
NEWS RELEASE

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CHIEF VILLASEÑOR IN CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; 21ST CENTURY POLICING PANEL MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA

Last December, President Barack Obama created the Task Force on 21st Century Policing; its mission was to identify best practices and make recommendations on how such practices can promote effective crime reduction, while building public trust. The Task Force was chaired by Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey and George Mason University Professor Laurie Robinson. It included Chief of Police Roberto Villaseñor, criminal justice leaders, community leaders, academics, and youth leaders. Over several months, the Task Force held public hearings across the country, took testimony from over 100 witnesses, reviewed hundreds of written submissions, and thoughtfully came to consensus on 59 concrete recommendations. The Task Force presented an interim report, including recommendations regarding policies, training, transparency, accountability, technology and officer safety and wellness, to the President in March. Today the final report is available (see http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/TaskForce_FinalReport.pdf).

This morning, Chief Villaseñor was in Camden, New Jersey, while President Obama highlighted how communities are adopting the recommendations of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The President also highlighted new tools all cities can utilize to build and maintain trust between the law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day and the communities they have sworn to serve and protect.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association will also be partnering with the COPS Office to facilitate roundtable discussions at the chief executive level regarding the implementation of selected recommendations from the Task Force Report. The discussions will explore experiences and lessons from agencies that may have implemented some of the recommendations, including associated challenges, and the role of senior leaders making the changes called for in the Task Force Report. Key ideas from the discussion will be captured and shared with the field through a report on the discussions. The first roundtable will take place in Nashville, Tennessee in June.

In addition, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has committed to building a National Center for Community-Police Relations (NCCPR), which will provide support to any local law enforcement agencies that wish to address the issues raised in the Task Force Report. Support will include: educational materials that will break down the Task Force recommendations for all levels of officer; on-site cultural assessments to determine the strengths and weaknesses of local agencies relating to the report's six pillars; a train-the-trainer model to create a national cadre of local agency officers who can train others on recommendation implementation; and leader-to-leader mentoring to allow leaders who have successfully implemented recommendations to work with those desiring to do so.

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CITY OF TUCSON



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Chief Villaseñor is excited and proud to be part of this new chapter in law enforcement. The Task Force has made multiple recommendations to advance the way policing is conducted across the nation and to build stronger bonds between communities and local law enforcement agencies.

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