

21st Century Policing Briefing

On August 16, 2016, Chief Poellot and Lieutenant Zblewski attended a briefing at the White House that focused on advancing 21st Century Policing.

“The White House held 14 briefings between June and November. During those briefings 928 law enforcement agencies participated and over 1300 individual members of law enforcement attended. Those 928 jurisdictions represent over 56 million Americans.” (Email from Ashley Allison, J.D., M.Ed, The White House, January 4, 2017)



Chief Tom Poellot and Lieutenant Joe Zblewski at the White House, South Court Auditorium

There are 6 pillars detailed in the final report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Pillar 1: Building Trust and Legitimacy

“Building trust and nurturing legitimacy on both sides of the police-citizen divide is not only the first pillar of this task force’s report but also the foundational principle underlying this inquiry into the nature of relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve.”

Pillar 2: Policy and Oversight

“If police are to carry out their responsibilities according to established policies, these policies must be reflective of community values and not lead to practices that result in disparate impacts on various segments of the community. They also need to be clearly articulated to the community and implemented transparently so police will have credibility with residents and the people can have faith that their guardians are always acting in their best interests.”

Pillar 3: Technology and Social Media

“Implementing new technologies can give police departments an opportunity to fully engage and educate communities in a dialogue about their expectations for transparency, accountability, and privacy.”

Pillar 4: Community Policing and Crime Reduction

“Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.”

Pillar 5: Training and Education

“As our nation becomes more pluralistic and the scope of law enforcement’s responsibilities expands, the need for more and better training has become critical. Today’s line officers and leaders must meet a wide variety of challenges including international terrorism, evolving technologies, rising immigration, changing laws, new cultural mores, and a growing mental health crisis. The skills and knowledge required to effectively deal with these issues requires a higher level of education as well as extensive and ongoing training in specific disciplines.”

Pillar 6: Officer Wellness and Safety

“Most law enforcement officers walk into risky situations and encounter tragedy on a regular basis. The wellness and safety of law enforcement officers is critical not only to themselves, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety.”

(Final Report of The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, May 2015,
http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)