



TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Community Relations Committee

~ AGENDA ~

Chairman
Kevin J. Dombrowski

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex Building - Hybrid
Format

Remote Meeting Participation information will be provided on the Granicus/Legistar Meeting Portal

In -Person Council Chambers

Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82356882498?pwd=Q2JpVFhcnlhaVpUbDJycWdyRHlvdz09 --](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82356882498?pwd=Q2JpVFhcnlhaVpUbDJycWdyRHlvdz09--)

Or by Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; +Meeting ID: 823 5688 2498; Passcode: 468837

I CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. National League of Cities “Responding to Racial Tension in your Municipality”

Attachments: [National League of Cities- Responding to Racial Tension-2022-06-22..pdf](#)

[National League of Cities -Guide Racial Tension-Gabner E-mail-2022-06-23.pdf](#)

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Community Relations Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2022.

Attachments: [COMM REL-MIN-2022-06-15.doc](#)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued discussion regarding Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.
2. Continued discussion and possible action to develop a “Community Relations Commission Mission Statement”.
3. Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access

services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

4. Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “Informal Conversations in the Park” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.
5. Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.
6. Continued discussion to present information to bring awareness to October being “Depression and Mental Health Month”.
7. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive.
2. Review and discuss National Faith and Blue Weekend - Tool Kit
Attachments: [FaithBlue Toolkit FishFry Potentially Item Drve Ideas Highlighted.pdf](#)
3. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-259

Agenda Date: 8/17/2022

Agenda #: 1.

REPORT

Informational Item:

National League of Cities “*Responding to Racial Tension in your Municipality*”

Responding To Racial Tension In Your Municipality

A Closer Look at the Guidance Recommended by the National League of Cities
and the US Department of Justice's Community Relations Service



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Introduction

Connecticut’s towns and cities have a key role to play in the renewed efforts across the nation to promote racial equity. Much attention has been directed toward policies and practices at the national and state levels, and rightly so. But meaningful change is within reach at the local level.

Local government and school districts typically impact daily life in multiple ways: police and fire protection, schools, parks and playgrounds and recreation, zoning, housing code enforcement, trash pick-up, street maintenance, economic/job development and more.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) serves as the state’s league of municipalities and is led by local chief elected officials and other local leaders from across the political spectrum, representing our towns and cities, from the smallest to the largest. CCM’s core work on behalf of municipalities involves advocating for the policy priorities of municipalities and their citizens, and supporting towns and cities as they serve their residents by providing training and technical assistance, research and best practice sharing, and pooling their buying power to negotiate more cost-effective services. In this work, CCM is dedicated to carrying out our motto: “collaborating for the common good.”

CCM is uniquely positioned to advance racial equity at the local level by virtue of a long-standing and supportive working relationship with the leaders of Connecticut’s municipalities. CCM has been working hard to advance racial equity in towns and cities across Connecticut.

One of these initiatives is CCM’s CARES in Action (Communities Advancing Racial Equity) program, which has provided a guided process to support municipal leaders working toward real progress on racial equity in their cities and towns. This has included a series of workshops, roundtables, technical assistance and sharing best practices, all designed to help municipalities implement 7 action items that can lead to more equity in their local governments. Here is a link to the CCM CARES in Action webpage: <https://www.ccm-ct.org/Resources/CCM-CARES/CCM-CARES-In-Action>



CCM CARES: In Action

Checklists for Responding to Racial Tension

One for Municipal Chief Elected Officials and one for Police Officials

As part of CCM's CARES in Action initiative, we share innovative and impactful best practices from experts across the country on a range of key issues. In this spirit, we are sharing the advice and best practices recommended by the US Department of Justice Community Relations Services and the National League of Cities to respond to heightened racial (or other) tensions in a community.

This report includes recommendations and checklists drawn directly from two important publications on responding to racial tensions in a community:

- NLCs' Municipal Action Guide: "Responding to Racial Tension in Your City" for Municipal Leaders
- USDOJ Community Relations Service Toolkit for Policing: "Police Critical Incident Checklist" for Police Officials

Each of these publications provides concrete, clear action steps to take in order to be prepared for potential racial tension and to act quickly when an event triggers heightened tension in your community. Each recommends strategies that include partnership and collaboration with all parts of the community and municipal government—particularly the police, and promote transparency, authenticity, consistency, and empathy.

The recommendations/checklists are presented here for all our towns and cities to consider. Additionally, CCM will hold special CARES in Action sessions that will feature presentations and discussion on both these documents.





Municipal Action Guide

Responding to Racial Tension in Your City



The full NLC report can be found at:
<https://www.nlc.org>

NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”



Racial Tension: Checklists

Crisis Response

This list provides some of the most critical steps your municipality will want to take to respond in moments of racial tension.

- Convene all cabinet/executive level staff to ensure city leadership is briefed from outset.**
 - Elected officials, managers, department heads, and key staff must operate from the same basis of knowledge and information.
- Consult with municipal legal counsel to ascertain any issues of municipal liability.**
- Identify options for independent investigation in consultation with legal counsel.**
- Establish a clear and direct line of communication with police chief.**
 - Ensure that all facts about the incident are accurately and collectively known in real time.
 - Agree on timing of fact sharing with stakeholders and/or public.
- Identify elected leadership/staff and clearly state roles for internal response team; (i.e. spokesperson, family/victim liaison, media liaison, etc.). Set the tone:**
 - Publicly affirm commitment to the five values (*empathy, transparency, authenticity, partnership and collaboration, and consistency*).
 - Update the family/victim(s) and the public with new information as developments occur.
- Articulate a balanced message to law enforcement leadership and personnel.**
 - Provide acknowledgement and appreciation of their work but also stress the need for thorough investigation into incident.
- Prioritize outreach to family/victim(s).**
 - Designate family/victim(s) liaison.
 - Connect family/victim(s) to appropriate services.

NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”



Engage community stakeholders.

- Identify and engage a broad and diverse array of stakeholders who can bring knowledge, skills, abilities and assets to the crisis response management and post-crisis response efforts. (see Stakeholder Checklist)
- Set up community conversations in partnership with community stakeholders to engage them in understanding and learning from the incident and to prevent future incidents.

Develop an asset map of community stakeholders. Establish direct lines of communication to:

- Family/victim(s) – Discuss appointing a liaison so family has a direct line of communication to municipal leadership. Inquire if family would like to appoint a liaison as well for channeling all communications.
- Community stakeholders – Establish a direct line of communication to the identified community stakeholders and engage them in sharing accurate updates throughout the crisis.
- Public – Establish communication platform(s) (i.e. – website, hotline) that community can access to receive information/updates.

Establish/review crowd management response policies with police chief and response team.

- Identify and review demonstration/protest policies, practices, procedures (Keep de-escalation at top of mind).
- Identify and review de-escalation protocols.

Continue to communicate updates to and any need for support from county, state, and federal officials.

NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”



Communications

This checklist provides guidance on effective communication in the event of a critical incident in your municipality. It reinforces some of the suggestions in the Crisis Response Checklist provided and should be used in tandem with it.

- Designate a primary spokesperson and a backup spokesperson.
- Understand your audience and who you are communicating with (Note: your key audience is always your constituents, even if you are on the national news).
- Gather information and be thoroughly briefed by relevant agency and community stakeholders before you make any written or verbal statements.
- Based on your audience, identify the appropriate communication methods and channels for disseminating information to this audience. Ensure that all audiences' language needs and access needs are considered and addressed (i.e. non-English speakers; hearing impaired; digital divide; elderly; etc.).
- Establish a regular schedule of updates to manage expectations around information-sharing; communicate the schedule transparently.

NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”



Stick to the facts and acknowledge context:

- Consider details that may be relevant beyond the single incident.
- Consider differing lived experience of impacted residents/communities.
- Do not editorialize or express your personal opinion.

Do not simply say “no comment.” Provide factual responses about why you may not have an answer in the moment and be transparent to the extent legally appropriate.

Track and respond to media and community requests.

- Maintain a crisis communications inventory, a running document of statements, speakers, and coverage.
- Stay calm and composed even when asked tough questions.

NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”

Stakeholder

This list provides a framework for identifying and engaging a broad and diverse array of stakeholders who can bring knowledge, skills, abilities and assets to the crisis response management and post-crisis response efforts.

Every municipality is unique, and the range of stakeholders will vary. For each category below, consider:

- 1 Who is essential to the crisis response and the subsequent coordinated action and support?
- 2 Who in your community can contribute to a better response to and outcome from the crisis?

Local government

- Municipal leadership: elected officials; appointed officials; department heads; line staff

Law enforcement

- Police chief; deputies; community liaison officers

County, state, and federal government

- County health and social services
- State legislators
- Federal law enforcement (in the event of an independent investigation)

Non-profit, community-based organizations

- Local, private organizations providing social services; youth-serving organizations; cultural organizations

Neighborhood groups

- Advisory neighborhood groups; neighborhood watch groups



NLC: “Responding to Racial Tension in Your City”

Religious community

- Religious leaders; ensure multid denominational representation of all religious groups in your community

Health services/mental health services/hospitals

- Private health and mental health service providers; hospital representatives (i.e. ER, crisis response personnel)

Education community

- Primary and secondary education officials
- College, university, community college representatives

Business community

- Chamber of Commerce; major employers; business owners

National organizations

- National organizations providing support to municipalities addressing issues of racial equity

Philanthropic organizations

- Regional representatives of national philanthropic groups engaged in supporting racial equity work

About the National League of Cities

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation’s leading advocacy organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. Through its membership and partnerships with state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages and more than 218 million Americans. Learn more at www.nlc.org.

About Race, Equity And Leadership (REAL)

In the wake of the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, NLC created REAL to strengthen local leaders’ knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions and build more equitable communities. REAL does this through several intervention channels and support systems and with the understanding that local government leaders may not know where or how to start, offering tools and resources designed to help local elected leaders build safe places where people from all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds thrive socially, economically, academically and physically.



Police Critical Incident Checklist

This section* contains a checklist to prepare police officials for responding to a critical incident that has the potential to result in controversy or conflict involving the police and a community. Because a critical incident typically requires a police department to quickly undertake a wide range of actions, straining the capacity of the department, a checklist can help to ensure that officials consider all potential options ahead of time, and that certain tasks do not “fall through the cracks” during an incident. This checklist is not meant to be a comprehensive list of steps or a rigid timeline for a police response, but rather is intended to serve as a guide to many of the issues that police should consider before, during, and after a critical incident that results in community tension.

The immediate response of a police executive can determine how the community will respond to an incident, and can set the tone for the department’s ongoing relationship with the community in the long-term. This checklist emphasizes actions that can help calm tensions and demonstrate good faith to the community.

*The Police Critical Incident Checklist is part of DOJ/CRS’s Police-Community Relations Toolkit.

USDOJ: “Police Critical Incident Checklist”

The Police Critical Incident Checklist is a planning resource for police executives to prepare them for responding to a potential controversial incident. This checklist can also be used to assist police executives during an incident. This checklist is not meant to be comprehensive list of steps or a rigid timeline for responding to a critical incident, but rather acts as a flexible resource, highlighting many important steps that police executives should consider.

