



Columbia Heights Police Department

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April 2017 Police-Community Immigration Dialogue Highlights

Question #1: What are your concerns regarding immigration and CHPD?

I'm scared police will call ICE (+7)

Is there any relationship between local and federal police? (+2)

Immigrants will still not "take a chance" that CHPD isn't in cooperation with ICE (+1)

Does ICE alert local police when they do a raid? (+1)

Kids pulled out of public school in fear (+1)

What does it mean that the President is asking local agencies to cooperate?

Why are we hearing stories of mayors acting on behalf of the federal government?

Perception is not the reality – fear factor

Jelil Abdella runs a radio show (Oromo) refugees can't go back, won't ask for status,
but some sent to ICE detention believing the news

Are they scared about being asked for status? (especially children)

Officers stereotyping people they have contact with and stop immigrants more (+3)

Why do the police stop me because I'm Hispanic?

No recourse if you are mistreated by police

How to communicate the policy of CHPD to the community? (+4) What are the biggest challenges?

Is the statement on the City website

Grocery stores

Restaurants

Churches

Translating information into different languages

How can we get info to children to help them feel safe?

No direct concerns with CHPD

Do other police departments have the same policy?

How to get the information out without inviting federal scrutiny?

People (without driver's licenses) who are taken to jail (+1)

Do they check your status at the jail?

Are there immigrants who are fearful to join these conversations? (+1)

Federal travel ban has people fearful of appearing in public

Difficult to psychologically separate U.S. Police from Ethiopian Police

Afraid that federal authorities will dictate the CHPD to enforce immigration/deportation

Has CHPD received official inquiries?

Has there been a change in volume of calls from minority communities?

How many members make up the MAC?

What happens if local police get a tip of illegal immigration?

What is a sanctuary city?

Have ethnic groups left the city? Migration of communities coming or going?

Concerns about if a crime is committed, there will be due justice

Concern for legal immigration and a path to do that

Will police certify visa?

Should I carry my passport?

What ID is valid in MN?

Appreciate the CHPD effort to diversify

Bridge the cultural and language gaps (+1)

Some PDs in metro are not diverse at all

Heights Pride should not be about if you are born here or how long you've been here.

Question 2: *What would you like the CHPD to do in order to ease any fears or frustrations you have?*

More frequent community forums at schools, churches and other public areas (+6)

How to get word to the community? (+5)

Through personal messages

Jaywalking enforcement campaign from five years ago –

Latinos I heard of were stopped because of their nationality

Police should communicate the bigger purpose

School newsletter

CHPD should use more means to communicate

Disseminate “know your rights” to community

CHPD already doing good communication with community (+3)

Is this the only time we will see this statement on immigration?

Demonstrate/show trust

Hand out fliers at the parade

Live interpreters (+4)

Hotline

Bilingual officers/employees at PD

Try to help ease fear in the immigrant community (+2)

Don't see us as criminals

Acknowledge fear during police interactions

Acknowledge differences and cultural differences

White male cop doesn't understand person of color - acknowledgement

Do not request a driver's license, because some drive by need (+1)

We always respect traffic laws

Can we spearhead an underground movement?

How to help make them legal citizens?

Worried about encouraging illegal immigration

If taken to jail and enters the system, what happens?

Difference between local and federal police

Is someone reporting a crime in danger of ICE becoming aware of them?

Domestic dispute – can mediate without arrest?

Does CHPD have ICE detainers? Do they call ICE when someone is arrested?

Access to immigration attorneys

Everybody has different understanding of police depending on country of origin

Better understanding why we're here – many different reasons (war, famine, etc)

Better understanding of history of the countries of origin

Accept the fact that diversity is a thing of beauty!

Can CHPD identify or create “safe houses” (MAC)

Heard CHPD is very racist, lots of people don't want to drive north of 37th Avenue

Transparency

Question 3: *How do we collectively work towards a safer and more positive community?*

Police go to church/community to talk (+3)

Partner with city or other community members

Disseminate information to help connect people and stories

Encourage people to invite police into communities

Make people aware that resources are available

Stores, parks, churches other places where people gather

Give/put information out in the community

Go to schools

Parents need to be part of the conversation to avoid miscommunication

Home visit program; can CHPD be involved?

If we work together we can change

Bring together different cultures and faith groups

Educate citizens on how their rhetoric offends people

Do more things like (+1):

Taste of Heights

Vendor Show

HeightsNEXT

Collective art for community

NNO – bring more new people in, mostly white neighbors

You are all welcome here signage; put on:

City buildings

Library

Schools

Learning/sharing stories about why immigrants and refugees have come

Library space

Can city partner to make this happen?

Is Columbia Heights a sanctuary city?

Why not?

We lose federal funds if we declare that publicly

Real ID vs Driver's License

Concern for undocumented peoples

Want everybody to be able to be able to pass a test and drive

All-America City