



# OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality  
Serving Orange County since 1991

## Community Policing & Crime Reduction

**Be Educated. Be Informed. Be Safe!**

4.1 Recommendation: Law enforcement agencies should develop and adopt policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety.

4.1.1 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should consider adopting preferences for seeking “least harm” resolutions, such as diversion programs or warnings and citations in lieu of arrest for minor infractions.

4.2 Recommendation: Community policing should be infused throughout the culture and organizational structure of law enforcement agencies.

4.2.1 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should evaluate officers on their efforts to engage members of the community and the partnerships they build. Making this part of the performance evaluation process places an increased value on developing partnerships.

4.2.2 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should evaluate their patrol deployment practices to allow sufficient time for patrol officers to participate in problem solving and community engagement activities.

4.2.3 Action item: The U.S. Department of Justice and other public and private entities should support research into the factors that have led to dramatic successes in crime reduction in some communities through the infusion of non-discriminatory policing and to determine replicable factors that could be used to guide law enforcement agencies in other communities.

4.3 Recommendation: Law enforcement agencies should engage in multidisciplinary, community team approaches for planning, implementing, and responding to crisis situations

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Community policing requires the active building of positive relationships with members of the community.

**Maureen Dadabhoy**  
Human Relations  
Advocate

**Police Community  
Relations**

714-480-65-79

Maureen@

[ochumanrelations.org](http://ochumanrelations.org)



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4.4 Recommendation: Communities should support a culture and practice of policing that reflects the values of protection and promotion of the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.

4.4.1 Action item: Because offensive or harsh language can escalate a minor situation, law enforcement agencies should underscore the importance of language used and adopt policies directing officers to speak to individuals with respect.

4.4.2 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should develop programs that create opportunities for patrol officers to regularly interact with neighborhood residents, faith leaders, and business leaders.

4.5 Recommendation: Community policing emphasizes working with neighborhood residents to co-produce public safety. Law enforcement agencies should work with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions that produce meaningful results for the community.

4.5.1 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should schedule regular forums and meetings where all community members can interact with police and help influence programs and policy.

4.5.2 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should engage youth and communities in joint training with law enforcement, citizen academies, ride a longs, problem solving teams, community action teams, and quality of life teams.

4.5.3 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should establish formal community/citizen advisory committees to assist in developing crime prevention strategies and agency policies as well as provide input on policing issues.

4.5.4 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should adopt community policing strategies that support and work in concert with economic development efforts within communities.

“When any part of the American family does not feel like it is being treated fairly, that’s a problem for all of us. It means that we are not as strong as a country as we can be. And when applied to the criminal justice system, it means we’re not as effective in fighting crime as we could be.”

~Barack Obama

4.6 Recommendation: Communities should adopt policies and programs that address the needs of children and youth most at risk for crime or violence and reduce aggressive law enforcement tactics that stigmatize youth and marginalize their participation in schools and communities.

4.6.1 Action item: Education and criminal justice agencies at all levels of government should work together to reform policies and procedures that push children into the juvenile justice system.



**Citation:**

President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. 2015. Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

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U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services 145 N  
Street NE  
Washington, DC 20530

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6770.

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4.6.2 Action item: In order to keep youth in school and to keep them from criminal and violent behavior, law enforcement agencies should work with schools to encourage the creation of alternatives to student suspensions and expulsion through restorative justice, diversion, counseling, and family interventions.

4.6.3 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should work with schools to encourage the use of alternative strategies that involve youth in decision making, such as restorative justice, youth courts, and peer interventions.

4.6.4 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should work with schools to adopt an instructional approach to discipline that uses interventions or disciplinary consequences to help students develop new behavior skills and positive strategies to avoid conflict, redirect energy, and refocus on learning.

4.6.5 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should work with schools to develop and monitor school discipline policies with input and collaboration from school personnel, students, families, and community members. These policies should prohibit the use of corporal punishment and electronic control devices.

4.6.6 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should work with schools to create a continuum of developmentally appropriate and proportional consequences for addressing ongoing and escalating student misbehavior after all appropriate interventions have been attempted.

4.6.7 Action item: Law enforcement agencies should work with communities to play a role in programs and procedures to reintegrate juveniles back into their communities as they leave the juvenile justice system.

4.6.8 Action item: Law enforcement agencies and schools should establish memoranda of agreement for the placement of School Resource Officers that limit police involvement in student discipline.

4.6.9 Action item: The Federal Government should assess and evaluate zero tolerance strategies and examine the role of reasonable discretion when dealing with adolescents in consideration of their stages of maturation or development.

4.7 Recommendation: Communities need to affirm and recognize the voices of youth in community decision making, facilitate youth-led research and problem solving, and develop and fund youth leadership training and life skills through positive youth/police collaboration and interactions.

4.7.1 Action item: Communities and law enforcement agencies should restore and build trust between youth and police by creating programs and projects for positive, consistent, and persistent interaction between youth and police.

4.7.2 Action item: Communities should develop community and school-based evidence-based programs that mitigate punitive and authoritarian solutions to teen problems.



## OC Human Relations Council

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**1801 E. Edinger Ave., Suite 115  
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

714.480.6570

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