Items to Consider Before a Critical Incident Occurs for the Police Executive

- Discuss notification and response protocols with the mayor, city manager, and any elected/appointed boards or commissions which have police oversight. Have a plan for incidents, including an agreement on what they want to be notified about and when these notifications should occur.
- Establish relationships and direct lines of communication with key community leaders. Have a list of these community leaders ready with cell phone numbers.
- Establish relationships and direct lines of communication with police union leaders, if applicable. Have a list of these union leaders ready with cell phone numbers.
- Once relationships have been established, consider forming an Advisory Board that reflects the diversity of the community. For example, the Advisory Board could include one or more representatives from each policing area (district, precinct, ward, etc.). The Advisory Board should meet regularly and can help determine the best ways to engage the community and de-escalate any tensions if an incident occurs.
- Ensure that you have a protocol for major incidents, including a media plan, and that investigators, supervisors, and command staff members know their roles and responsibilities.
- Top police officials should visit officer roll calls, meet with specialized department units, and establish relationships with key local news media personnel during non-crisis times. Maintain communication with them.

Items for the Chief Executive to Consider Immediately After a Critical Incident

Immediate Action Items (within approximately 2 hours of the incident)

- Ensure that a command-level staff member is on the scene and providing information directly to you as it is received.
- Notify key public officials and community leaders about the situation promptly.
 - Let them know that you are gathering additional information and that you will contact them as soon as you know more.
- Gather as much preliminary information as possible about the incident. If possible, go to the scene of the incident yourself.
- Contact your public information or media office or liaison and develop an initial plan for their role. Start planning a press gathering to release information as quickly as possible. This planning should include the use of various media to keep the public informed. Social media, particularly Twitter, increasingly is being used by police to share information directly with the public and the news media on a minute-to-minute basis during a critical incident. Address misinformation directly. If new information contradicts earlier department reports,

USDOJ: “Police Critical Incident Checklist”

issue the correct information as soon as possible. As time allows, use translation services to address the language needs of the community’s diverse stakeholder groups.

- Avoid “dueling” press conferences; try to engage all interested parties to share podium time so that the community can see unity among their local leaders.
- If applicable, assign staff to begin watching social media and activity to assess what is being said about the incident and to gauge the mood of the community.

Action Items (within approximately 8 hours of the incident)

- Provide the preliminary information you can to the public about the incident (i.e., what you know, what you don’t know, what the department is doing about it); and if applicable, explain why you cannot provide additional information, and indicate when you will be able to share further information.
 - **Emphasize that this is preliminary information in every statement.** You are balancing the need for transparency with the reality that sometimes the first information about an incident may change as additional information emerges.¹
 - If applicable, avoid making any prejudgments about officers’ conduct before you have complete information, unless your statement is clearly needed (e.g., if a publicly available video depicts overt police misconduct or criminal behavior by an officer).
 - Explain that it may also take longer for some information to be released if there is an ongoing police investigation.
- Let the public know how often you will update them on the status of the incident or new information, and how these updates will be provided.

Action Items (within 24 hours of the incident)

- Brief community leaders and ask for their help in defusing community tensions while getting accurate information to their constituencies. Ask for calm and patience as the incident unfolds. Be flexible in briefing various community organizations and advocates; some may want to meet in groups, others may prefer to meet individually. Other leaders may have a preference for meeting in-person rather than over the phone.
- Engage public officials and community leaders to agree on a unified message that presents a transparent and cooperative process. Create a plan to work together should the incident start to escalate. While there can be disagreement or differing perceptions early on as to what has occurred, all leaders should be in agreement about the need to keep the peace; conduct a thorough and impartial investigation, if applicable; and make a commitment to keep the community informed. Craft the unified message around these statements that all local leaders can support.
- If applicable, publicly explain the investigatory process and any related policies that impact the release of information or determination of findings. Clarify policies related to contentious issues. Explaining the rationale for policies or practices that the public may not understand may be helpful in maintaining the community’s patience and deescalating tensions.

1. See, for example, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Sam Dotson discussing an officer-involved shooting incident in the PERF report “Defining Moments for Police Chiefs,” pp. 7-8. <http://www.policeforum.org/assets/definingmoments.pdf> .

USDOJ: “Police Critical Incident Checklist”

- When applicable, publicly clarify departmental policies governing the status of any officers who are involved in a controversy. This may include explaining laws that protect the rights of police officers (especially any requirements that prevent their names from being released), and any other policies that help explain administrative and investigatory actions taken that may not be immediately apparent to the public.
- If applicable, announce publicly your willingness to cooperate with investigations of your department by other agencies (local, state, or federal).

Action Items (within 1 week of the incident)

- Consider the circumstances of the incident. If appropriate, you may choose to visit involved individuals, and to provide an update on the investigation and what to expect from the department, to extend an offer to provide updates, or make a liaison from your agency available to them. **Based on the circumstances, you may consider moving up the timeline for this call/meeting to the first 24 hours of the incident.*
- Anticipate and take precautions to prevent new incidents or confrontations. This includes giving supervisors guidance on how they should discuss the situation with officers at roll calls, closely monitoring unusual calls or activity, obtaining information from community leaders, and watching social media activity in the community.
- Frequently attend community events to explain the department’s handling of the incident, as well as department policies and practices.
- Develop a strategy for releasing public information regularly, using social media, television, radio, or other forms of communication.
- Engage with both sworn and civilian staff within the department to address any concerns resulting from the incident. Ensure that employees have access to counseling, if appropriate.
- Issue a statement about the incident to all department employees and offer ample opportunities to discuss their concerns. Make sure this message is consistent with the message that you are delivering to the public.

