



# Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

September 9, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board (Collaborative) is a multidisciplinary group consisting of a diverse group of Ohioans including, law enforcement, community members, elected officials, academia and the faith based community. The Collaborative was created by executive order 2015-04k on April 29, 2015, after the Governor’s Task Force on Community Police Relations completed its work and produced a report with recommendations on how to improve the important relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The Collaborative is chaired by Assistant Director Karen Huey, Department of Public Safety. Members appointed by the Governor DeWine, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Commissioner Lori Barreras— Chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Representative Juanita Brent – Ohio House
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn—Cleveland State University, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- Dr. Robin S. Engel—University of Cincinnati, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of IACP/UC Center of Police Research and Policy
- Officer Anthony L. Johnson—Columbus Police Department and member, Fraternal Order of Police
- Sheriff Tom Miller—Medina County Sheriff’s Office and member of the Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer— Ohio Attorney General’s Office
- The Reverend Walter S. Moss— Pastor and CIRV Project Director, Stark County Prosecutor’s Office
- Honorable Ronald J. O’Brien—Franklin County Prosecutor
- Chief Justin Páez—Dublin Police Department and member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

Ex officio members:

- Senator Sandra Williams, Ohio Senate
- Representative Phil Plummer, Ohio House
- The Honorable Tom Roberts, former Ohio Senator and President, Ohio Conference of Units of NAACP
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes, former member of Congress
- The late Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. Senator, Governor of Ohio, and Mayor of Cleveland

The purpose of the Collaborative is to advise and work with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) at the Ohio Department of Public Safety to implement the Task Force’s recommendations, as identified in the Executive Order.

## **September 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board**

Due to Coronavirus, the Ohio Collaborative meeting on September 9, 2020 was held virtually using Microsoft TEAMS Live. The following members were present at the meeting:

- Assistant Director Karen Huey, Chair
- Executive Director Karhlton Moore
- Commissioner Lori Barreras
- Representative Juanita Brent
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn
- Dr. Robin S. Engel
- Officer Anthony Johnson
- Sheriff Tom Miller
- Rev. Walter Moss
- The Hon. Ronald J O'Brien
- Chief Justin Páez
- Representative Phil Plummer
- The Hon. Tom Roberts
- Senator Sandra Williams
- Special guests: Tre'vone Archie and Christina King
- Special guest: Dr. Tamara Herold
- Special guest: Chief Dean Tondiglia

Assistant Director Karen Huey convened the meeting at 10:01 A.M. and provided welcoming remarks. She would like to keep the momentum of the previous meeting, and hopes to hold the next meeting in October.

The first presenters were Tre'vone Archie, a student and protestor, and Christina King, a community organizer. Mr. Archie was asked to talk about his experience as a protestor. He and his friends went to downtown Troy, Ohio, in early June to attend a protest and express their feelings about police brutality. Mr. Archie was motivated to attend as a black man wanting to stand up for what is right and hoping to make a change. There was no reason to believe it would not be a peaceful event. During the event, protesters asked the Troy police chief (the chief has since changed) and other officers to join the protest, but the officers refused to join them. Mr. Archie was arrested, although the reasons for his arrest were not initially provided. According to Mr. Archie, the arresting officer made a disparaging remark, telling him he could "kiss his [college] scholarship goodbye." At one point during the arrest, the officer had Mr. Archie on the ground with a knee in his back. Ms. King noted that they live in a majority white community, so to make an arrest of one of the black protesters was the wrong way to handle the incident. She went to the police station with Tre'vone to make a complaint against the arresting officer and to understand the basis for the arrest, which was found to be a lack of a permit and disruption of traffic. Ms. King also wanted to discuss with the chief how best to handle a peaceful protest and respect individuals' rights. While the chief would not offer an apology (due to litigation), he did drop the charges and was receptive during the conversation.

When asked about his feelings after the incident, Mr. Archie commented that he does not trust the police and he wonders if there is any value to turn to police for protection. He noted that it is hard to have hope that the average person can affect change.

When asked what recommendations they have for police executives to rebuild broken relationships, Ms. King stated that it is important to talk with the protesters/organizers in advance about rules and expectations each side has, and to discuss the need to create a safe space. Dialogue is important for building trust. Ms. King commended the chief for speaking out after the event, against the advice of the city.

Ms. King thanked Dr. Dunn for the guidance he provided them after the incident, so that they could understand how best to interact with police and offer better ways to respond to demonstrations. Dr. Dunn commended them on how they handled the situation and thanked them for their willingness to speak. Other Collaborative members also thanked Mr. Archie and Ms. King for their willingness to speak.

Assistant Director Huey next introduced Dr. Herold, an associate professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to speak about research on mass demonstrations.

