# 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**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> 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

