

CITY OF PHOENIX COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
& OUTREACH PROCESS

NON PROFIT FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

LEADER: GENE C. BLUE

ATTENDANCE:

GEORGE DEAN: URBAN LEAGUE, GENE BLUE, OIC, KEVA WOMBLE, OIC AND DELTA SIGMA THETA, JESSE ARY, ARIZONA EDUCATOR, MEL HANNAH, HANNAH AND ASSOCIATES, ROBERT BOYD, COMMUNITY COALITION AND BILL FREEMAN, EBONY HOUSE.

STAFF: REGINALD RAGLAND

Question	Response
1. Understand current level of involvement and interaction with Phoenix PD	
<p>a. Have you ever had any direct dealings with a Phoenix PD Officer?</p>	
<p>i. If yes, please share with the group what your experience was, and what was the overall impression of the Police officer that you walked away with?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding tickets • Stopped crossing 7th av. Bridge/officer appeared to have had an attitude while asking where I was going/I said he did not need to know but that I will gladly provide license and registration. He did not give me a ticket • Stopped because of improper lane change/officer thought I was drunk and did not notice my physical disability/officer wanted me to walk the line as I refused and ask for the blood test/officer said you are a smart one • The primary problem is one of insensitivity regarding people of color • Councilman Johnson's situation was directly related to his color and gender • How can we discover how the majority population is treated? • Police officer tried to obtain information that would have caused me to breach confidentiality laws due to status of treatment facility clients • Officer was denied entrance to treatment facility and tried to co-op me to allowing entrance stating that we were partners • Each officer has preconceived notions regarding race and class issue
<p>b. What are some specific examples of positive and negative experiences you've had that involved the Phoenix PD?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See expressions above

2. Current perceptions/image of Phoenix PD

<p>a. Aside from your own personal experiences, what have you heard about the Phoenix PD from other people such as friends/family/acquaintances?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people suggest that if a complaint is submitted about the police department, nothing will happen • People are frustrated with police behavior • Family members have had some negative interactions with police because of their poor choices also- but police can provoke negative responses also
<p>b. What is your current perception of the Phoenix PD based on what you've seen or read in the media?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in hate crimes and negative racial interactions due to the election of the first African American president • Chief is unwilling to admit that some police harbor racist attitudes • PD is unjust and there is much mistrust between the minority community and police • Chief must advocate for sensitive policies
<p>c. On a scale on 1-10, how would you rate the Phoenix PD on "treating all people with respect and dignity"?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gut feelingvery hard to separate white perceptions and discrimination • The chief must advocate a "O" tolerance policy toward any form of discrimination and acknowledge the reality of racial profiling
<p>d. On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate the "level of professionalism" of the Phoenix PD?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the unspoken voice of mistrust in almost all encounters with the police

3. Initiatives to improve community relationship

<p>a. What are some things the Phoenix PD could do to encourage a more positive relationship with the local community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aggressive sensitivity training for all officers • Tell the truth in reports regarding all encounters with citizens • Increase the level of transparency by communicating concerns and problems with the community • Establish a relationship with the community by attending various events and literally interacting with the public • Work with the community on a regular basis in solving different problems • Review all policies • Shake hands with the public • Be polite • Some officers are involved and get things done in the community • Evaluate all officers • Share crime reports and discuss with the community • Establish a independent and diverse police citizens review board with real authority (consider one for each precinct)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an advisory board as well for new ideas • Provide police demographic to the broader community
b. What are examples of police officers treating people with dignity and respect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to homes with open garages • Providing guidance to youth and being respectful • Distributing card with badge number for additional communication • Positive interaction with community by being present to let people know they care • Going to schools • Dropping in and just showing up to connect with others • Talking to seniors
c. What are examples of professionalism as it relates to the duties of a police officer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing the leadership of the city and elected officials • Police officers are open to change and exploring new ideas • Police willing to submit to review board process and not just an internal review process (police policing it self)
d. What are some things you as a business leader can do to encourage a positive relationship between the Phoenix PD and the community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite to various community functions • Develop a partnership • Get to know them • Understand their stress and reality better • Understand the complaint process and provide positive commendations as well