Dr. Herold's area of expertise is in crowd psychology and civil disturbances. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Herold discussed various types of crowd responses and the theories behind them. She stressed that the goal is to create policies/procedures that are aimed at the outcomes one is seeking, not the outcomes one wants to avoid. The primary goals when managing protests should include policing tactics that: 1) protect freedoms; 2) de-escalate situations; 3) establish confidence; 4) ensure safety. Because conditions are different for each demonstration, the best approach is to try to focus on these primary goals.

Dr. Herold then discussed the RDFC Interaction Model, which is based on four tenets: 1) Restrict the fewest freedoms possible (Reasonableness); 2) Do not use avoidable force, coercion, or intrusiveness (Disarming); 3) Avoid indiscriminate use of force (Focused); 4) Deploy predictable and unbiased tactics (Consistency).

Is there research on how law enforcement perceive demonstrations, and do they automatically view them as being unlawful? Though Dr. Herold has not looked at this, she says you can see that some departments actively embrace the concept of constitutional rights, whereas others do not, even in policy. Similarly, though she hasn't done work on the presence of police in military gear, the way in which police present themselves has an effect on the psychology of the crowd.

The target of the demonstration matters. It is easier to get compliance when the police are not directly involved in the focus of the event (e.g., NYE party, labor strike), but when the target of a protest is the police themselves, this can be hard because there is generally a lack of willingness to communicate prior to and during the protest.

Training is incredibly important. A lot of smaller jurisdictions have never been trained—and may not have a policy—on mass demonstration. This needs to be thought through ahead of time to ensure that policies and practices are high on the four dimensions discussed earlier. It is not enough for law enforcement to focus solely on reducing harm.

There is a role for media here as well, to ensure that they do not label all protesters in a negative way (e.g., as looters, vandals, etc.). We need to control that narrative.

Dr. Engel noted that Dr. Herold helped put these theories into practice at the University of Cincinnati with success. While conditions change from protest to protest, their commanders were equipped with the training and policy to deal with them.

Executive Director Moore thanked Dr. Herold for her presentation.

Assistant Director Huey introduced the Kent State University police chief and public safety director, Chief Tondiglia, who spoke next on mass protests on college campuses. He spoke about various components to consider when developing a policy on mass demonstrations.

On campuses there are many mass gatherings, and they want students to be able to express themselves. He cannot stress enough how important training is, both classroom and scenario exercises. Training on issues of constitutional rights, de-escalation techniques, and the use of force policy are included, and expectations are discussed. Training is conducted throughout the year. He expressed concern over “defunding the police” and commented that funding for training is money well spent. Rep. Brent pointed out that defunding the police refers to a reallocation of resources. She stated that no amount of training is going to fix things without addressing the underlying racism that is present. The chief discussed the implicit bias training and cultural competency training, as well as community outreach that is done to help improve communication between his officers and the community.

Event preparation is very important. It is necessary to conduct information gathering to understand who from the outside may come in to disrupt events. It is also important to talk to the demonstration leaders prior to an event to understand their objective and how they would like events to unfold, and the department will work to accommodate their needs. The chief noted that some demonstration leaders want to work with the police to make sure accommodations are in place for their event, while others do not want the police to know their plans. The department tries to work with all demonstration leaders to help them understand how they will approach the event as it takes place. If events transition to criminal behavior and violence, they have a graduated response plan and will introduce officers as necessary. Riot gear is only used in limited circumstances.

It is important to have mutual aid agreements with assisting agencies, and the department needs to know other agencies’ level of training and their policies regarding mass demonstrations. KSU PD hosts trainings so that other agencies understand their expectations on how to handle certain situations.

Communication throughout the demonstration is vital for good command and control. They use the MARCS system to communicate. All events use an incident command system. Officers may not deploy any kind of action without approval first coming from the administration, unless the situation is critical.

There is no single event response. There are some situations when officers have had to insert themselves between two groups, and there are other times when their presence seems to instigate things, so they remove themselves. The best approach is to have training, mutual aid agreements, communication with organizers of the event as well as with state and federal intelligence agencies, and an incident command chain.

When asked about the distinction between a planned demonstration and a spontaneous demonstration, the chief noted that their training addresses both types. Officers engage in scenario training and role play how to take control of an emerging situation. While they have “book” training on constitutional rights, but they focus hard on the public trust piece and the rights that people have to demonstrate.

Assistant Director Huey thanked the chief for his presentation.

Executive Director Moore discussed next steps. As no one reported a need for further information on the issue of mass demonstrations, we will begin to draft the standard for the members to review. At the next meeting we would like to approve this standard and get back to work on the officer wellness standard that was started pre-covid.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.