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**

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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"

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Need for coordination

- Coordination of **strategies and action**

- Coordination across **sectors**

- With **leadership** from **directly affected** communities

- Leveraging political context & opportunities

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CPR Campaign Purpose

Overall
- End discriminatory and abusive policing in NYC

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

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CPR Campaign Goals

- *Decrease discriminatory & abusive encounters by NYPD*

- *Build capacity* of affected communities

- *Build public & political will to enact & sustain change*

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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**

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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**

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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

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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

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- **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

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Current NYC Context

1st steps to-date to change systemic problems w-NYPD

- Policy wins have <u>begun to change oversight framework & build power</u> w-in affected communities
- New/young/strengthened <u>community-based infrastructure</u>

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

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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