Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2005, 1:20 p.m.
Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Oregon

LECC Community Relations Subcommittee Members Present
David Fidanque, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon
Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton County
Chief Ron Louie, Hillsboro Police Department

LECC Staff Present
Claudia Black, Brian Renauer, Laura Uva, Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute,
Portland State University

LECC Community Relations Subcommittee Members Excused
Associate Professor Keith Aoki, University of Oregon Law School
Dr. Charles Martinez, Oregon Social Learning Center
Justice Edwin Peterson, Distinguished Jurist in Residence, Willamette University College of Law
Superintendent Frank Thompson, Santiam Correctional Institution

Guests
Roland Broussard

Welcome / Introductions
Dr. Renauer is Associate Director of Research of the Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute (CJPRI), as well as Associate Professor of Criminology at Portland State University. Mr. Broussard chairs the Salem Community Policing Advisory Committee.

Approve Agenda
Superintendent Thompson was unable to attend the meeting, thus deferring an update on the DPSST Curriculum Subcommittee to a future meeting. Mr. Fidanque moved, Chief Louie seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the revised agenda.

Update on Oregon State Sheriffs Association (OSSA), Oregon State Police (OSP) and Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) Presentations
Ms. Black informed the subcommittee that representatives of the LECC met with the OSSA Executive Committee on September 7, and with the leadership of OSP on October 10. The committee is scheduled to meet with the OACP Executive Committee on October 25.

The OSSA voted in favor of working with the LECC on composing and distributing the law enforcement survey to all Oregon sheriffs. The OSP also showed much support for the work of the LECC, including endorsement of the law enforcement survey.
**Law Enforcement Accreditation Requirements**

Chief Louie provided a handout listing the national and state accreditation requirements that address issues of bias-based policing.

Chief Louie also showed the beginning of the latest New Jersey law enforcement training video entitled, “Eradicating Racial Profiling.” The Hillsboro Police Department will be assessing how the New Jersey training materials and ideas can be applied to Oregon. Test groups of rookies, trainers and community members will review the New Jersey materials, and Chief Louie will report to the LECC the results of this test review.

Chief Louie has also ordered a copy of the New Jersey video as a resource for LECC staff.

**National Literature Review**

Chief Louie distributed a draft summary of the LECC’s National Literature Review of Stop Data Reports. This summary is a technical evaluation drafted by Vince Alexander, former Analyst of the Hillsboro Police Department. Chief Louie will perform further editing of the summary to clarify its points for the general public.

**Community Perceptions**

Dr. Renauer will be a resource to the LECC in data analysis and research. Dr. Renauer distributed and discussed a handout on the importance of addressing community beliefs/perceptions. Some important points of his discussion include:

**Racial Profiling: Subjective Vs. Objective**

There is a perception among the public that racial profiling exists. Many people also personally feel they have been profiled, especially in the African American community.

Such perceptions relate to a decrease in support for law enforcement, which has important ramifications for crime prevention, case investigation, legitimacy of government institutions, and crime itself.

Perceptions of racial profiling can be subjective (not based on reality or truth), or they can be objective (based on reality or truth).

**Different ways of measuring citizen perceptions of the police**

- Citizen perceptions of the police – the institution:
  - Are local police effective in preventing crime?
  - Are local police responsive to community and individual needs?
  - Do local police treat people fairly?

- Citizen perceptions of police behavior:
  - Do you believe racial profiling practices are common among local police?
  - Do you believe local police treat people with respect?
- Do you believe police use of excessive force is common among local police?

- Citizen perceptions of personal experiences with police:
  - Do you believe the officer’s stop was justified/fair?
  - Do you believe you were racially profiled?
  - Did you believe you were treated with respect?

Key Issue: How do citizens form perceptions of the police?

*Debate in Scholarly Community: 2 sides*

- Citizen perceptions of the police, or perceptions of how one is treated by the police, change according to one’s personal experience with the police.
  - Positive or negative experiences with the police relate to one’s perceptions of officer performance and judgments of the institution.
  - Policy Solution: We can engineer citizen perceptions of the police by changing how police interact with the citizenry through training, community policing, etc.

- Citizen perceptions of the police, or perceptions of how one is treated by the police, reflect long-term, deeply ingrained perceptions and stereotypes about the police.
  - Policing perceptions are unlikely to be changed by new policing practices and new experiences. (Examples: Meeting a very respectful officer is interpreted as “an exception to the rule.” Every bad experience tends to reinforce existing beliefs.)
  - Perceptions are created by a combination of vicarious experiences (family/friends/media); personal experiences, cultural/historical factors, complex socio-economic factors.
  - Policy Solution: A comprehensive community initiative involving police, government, business, residents working to create better working partnerships.

Conclusions: People are less likely to feel they experienced racial profiling when:

- They believe the stop was fair or police are generally fair when dealing with their community.
  - Three aspects to procedural fairness
    - Quality of decision making – police are neutral, objective, and consistent
    - Quality of treatment – treated with politeness and respect
    - Inferences about trustworthiness – officer or police can be trusted, they’re doing their best.

*Value of transparency* – police need to make decisions in a way that makes it clear the authorities are neutral.
Outline for Future Research: Quantitative Framework

Key terms:

“Respect” “Neutrality” “Fairness”

What could the police do (specific behaviors, demeanor, interaction style, resolution, etc.) to make a driver feel respected, the officer and stop were neutral, and the whole experience was fair?

Obtaining detailed answers to such questions could help to identify clear procedural avenues to addressing citizen perceptions.

Approve Work Plan
This agenda item was deferred because a quorum was not present at this meeting.

LECC Annual Report 2005
Ms. Black stated that the first draft of the LECC Annual Report 2005 will be distributed to members and staff by October 18. She distributed the draft of the community relations section of the report, and solicited input and editing suggestions from the subcommittee.

Other Business / Open Comments from Community Relations Subcommittee
Chief Louie proposed the assembly of a group of specialists that could provide assistance to agencies that are collecting some data and need help. This group would be available to consult with agencies throughout the state in order to provide this assistance. The DPSST does this, so one idea is to have LECC and DPSST co-sponsor this group, perhaps using LEMAT funding to bring analysts to agencies temporarily. It was decided that this proposal should be brought to the full committee.

Commissioner Jaramillo suggested that LECC representatives attend the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) conference that is approaching. This would be a good opportunity to converse with Oregon sheriffs.

Ms. Black noted that the Psychology Department of Portland State University is doing focus groups on racial profiling.

Public Comments
Mr. Broussard commented on his and others’ experiences with racially biased policing.

Next Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting
The next LECC Community Relations Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2006, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.
Further information on the LECC is available at:
http://www.ocjc.state.or.us/Racial_Profiling/LECPDRC.HTM