

POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
April 14, 2015
Outreach Committee Chair Report

Chair Brown and Commissioners,

The Outreach Committee met on March 26, 2015. Commissioners Cerrillo and Singleton were present, as well as Committee Clerk Leda Schuster.

The Committee discussed the March 21, 2015 Community Connections Conference and future outreach opportunities.

I. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

The Committee discussed the March 21, 2015 Community Connections Conference. The Committee reviewed the survey data that was collected during the conference. Two-thirds of respondents did not know about the PCOC prior to the Conference and the majority felt that there was room for improvement in MPD's relationship with the community. Respondents had many valuable suggestions for how to improve that relationship. Committee members discussed adapting the survey so that it could be posted on the PCOC website, and Commissioner Singleton agreed to work on this project. A summary of responses to the Community Connections Survey is attached to this Report as Appendix A.

In addition, the Committee discussed ways to make the PCOC exhibit more engaging. Committee members discussed providing more PCOC-specific materials, such as a brochure and having interactive content, such as questions with prizes for correct answers.

Finally, the Committee divided up responsibility for following up with individuals who had expressed interest in partnering with the PCOC.

II. FUTURE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

A. OJP Communications Committee Video

The Committee discussed the video currently being planned by the OJP Communications Committee. Commissioner Cerrillo, who is a member of the OJP Communications Committee, explained that the video would be translated into Spanish and that the next OJP Communications Committee would be April 15, 2015. Commissioner Cerrillo will keep the Outreach Committee and PCOC apprised of all new developments.

B. Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

Committee members discussed tabling at Cinco de Mayo. Commissioner Cerrillo noted that this would be an excellent way to reach out to the Latino community, which is a priority community during this and the next quarter. Commissioner Cerrillo agreed to follow up with Cinco de Mayo organizers to determine the registration fee and to research costs associated with renting a tent and other incidentals. Once an estimated budget is determined, the Outreach Committee will work with the OPCR to determine whether it will be possible to table at the event.

Committee members also discussed the May 1 American Indian Wellness Fair, which members of the Minneapolis American Indian Center invited the PCOC to during the Community Connections Conference. Commissioner Singleton agreed to follow up on the opportunity.

Finally, the Committee discussed creating a brochure to hand out during outreach events, and agreed that the brochure should be ready prior to the Spring and Summer festival season. Commissioner Singleton agreed to work with Committee Clerk Schuster to develop the basic language and framework for the brochure, and Commissioner Cerrillo agreed to translate the material into Spanish. The Committee requests that if commissioners are fluent in languages other than Spanish or English they consider helping to translate the brochure once it is complete.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer L. Singleton

Jennifer L. Singleton
PCOC Outreach Committee Chair

Appendix A

POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MARCH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Community Connections Survey Results

Did you know what the PCOC is?

No: 6

Yes: 3

What would you like to see the PCOC address?

- Improve communications with the Latino community
- LGBTQ outreach
- Public discussion on trans community/police issues
- Focus on department-wide policies that affect relationships with low-income communities and people of color
- Police shootings
- Building better communications with the community
- Chief of Police to address national issues

How would you rate the relationship between MPD and the community?

- Ok (5)
 - My conversations with individual officers at community events are good.
- Negative
 - Very poor
 - Needs work
 - Not good/Don't trust them
 - Have heard concerning comments about police accountability and racial profiling
 - I worry about posturing by the union leadership.
- Don't know

What could be done to improve the relationship between MPD and the community?

- Bring information to the communities
- Be present at festivals
- Bring officers with uniform and civilian clothes
- Communication & transportation availability (not in City Hall)
- Better communication – maybe more active social media, trainings on how to deal with a police conduct concern
- Encourage officers to live in the city, have incentives for cops
 - Example of St. Paul officers who receive free housing in exchange for living in public housing
- Participation in community events
- Training (cultural awareness, diversity)
- Increased accountability
- More police on foot/bikes in neighborhoods
- More positive interactions (sports events with police, etc.)