



Date: April 13, 2009

To: Mayor's Executive Team

From: Mayor's Youth Council, 2009

Subject: Youth-Police Relations

Briefing Objective: Approve policy recommendation to fund and create a youth advisory board responsible for the development of a mandatory Youth Training Curriculum in order to improve the relationship between police officers and young people.

Issue Statement: Seattle's youth has voiced that they distrust the police and believe that they are discriminated against based on age. To better the relationship, there must be effective communication on both sides. In a step towards this, a youth advisory board needs to be created as soon as possible so that they can create a youth training curriculum and teach law enforcement officers about youth competency skills.

Background: The Youth Training Curriculum, to be developed by a youth advisory board for police officers, will enhance the relationship between youth and police in the Seattle area. The Seattle Police Department has cultural training. The plan builds off of Seattle Police Department projects such as Doughnut Dialogues and the West Side Story Project that helps youth and police trust each other more through better communication. It focuses on teaching police how to deal with youth in the Seattle community.

Outreach: Outreach for the proposal included: five public youth meetings held in Seattle's Central, Northeast, Ballard, Southwest, Southeast neighborhoods that were attended by about 100 youth. Follow-up meetings were held by Mayor's Youth Council within their own groups to gain further insight on youth issues. A survey was conducted at Chief Sealth High School, Franklin High School, Ballard High School, and University Prep, showing that many youth believed that they were discriminated based on their age. A clear need to address youth police relations was voiced. Additionally, Best Practices were researched and findings showed that Connecticut currently has a program similar to the program we propose should be implemented in Seattle. The program designer was contacted and the outcomes of the Connecticut Police-Youth Training identified

an increased awareness of police officers to the needs of youth and how to better deal with those needs.

Proposal:

I. Goals:

- A.** Create a trusting relationship between youth and police
- B.** Create a better community based on trusting relationships

II. Recommended Steps for Implementation:

A. Youth advisory board creation and funding.

- Consisting of two delegates from MYC, one community member, hired curriculum developer, six youth representing six districts in Seattle
- Youth members will apply annually
- This board will be responsible for the development and presentation of the youth-training curriculum
- This advisory board would work with those participating in Doughnut Dialogues, to gain more insight.
- It will meet bi-monthly from June until August
- Board will meet annually in the summer to revise curriculum

B. Youth Training Curriculum.

- Teach police how to communicate and interact with youth better.
- This will include video, discussion, and teaching by the board.
- The curriculum will be based off of ideas about how youth wish to be treated as well as on police guidelines and their views.
- Training would be held during the Social Services portion of the 6-week training that new police officers must go through.
- For current officers, this training would be a mandatory professional development course

III. Resources Required (Budget)

A. \$1000 for a curriculum developer

B. \$3000 for two advisers

- would oversee the application process for the advisory board
- guide & review training curriculum for next steps

C. \$2000 for transportation, room rental costs, and food provided for bi-monthly meetings

D. \$3000 for resource materials needed for curriculum development