

## **Up Close and Personal: Community Engagement with Municipal Police Departments**

### **Purposes**

1. Promote the Forward through Ferguson police reform agenda
2. Make police departments aware that residents care about racial profiling and want change/reform
3. Push for specific changes in each department towards best practices
4. Challenge the “we are ok” mentality and traditional police culture
5. Connect with other strategies (e.g. SROs )
6. Support other community partners/allies as they go through their change process (i.e. Webster Groves Ordinance & Maplewood Community Builders)

### **Strategies**

1. Find local citizens willing to join the effort and provide them with support
2. Research the local department on specific issues
3. Request a meeting with the chief and follow-up as needed
4. Push for a response on “racial profiling” as seen in local vehicle stop reports and be prepared to challenge the dismissal of the reports as flawed
5. Promote specific changes across the region
6. “Challenge and Support”... blend your tactics
7. Challenge the “traditional” cowboy mentality and push professionalism: EXPECT THE BEST
8. Track progress or lack thereof

### **Key Learnings**

1. It only takes a few of us
2. Persistence and follow-up are critical
3. We don't have to be the experts... BUT WE DESERVE ANSWERS
4. It helps to be aware of the problems and the proposed solutions (which are readily found in many sources including Forward through Ferguson reports, Campaign Zero, 21st Century Policing (Obama DOJ), COPS pamphlet from DOJ)
5. Police team members specializing in an area helps...use the talents in your group
6. USE PEER PRESSURE TO OUR ADVANTAGE
7. Seize OPPORTUNITIES, e.g. Prop P
8. SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER...within the team and across teams/allies
9. Public educational events can help recruit

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### **WE CAN's Departments of Focus**

- Ballwin
- Chesterfield
- Creve Coeur
- Ellisville
- Maryland Heights
- Kirkwood

### **WE CAN's Future Departments of Focus**

- Des Peres
- Eureka
- Manchester
- Town & Country
- West County District of St. Louis County Police

### **WE CAN's Allies in Regional Policing Work**

- Alliance for Interracial Dignity
- Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression
- Jews United for Justice
- Maplewood Community Builders
- UCity Action Network

### **Police Reform Resources**

- Ferguson Commission Report Recommendations
- USDOJ - Pamphlet on Community Policing ([www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov))
- USDOJ - 21st Century Policing ([www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov))
- Center for Police Equity ([www.policeequity.org](http://www.policeequity.org))
- Police Chiefs Magazine ([www.policechiefsmagazine.org](http://www.policechiefsmagazine.org))
- St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association Best Practices ([www.slapca.org](http://www.slapca.org))
- Campaign Zero ([www.joincampaignzero.org](http://www.joincampaignzero.org))
- Fair and Impartial Policing Training ([www.fipolicing.com](http://www.fipolicing.com))
- ON Vehicle Stops Report ([www.capcr-stl.org](http://www.capcr-stl.org))
- Empower Missouri Vehicle Stops Report Analysis ([www.empowermo.org](http://www.empowermo.org))
- Vehicle Stops Report ([www.ago.mo.gov/home/vehicle-stops-report](http://www.ago.mo.gov/home/vehicle-stops-report))
- Alliance for Interracial Dignity ([www.allianceforinterracialdignity.org](http://www.allianceforinterracialdignity.org))

For more info on initiating contact with local police departments WE CAN-style, contact Jim Moore ([moorej59@gmail.com](mailto:moorej59@gmail.com))  
For more information on school resource officers, contact Metropolitan Congregations United ([mcustlouis.org](http://mcustlouis.org))