Action Items (long-term incident aftermath)

- Request the assistance of community groups or others that may be able to assist with inter-group conflict assessment and conciliation moving forward.
- Consider having an after-action review of the incident conducted by an outside review team. The after-action review should include lessons learned and should highlight promising practices. Share these findings and lessons learned department-wide. You may also consider making the findings from the after-action report public.
- Survey different community groups to learn about their concerns with the police or department operations.
- Consider opportunities for the community to provide additional input. Consider having third parties or community leaders host and facilitate the meetings.
- Consider conducting a review of any policies, accountability systems, or training protocols related to the incident.
- Consider establishing a public commission, task force, or other work group to develop recommendations for addressing specific concerns.
- Consider conducting an assessment of your department’s community policing practices.
- Remember to continually update internal stakeholders in the aftermath of the event.

CCM is the state's largest, nonpartisan organization of municipal leaders, representing towns and cities of all sizes from all corners of the state, with 169 member municipalities.

We come together for one common mission — to improve everyday life for every resident of Connecticut. We share best practices and objective research to help our local leaders govern wisely. We advocate at the state level for issues affecting local taxpayers. And we pool our buying power to negotiate more cost-effective services for our communities.

CCM is governed by a board of directors that is elected by the member municipalities. Our board represents municipalities of all sizes, leaders of different political parties, and towns/cities across the state. Our board members also serve on a variety of committees that participate in the development of CCM policy and programs.

Federal representation is provided by CCM in conjunction with the National League of Cities. CCM was founded in 1966.



Roxanne Maher

From: Rebecca Graebner <rjgraebner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 10:10 AM
To: Fred Allyn, III; Town Council Group; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Andra Ingalls; Whit Irwin; John Marshall; mmcgrattan@concast.net; Gary Paul; Naomi Rodriguez; Timothy Ryan; William Saums; BOE@ledyard.net; Jay Hartling
Cc: Jake Troy
Subject: Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Guide

Dear Mayor Fred Allyn III, Town Council Chair Kevin Dombrowski, Board of Education Chair Anthony Favry, and Superintendent Jay Hartling,

I was pleased to read this article today (6.23.22) in the online version of *The Day*; [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities puts out guide for towns to better respond to racial tension](#).

Here is [the link](#) to the guide itself.

I am hopeful that Ledyard will embrace and implement the many valuable suggestions in this guide.

Can you and your members please share with the residents of Ledyard how the Mayor's office, the Town Council, and the Board of Education plan to adopt the suggested strategies in the plan?

I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Rebecca Graebner
42 Eagle Ridge Dr
Gales Ferry, CT
06335
rjgraebner@gmail.com
860.984.6735



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-109

Agenda Date: 8/17/2022

Agenda #:

MINUTES

Minutes:

MOTION to approve the Community Relations Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2022.



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339
<http://www.ledyardct.org>
Roxanne M. Maher
860 464-3203

Chairman Kevin J. Dombrowski

HYBRID FORMAT
MINUTES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Video Conference

DRAFT

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Meeting was called to order by Councilor Paul at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex Building Meeting Room.

Councilor Paul welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Town Council Community Relations Committee and members of the Public who were participating via video conference that remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website - ICompass Meeting Portal.

II. **ROLL CALL-**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location	Arrived	Departed
Gary Paul	Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	7:31 pm
John Marshall	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	7:31 pm
Bill Saums	Town Council	Excused			
Mary McGrattan	Town Councilor	Present	Remote	6:30 pm	7:31 pm
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	6:30 pm	7:31 pm
John Rich	Police Chief	Present	Remote	6:30 pm	7:31 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	6:30 pm	7:31 pm

- III. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS** – None.

- IV. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – None.

IV. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2022

Moved by Councilor Marshall, seconded by Councilor Paul

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Black History Month 2023 Activity/Contest.**

Councilor Paul stated he would like the Committee to start working on preparations for next year’s February, 2023 Black History Month Activity.

Councilor Marshall suggested having activities throughout the year instead of just one month. Councilor Paul stated because the county has designed February as “*Black History Month*” that it was his intent to begin planning for their Black History Month activity now so that they would be ready to roll-out the project for February, rather than start in mid-February like they did this year. He stated Councilor Rodriguez was instrumental in this year’s *Black History Essay and Poster Contest* and he hoped to get Councilor Saums’ and Councilor Rodriguez’s input as they work to develop a Black History program for February, 2023.

Councilor Rodriguez responded to Councilor Marshall’s question about doing more things throughout the year instead of just in February; noting that she was working with the Mayor to submit a grant application to obtain funding that would allow them to do more things throughout the upcoming year. She stated they missed the opportunity to submit the Grant Application for the 2022 Black History Month Activities. However, she stated that they planned to submit a Grant Application in preparation for next year. She noted that Councilor Saums reviewed the town’s grant application approval process with her.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting; 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.

2. Develop a “*Community Relations Commission Mission Statement*”.

Councilor Paul stated since this Community Relations Committee began their work that he has also been reviewing the videos from the previous Committee’s meetings to try to get some history on the issues they worked on; noting that during this process he has become more aware/familiar with the subject matters that the community would benefit from. He went on to state that he has been reviewing the draft “*Mission Statement*” Councilor Saums provided noting that it encompassed a lot of what the Community Relations Committee was about. He stated that he planned to present a draft *Mission Statement* at the Community Relations Committee August 17, 2022 meeting for review and discussion.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting; 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.

3. Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services, and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee reached out to the Farmers’ Market to check on whether there would be space for the Town Council to host a table/booth at the June 29, 2022 Market. He stated the Farmers’ Market Committee has agreed to provide a space for the Town Council, noting that the Farmers’ Market has asked that the booth not be used for political purposes. He stated as the Community

Relations Committee has been discussing right along that the purpose of hosting a booth at the Farmers Market was to engage with residents, similar to what they used to do at the Ledyard Fair. He stated that this would provide an opportunity for the Town Council to learn more about the types of issues residents were interested and to provide information regarding the types of services and programs the town provides/offers to the community.

Councilor Paul went on to note that the Community Relations Committee also asked the Police Department to attend the June 29, 2022 Farmers Market to give a demonstration on their new body-worn and in-car camera system and to talk about how the technology would be a benefit to protect the police officers and the residents as well. The Committee and Chief Rich discussed where the Police Department's body-worn and in-car camera demonstration should be located at the Farmers' Market. They also discussed having a Police Officer at the Town Council's booth to let visitors know about the 20-minute body-worn and in-car camera demonstration that would take place at 6:00 p.m.

Police Chief John Rich stated the Police Department stands ready to engage with the community and to present the types of community outreach programs the Police Department offers. He stated the police Department has given presentations to the Rotary and the Senior Center regarding the types of things the Police Department does in the interest of solving problems outside of the enforcement arenas such as the Department's involvement in Juvenile Review Board, Crisis Intervention Program, Special Needs Family Registry for residents who have cognizant issues such as Dementia, Alzheimer's, Memory Loss, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, etc. so that if the Police Department was called because a family member was lost or wandered away from home, they would have the information readily available such as a photograph of the person, the name of their caretaker, medications, the vehicle that may be driving, etc., which would allow the Police Department to better respond to the situation and help the family member.

Councilor Marshall suggested the Police Department give a demonstration of a *Mock-Pull-Over* to help the public understand what they should or should not do if they were pulled over in a traffic stop. He stated this type of information would be of interest and a benefit to the Community. Chief Rich agreed that this information would be helpful for the public to know; however, he suggested the June 29, 2022 only be focused on the body-worn and in-car camera system, noting that other informational presentations, such as the one Councilor Marshall suggested could be done on another day.

Councilor Paul stated that he would stop by the June 22, 2022 Farmers Market to talk with Market Manager/Chairman Lauriann Hary about where the Police Department's body-worn and in-car camera demonstration should be located during the June 29, 2022 Market. He also noted that he had a canopy/tent and table for the Town Council's June 29, 2022 Booth. He stated the Farmers Market was open from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The Committee also agreed to have a flyer available to hand out to residents similar to the "*Meet Your Elected Officials*" flyer that they used for the May 14, 2022 event they hosted at the Nathan Lester House.

Chief Rich stated the June 29, 2022 body-worn and in-car camera demonstration would be about 20-minutes and that the Police Officers would have time for questions and answers. He stated the Police Department also had a table and banner and would have a police cruiser at the demonstration.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.

4. Identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Councilor Paul stated the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee has been discussing residents’ concerns regarding security and safety issues at the Park on East Street. He suggested the Community Relations Committee cancel their Regular July 20, 2022 and hold an *informal gathering* at the Park on East Street to talk with residents about their concerns.

The Community Relations Committee agreed by consensus to cancel their Regular July 20, 2022 meeting and to hold an *informal gathering* at the Park on East Street at 6:30 p.m. to talk with residents regarding their concerns. Councilor Paul noted that this informal gathering would not be a meeting, noting that no actions or decisions would be made.

The Committee discussed sending a flyer to the residents in the area of the Park on East Street to inform them that there would be an “*Informal Gathering*” at the Park on July 20, 2022 to hear about their concerns regarding security and safety at the Park.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.

5. Schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

Councilor Paul noted that Councilor Saums was continuing to work with Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple on potential dates for the two groups to meet to discuss ideas and items of mutual concerns. He stated that Councilor Saums also let Ms. Whipple know that the Town Council would be at the Farmers Market on June 29, 2022 and he invited the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Members to stop by their table.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting: 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.

6. Present information to bring awareness to October being “*Depression and Mental Health Month*”

Councilor Paul stated during the Community Relations Committee’s Booth at the Farmers’ Market in late August or September that he would like to highlight Mental Health Awareness. He stated during the winter months it gets darker earlier and there tends to be more isolation with the colder weather. He stated whether it was kids or adults that were suffering from mental health (depression, anxiety, suicide, etc.) that the person, or their parent/caretaker, may not know where they could get help. He stated during that week that he would like to invite Youth Service Coordinator Kate Sikorski-Maynard, a CIT Officer (Crisis Intervention Trained) and the Ledyard Visiting Nurse Association to talk with residents and to provide information regarding the many resources that were available.

Councilor Paul noted the importance to let residents that they were being represented and that their needs were being thought about and that their community was here for them. He stated there were a lot of racially charged issues currently going on, noting the incident that happened at the Ledyard High School Girls Basketball game on February 5, 2022. He went on to state with technology the bullying in school today was different from the bullying they grew up with. He stated that much of this behavior stemmed from mental health issues and noted the importance to talk about these types of issues and to provide information regarding the resources that were available to the community. He stated Ledyard was a town that cared about everyone; and he stated that they were not going to leave anyone behind.

Councilor Marshall suggested the Committee also invite someone from the Suicide Prevention Hotline to be at their Farmers’ Market Booth in August/September. He stated when a family member takes their life it often seemed like there was no indication that the person was struggling. However, he stated looking back there were often times signs that family and friends did not see, because they did not know what to look for. He stated that once people know what types of behaviors or signs to look for that they may be able to help save that person’s life. He stated years ago mental health was not talked about, noting it was always hush-hush. He stated today society was more comfortable with discussing mental health and depression issues and were now better able to identify the signs to help people.

