

<b>WORKING DRAFT 9/16/02</b>
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Working Name: Community Police Relations Policy Action Group

**Purpose:** To confront, at a policy level, issues that impact the interaction between the community and the police. To weave together work being done by the City and community on inter-related issues and implement policy and other direction to improve relations and effect change.

**Rationale:** Law enforcement and public safety are prime responsibilities of the City of Minneapolis. Law enforcement is not an end in itself, rather a means for attaining the outcomes of justice, tranquility and fair treatment for all. The MPD is an effective crime fighting and prevention force. There is always room for improvement both in police behaviors and procedures and in the way the communities understand police behavior and actions. Recently, there are several areas of police/community relations that have become critical and need to be addressed at a policy level. This administration recognizes the need for action and is committed to addressing problems. As important, our communities need to see that the current administration is being proactive.

Also, as our City ages and matures, we need to acknowledge that we are dealing with a lot of history – both recent and distant – and with rapid change.

**Recommended Composition:** The Group will be made up City, Police Department, and Police organization leadership. The Group will be in a position to develop and/or change policies and facilitate change. The group creates an accountable body. The group would consist of:

Mayor	Police Chief
Council President	President, Police Federation
Council Vice President	One Precinct Commander
Chair, PS&RS Committee	Executive of the Black Officers Association (verify org. name and exec title.
Chair, HHS Committee	Other Officer Diversity Rep.'s
Director of Civil Rights	

**Citizen's Advisory Body:** Acting in the capacity of community liaisons, and as citizen advisors, will be a sub-group or committee of the Civil Rights Commission. This reflects this administration's interest in increasing the scope and authority of the Department of Civil Rights, its Director and Commission. Also, by incorporating a Citizen's Advisory Body the City acknowledges the shared responsibility in achieving successful outcomes.

Issues: The Group would address both short term and long term issues – with the understanding that some solutions will take time. A possible approach is to Police Policy Group organize issues and concerns under the two headings of “Policy and Procedures” and “Training and Education” (training and education refers to both the officers and the communities). Issues addressed would include (thought not be limited to): building trust between police and community; crime fighting/prevention; use of force policy; diversifying the force/hiring standards; officer safety; community engagement; communications; “marketing” of the police force; racial profiling/biased policing; changing the culture; CODEFOR; non-lethal weapons.

The Group will focus on outcomes.

Formally creating this group – through Committee action – gives us the opportunity to frame the discussion and act on issues and solutions. We can act this cycle at the full Council meeting in “first reading and referral to Committee(s)” for appropriate action. We can begin to meet. From this group we could invite community representatives, outside experts, mediators, etc. Given the current community concerns, I believe it is in our best interest to bring this group together as expediently as possible.

Respectfully submitted for your comments and suggestions,

Robert Lilligren, Vice President  
Minneapolis City Council  
Ward 8  
612-673-2208

WORKING DRAFT 9/10/02

*Staff direction  
to Police Chief  
to report at 10/2 mtg.*

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