

# Community Views of Criminal Justice

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## What is the Community Views of CJ Project?



What influences your perceptions?

People have a unique perspective on things based on their perceptions and experiences.



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.

## Procedural Justice (PJ)

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.

Cluster of 2-3 survey questions

Groups

Display
of polled
results

Probe question guided discussion

### Who We're Taking To...

Community Organizations Neighborhood Faith-Organizations Based Recent Groups Immigrant Groups Youth Organizations Reentry Groups Homeless Groups Police-Citizen

Purple background = Quarter 1 focus groups

Light blue background = Quarter 2 focus groups

Dark blue background = possible future groups

## What People are Saying...

"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." Some officers have personal assumptions that they act out of, like treating someone like a criminal just because they walk a certain way or because they are an African American male.

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

#### First Quarter Results Indicate:

- 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.
- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. About half of participants support body-worn cameras and report hope for more police and citizen accountability due to camera use.
- 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.

#### **Contact Information**

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