Councilor Rodriguez noted the *Brian Dage Foundation -Brian’s Healing Hearts* was a Family Suicide Prevention Group located at 461 Main Street in Niantic. She stated it was a great program and she offered to reach out them. The Community Relations Committee agreed to have Councilor Rodriguez to contact Brian’s Healing Hearts.

Councilor Paul went on to note that depression could also be exasperated because individuals could not finically keep up with providing for their family due to inflation, etc. Therefore, he also noted the importance for residents to know that there were programs to help such as:

- Home heating fuel through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) and other assistance programs.
- Utilities – Electric/Water Assistance.
- Homeowners Assistance program that provided no interest loans to help people replace their furnace, roof or septic system, etc.
- Home meal delivery available for those who cannot get out to grocery shop through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)
- The Linda C. Davis Food Pantry located in Ledyard Center.
- United Way located in Gales Ferry was a great resource.
- Connecticut’s Paid Family Medical Leave Program.

Councilor Paul noted that inflation and energy costs have increased so quickly as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions that were put in place. Therefore, he stated that he wanted to make sure they were all doing their part to get information out to the residents about the energy assistance program that were available. He stated some people just do not know about the available assistance programs and some people were too proud to ask for help. He stated as they move into next fall that he would like the Community Relations Committee to discuss the energy assistance programs and other programs that were available in an effort to get the information out to residents to and make people aware of the confidential application process. He stated Ledyard does a great job in helping their residents in-need.

Councilor Paul stated over the next couple of months he would like the Community Relations Committee to put this type of information together to provide to residents at their Farmers’ Market Booth in late August or September as they move into the fall.

Police Chief John Rich stated the Police Department partners with the United Way located in Gales Ferry. He explained in working with United Way the Police Department has a number of resources (telephone numbers and contact information) programed into their Dispatch System to help residents after hours. He stated as an example of those resources, if someone runs out of heating oil at 11:00 p.m. the Police Department could help residents. He stated the Police Department was not trying to be 211 but as the Emergency 911 Call Center they have a resource directory to assist residents.

RESULT: CONTINUED	Next Meeting: 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.
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7. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee – None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any new business proper to come before the Committee

Councilor Rodriguez stated she attended a meeting at the Police Department that was hosted by Parents of Autistic Children Group on Friday, June 10, 2022. She noted one of the parents mentioned the “*The Blue Envelope*” and “*The Green Envelope*” program and

suggested they have a “*Mock Pull-Over*” noting that people functioning with autism, with a brain injury or with anxiety issues may react differently at a routine traffic stop; or they may take off because they do not know what to do. She asked the Community Relations Committee for permission to work in conjunction with the Police Department and the Parents of Autistic Children to arrange a Mock-Pull-Over Demonstration at Ledyard High School that would be open for anyone from the public to attend, with a date to be determined. She stated that she has already spoken with the Parents of Autistic Children Group about the demonstration and that they were on-board. The Community Relations Committee agreed to Councilor Rodriguez’s request to work in conjunction with the High School; the Police Department and Parents of Autistic Children to schedule the “*Mock Pull-Over*” demonstration.

Chief Rich provided an overview of the of *The Blue Envelope Program*:

- ***The Blue Envelope Program*** – Individuals functioning with Autism – Chief Rich stated the Police Association and the Department of Transportation have formed a partnership which allowed Police Officers to better identify individuals within the autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. He stated “*The Blue Envelope*” was created by the State Legislature and went into effect on January 1, 2020. He stated the *Envelopes* were available at all Police Stations, Department of Motor Vehicle locations, driving schools and through autism advocacy groups and he noted they could obtain multiple envelopes. He stated the purpose of *The Blue Envelope* was:
 - ✓ To hold the driver’s license, registration and insurance card so they can hand it to the Police Officer during a traffic stop,
 - ✓ The outside of the *Blue Envelope* included tips and instructions for both the Police Officer and Driver on how to successfully communicate with each other during a traffic stop.

Chief Rich explained that drivers should keep the *Envelope* in the glove box or visor of their car so they can easily find it and hand it to a Police Officer, who has been trained on the envelope’s meaning. He also noted that “*Green Envelopes*” were available for the hearing impaired.

Chief Rich stated Southern Connecticut State University has an Autism Center; and he noted that their Police Department has worked with the Autism Center, and they have hosted two separate exercises for *Mock Pull-Overs* that were directed toward individuals with Autism. He stated as Councilor Marshall brought up earlier this evening (Old Business Item #3), that they could have an informational demonstration during which they could highlight *The Blue Envelope* for those with autism and *The Green Envelope* for the hearing impaired. He stated he would contact Southern Connecticut State University and their Police Department to obtain a copy of their lesson plan to use for a demonstration/presentation in Ledyard, noting that practice makes perfect.

Councilor Marshall questioned whether there was something that could be located on the outside the car to alert Police Officers that the driver had special needs, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) before they approached the vehicle noting that flashing lights and the siren may trigger a certain behavior. Chief Rich stated the Police Department's Special Needs Family Registry - Special Needs Profile was used for various cognizant issues, such as Alzheimer's, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, and other things they would like the Police Department to know as it related to potential behavior health issues in advance. He stated families could fill out the form which included a picture of their loved one, medications, primary care giver, physicians, vehicle that they had access to, which would provide information regarding the individual's disability on the way to the call.

Councilor Marshall stated he has been at the Gales Ferry Fire Department when a 911-Call has come in with instructions not to use lights or the siren because there was an individual with special needs and the flashing lights and the siren may trigger a certain behavior. He suggested they think about placing something on the outside of the car that would alert the Police Officer ahead of time not to use the flashing lights or the siren in a traffic stop.

