Police Accountability & Reform: Sustaining A Movement

NYC Successes to #ChangetheNYPD & Movement-Building
Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

- Context: Local NYC Historical Background
- About CPR: Goals, Strategies
- Accomplishments to-date
- Where we are: Opportunities & Challenges
- How funders can help
Historical Context for NYC

- Giuliani era & rise of discriminatory “broken-windows” “zero-tolerance” “quality of life” policing + no accountability for killings of young men of color

- NYC police accountability history rooted in grassroots - Grassroots leadership, mobilization & families of those killed and brutalized by NYPD

- NYPD killings = “tip of iceberg”
Need for coordination

- Coordination of strategies and action
- Coordination across sectors
- With leadership from directly affected communities
- Leveraging political context & opportunities
Overall

- End discriminatory and abusive policing in NYC

- Promote *community safety* in dignified manner that upholds human & constitutional rights
CPR Campaign Goals

- Decrease discriminatory & abusive encounters by NYPD

- Build capacity of affected communities

- Build public & political will to enact & sustain change
CPR Accomplishments since 2012 incl

- Secured initial policy reform victories
  - *Community Safety Act*
  - *Executive Order* establishing NYS Special Prosecutor for police killings

- Ensured policing was key issue in 2013 citywide elections

- Floyd/Davis/Ligon litigation remedies to include community perspectives
Day after non-indictment in killing of Eric Garner – CPR organized #ThisStopsToday
CPR Accomplishments (cont)

- Documented decrease in stops
- Built community-based leadership/infrastructure to hold NYPD accountable locally
- Responding to emerging threats & opportunities
- Coordinated multi-sector strategy
Many of the fams who led Special Prosecutor fight – day executive order signed
Current National Context:

National awareness & mass movement building

• Connections to workers, immigrants, women, LGBT & other movements

• Leadership is abundant, grassroots and everywhere – including youth leadership

• Growing public acknowledgement of problem with policing & lack of accountability of police
Challenges include

- Organized & well-resourced opposition
- False dichotomy of “civil rights” vs. “public safety”
- Misperceptions (e.g. in NYC “stop-and-frisk era is over”; police abuse has decreased & is being solved by Bratton)
- Capacity limitations + few philanthropic resources for police accountability work
- Long-term, multi-pronged problem requires committed long-term work/solution
Current NYC Context

- **Problem is systemic**: policy, practice, culture all need overhaul
  - Stop-and-frisk & other “broken windows” policing
  - Police killings with no accountability
  - Police violence/abuse & militarization of police impacting low-income communities of color, with **no accountability**

- Commissioner & police unions are anti-accountability

- **Need to popularize real notions of safety** that are not exclusively about police
1st steps to-date to change systemic problems w-NYPD
• Policy wins have begun to change oversight framework & build power w-in affected communities
• New/young/strengthened community-based infrastructure

Our task
• Protect recent wins
• Change/end daily NYPD practice, culture, policies that harm
• Need to popularize notions of safety that don’t rely exclusively on police
What NYC example helps illustrate

- Policing won’t be fixed by decreasing 1 discriminatory tactic (sqf)
- Coordination across sectors is critical; support of grassroots leadership is key
- Philanthropic support of coalitions led by grassroots can be successful
- Long-term problem requires multi-year vision and strategy
How funders can support
- Specific Opportunities -

- Support grassroots leadership & CPR coordination w-multi-year, general support

- Floyd/Davis/Ligon remedies process
  - Historic opportunity for mass input into judicial process

- Policy advocacy & grassroots organizing (city/state)

- Strategic research & communications