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 *"brokenwindows" "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



CPR Campaign Purpose

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



Current NYC Context

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

- Policy wins have <u>begun to change oversight framework &</u> <u>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



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