Councilor Rodriguez stated during the Parents with Autistic Children June 10, 2022 meeting a parent noted that the Special Needs Family Registry was very helpful. She stated the Parents with Autistic Children Group would like to have another meeting with the hope that more families attend to learn about the programs available.

RESULT: CONTINUED	Next Meeting: 08/17/2022 6:30 p.m.
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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marshall moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Paul.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Paul
Committee Chairman
Community Relations Committee



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-103

Agenda Date: 9/13/2022

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion regarding Black History Month and update on the 2023 Black History Activity/Contest.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-104

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion and possible action to develop a “*Community Relations Commission Mission Statement*”.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-105

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 3.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion and possible action draft a schedule for Public Information Forums to present to residents the types of services the town offers; how to access services and the authority residents should direct concerns regarding services.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-106

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 4.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion and possible action to identify various town venues to host “*Informal Conversations in the Park*” to engage residents in discussions regarding their concerns and their ideas for potential solutions.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-107

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 5.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion regarding the possibility to schedule joint meetings with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation to discuss items of mutual interest.

Background:

During the meetings the previous Community Relations Committee had with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council they had good participation from both sides, and they were good meetings.

Councilor Saums and Councilor Rodriguez reached out to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Member Crystal Whipple on March 11, 2022 and they discussed the following:

- Scheduling informal get togethers between the Community Relations Committee and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council similar to the meetings the former Community Relations Committee had with the MPTN (9/24/2020) at which they discussed the Police, Food Pantry and other issues. He noted that they discussed a goal of having at least two per year. He noted that they received some feedback from Ms. Whipple on how the Tribal Council felt things were going on these matters.
- Town Council attending the MPTN Council Swearing-In Ceremony - Councilor Rodriguez noted because of the Covid -19 pandemic gathering restrictions the Town Council and Mayor were not invited this past year.
- Organizing some informal activities at the Pequot Museum, between the Community Relations Committee and some members of Tribal Council. Ms. Whipple would be getting some potential dates.
- Having some informal activities between the Community Relations Committee and some members of Tribal Council over a meal, because sharing a meal stimulates community.

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-108

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 6.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Continued discussion to present information to bring awareness to October being “*Depression and Mental Health Month*”.

Background:

In preparation for the winter months the Community Relations Committee planned to host a Booth at the Farmers’ Market in late August or early September to provide information regarding the following programs that were available:

- Home heating fuel through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) and other assistance programs.
- Utilities - Electric/Water Assistance.
- Homeowners Assistance program that provided no interest loans to help people replace their furnace, roof or septic system, etc.
- Home meal delivery available for those who cannot get out to grocery shop through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)
- The Linda C. Davis Food Pantry located in Ledyard Center.
- United Way located in Gales Ferry was a great resource.
- Connecticut’s Paid Family Medical Leave Program.



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-091

Agenda Date: 8/17/2022

Agenda #:

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-260

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 1.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Review comments received at the July 20, 2022 Informal Conversation with residents at the Park on East Drive.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-238

Agenda Date: 9/21/2022

Agenda #: 2.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Review and discuss National Faith and Blue Weekend - Tool Kit

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)



NATIONAL

FAITH & BLUE

WEEKEND

PLANNING TOOLKIT



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dear Friends,

The United States is truly a unique nation with diversity spanning ethnicities, races, national ancestries, identity, and every form of political and social affiliation. From suburbs to small towns to large cities, faith plays a crucial role in uniting us across this diversity. Americans practice the full breadth of religious affiliations that shape the human spirit, with all faiths connected by the conviction that we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper. Our great nation is also united by its principles and its ceaseless movement toward protecting and valuing everyone, regardless of who they are.

We have a long road ahead in this journey, and it was for this reason that we launched National Faith & Blue Weekend. This event is a way for people of all backgrounds to work together with those who uphold our laws to create a more just and equitable union.

My team and I are at your disposal as you plan your event. I hope this toolkit proves to be a valuable resource, and if you need anything else, please do not hesitate to reach out at info@faithandblue.org or 404.605.7000. Thank you for being a part of this landmark event.

Kind Regards,

Reverend Markel Hutchins

Chief Executive Officer, MovementForward, Inc.
National Lead Organizer, One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) and National Faith & Blue Weekend



WORDS OF WELCOME



Dear Friends,

FirstNet, Built with AT&T is dedicated to enhancing communication for public safety professionals. It's also why we are enthusiastic in our continued collaboration and support of National Faith & Blue Weekend. The planners of this event share our commitment to creating safer and more inclusive communities through improved communication — in this case between law enforcement professionals and the residents they protect and serve.

The FirstNet team at AT&T would like to thank you for your interest in being part of this effort to bring communities together, and we believe you will find your participation to be inspiring and impactful. The accompanying toolkit provides you with everything you need to plan your activity and the National Faith & Blue Weekend team is available to assist you each step of the way.

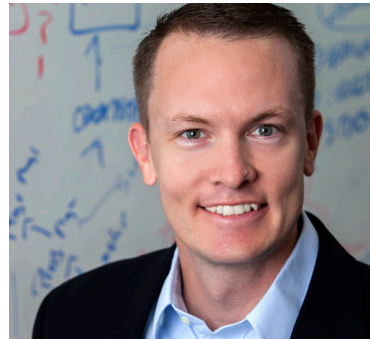
It is an honor for FirstNet to be a part of this powerful program. We believe it shows what is possible when we get to know each other. Thank you to the houses of worship and community organizations who are building the bonds of fellowship and to the law enforcement professionals who suit up every day to protect the public - the sacrifices you make are immeasurable and deeply appreciated. We look forward to the ongoing positive impact we make working together.

