

A RESOLUTION

Declaring the City Council's Support for Community-Oriented Policing, Defining the Parameters of Community-Oriented Policing, and Directing the City Manager to Design a citywide Community-Oriented Policing Program for Columbia

WHEREAS, Community-Oriented Policing is an approach to public safety that starts with shared values among police professionals and members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Community-Oriented Policing Programs are planned, developed, implemented, and evaluated by police professionals in full partnership with members of the community; and

WHEREAS, effective Community-Oriented Policing Programs focus on community involvement, police training in communications and social issues, long-term patrol assignments in designated neighborhoods, officer time dedicated to building community relationships, the use of warnings in responding to minor crimes, and an internal Police Department culture of mentorship; and

WHEREAS, Community-Oriented Policing Programs have been shown to be successful in preventing crime, solving crimes when they occur, de-escalating potentially violent situations, building positive relationships between police officers and residents (especially, youth), helping individuals receive services they need, and other social benefits; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence (MTFCV) Final Report and Recommendations called for the Columbia Police Department (CPD) to adopt a Community-Oriented Policing model that emphasizes "positive communication," "cultural competency training," and "greater public involvement and accountability in CPD's vision, mission and goals," all of which would create "greater community appreciation for police officers;" and

WHEREAS, members of the MTFCV and other organized groups have repeated the call for a citywide Community-Oriented Policing Philosophy and Program in which CPD policies, supervision and training ensure equal treatment for all, control the influence of stereotype, and guide police officers to base their actions on specific and articulable facts indicating criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, organized groups and community members have called for a Community-Oriented Policing approach to facilitating public discussion of the disproportions in CPD's traffic stops and searches (as presented in the Attorney General's 2015 and 2016 "Vehicle Stops Reports"), so that a shared understanding may emerge of when they are caused by factors other than racial bias and of what can be done to lower the ones in which racial bias is a factor; and

WHEREAS, despite severe resource limitations, CPD established the Columbia Outreach Unit in 2016 - a Community Policing Pilot Program which currently consists of eight patrol officers who focus on relationship-building and preventive policing in four high-crime focus neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia Outreach Unit has been well-received by residents of these neighborhoods, which have experienced dramatic reductions in emergency calls for service and all categories of crime during the first year of the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, the City Council unanimously adopted Resolution R28-17 on February 20th, 2017, "declaring the need to conduct a community engagement process about policing in Columbia that addresses staffing levels, officer safety and morale, and Community-Oriented Policing;" and

WHEREAS, Columbia NAACP held several well-attended public forums on Community Policing, Equity and Civility during the fall of 2017, during which Community-Oriented Policing has been extensively discussed, leading to formal recommendations for accountability, transparency, and mandatory cultural diversity training for law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, officials with CPD and the Columbia Police Officers' Association have expressed support for Community-Oriented Policing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby declares its support for the philosophy of Community-Oriented Policing.

SECTION 2. The City Council directs the City Manager to design a citywide Community-Oriented Policing program for the Columbia Police Department (CPD) and a transition plan, timeline, and budget for modifying current CPD policies, procedures, and operations and implementing the new program.

SECTION 3. The process for designing the program and transition plan shall include input from a broad range of community members and organizations such as residents of high-crime neighborhoods; residents of neighborhoods that do not have high levels of crime; groups with expertise in race relations, implicit bias, and community-oriented policing; members of the former Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence, representatives of Columbia Public Schools, University of Missouri, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and social service providers; the Columbia Citizens' Police Review Board, Human Rights Commission, and other advisory boards; representatives of Columbia Police Officers Association; the Police Chief and officers of all ranks.

SECTION 4. The proposed citywide Community-Oriented Policing program and transition plan shall be presented to the City Council by June 30, 2018.