Quarters	26%	30%	33%	7%	5%	61