In Gratitude,

Jason Porter

President

Public Sector and FirstNet, Built with AT&T



WORDS OF WELCOME



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

Dear Community Leaders,

The Motorola Solutions Foundation is proud to sponsor MovementForward's 2021 National Faith & Blue Weekend. As the philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions, we firmly believe that communities are safer when there is trust and collaboration between those who serve and the communities they serve. For the second year, we look forward to the National Faith & Blue Weekend sparking important dialogue and meaningful connections between law enforcement and communities across the United States, and we're honored to support this.

The Motorola Solutions Foundation shares MovementForward's vision for an equitable, safer world for all -- and we know you do too. We are grateful to you for lending your expertise and time to this important event, and we extend a special thank you to the participating community organizations, faith leaders and law enforcement professionals.

As you leverage this toolkit to plan your activity, as well as the support from the MovementForward team, know that your efforts are making a significant difference. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead and to another successful year.

Regards,

Cynthia Yazdi

Senior Vice President

Chief of Staff, Motorola Solutions

Motorola Solutions Foundation



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GETTING STARTED

Thank you for your interest in organizing an activity for National Faith & Blue Weekend. Your participation will help community members and law enforcement connect on a personal level, and in doing so, create safer and stronger neighborhoods. The Faith & Blue National Office will assist each step of the way to help you organize successful events. As you design your activities, please be certain they (1) involve both a faith based, community, or civic organization and a law enforcement agency, (2) are positive, and (3) are open to the general public.

Engaging Important Issues: At the heart of Faith & Blue is creating meaningful connections between law enforcement and the public. For this reason it is recommended that, to the degree you are comfortable, your activity acknowledges and explores the important conversations that are currently occurring around policing, justice, and community relations. Some of the activities — like the essay contest, book discussion, crucial conversation, and vigil for understanding — lend themselves more readily to engaging these topics, but all activities can facilitate important discussions around policing. We encourage you to be brave, open, and kind as you design and implement your activities.

To help in your planning, below is a checklist of everything needed to begin organizing an activity.

Event Set Up

Activity Selected: _____ Time and Date: _____

Lead House of Worship: _____ Lead Law Enforcement Agency: _____

Role of House of Worship: _____ Role of Law Enforcement Agency: _____

Other Partners: _____

Location (or virtual platform): _____

Materials Needed: _____

Food and Drink (if any): _____

Short Overview of the Activity: _____

- Activity posted on www.faithandblue.org
- Sign-in sheet
- Media advisory sent two days before activity
- Assign responsibilities to volunteers
- Create a timeline/event agenda
- Event promoted on social media
- Photographer assigned
- Food and drink ordered (if any)
- Identify/invite attendees via email/mail
- Virtual platform confirmed (if needed)

- Thank yous sent to the faith leaders and law enforcement agency leaders who made the event possible
- Photographs compiled and sent to the law enforcement agency or house of worship with which you organized your event
- Thank yous to speakers/participants, volunteers, donors, and attendees (via SM or from sign-up sheet)
- Short write-up sent about the event with photographs to the Faith & Blue team at info@faithandblue.org
- Post photographs on social media with the hashtag #faithandblue

REACHING OUT

As you start planning, you will want to reach out to a co-host, which will be either a local law enforcement agency or faith-based, community, or civic organization. You should plan to reach out at least 15 days before your event, if possible. You can inquire later, but you run the risk of the potential partner not being able to participate due to scheduling.

To Reach Out to Your Law Enforcement Agency

Conduct a Google search for your local law enforcement agency and identify the name of either the Police Chief, Sheriff, or Community Liaison. Next, place a call to the department and ask to speak to this individual.

A note about recruitment: National Faith & Blue Weekend provides the opportunity for people to be exposed to law enforcement and to learn about the profession. For almost all of the activities, flyers can be provided about joining the local agency, and officers can discuss their experience in joining the force.

To Reach Out to a Local Faith-Based, Community, or Civic Organization

Ideally, it is best to start with a faith-based organization that a member of your department attends and has a good relationship with the faith leader. If neither you nor your colleagues have a contact, you can contact us at info@faithandblue.org and we will provide you with a list of local houses of worship.

Sample Script

Hello, my name is _____. I am calling from [law enforcement agency/faith-based, community, or civic organization] about an activity we are putting together for National Faith & Blue Weekend. Faith & Blue is designed to bring together community members and law enforcement officers, and we are organizing a [type of activity] as one of the thousands of activities that will occur across the country. We would love it if you would be able to participate in the activity, which will be held at [date and time]. Is there a member of your team that we could work with to organize the activity?

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

[Date]

Contact: [Contact Information — Name plus phone and/or email]

TITLE [e.g., Anytown Law Enforcement Agency and Anytown Church Host Joint Event]

SUBTITLE [Activity Name] Is Open to the Public and Is Part of National Faith & Blue Weekend

Who: [Name of your Law Enforcement Agency and Faith-Based, Community, or Civic Organization]

Where: [Location]

When: [Date/Time]

[Short paragraph about the event.]

Faith & Blue Weekend is a national event with activities in communities across the country that bring together law enforcement and residents to build connections, create mutual understanding, and enhance justice and reconciliation.

QUICK ACTIVITIES

The following are activities that provide an opportunity for houses of worship and law enforcement that do not have the planning time to host one of the core activities proposed in this toolkit. Many of these activities can also be combined into a single event. Please feel free to reach out to our team at info@faithandblue.org if you are unsure about whether you may have the time and bandwidth to organize one of the core activities — we will help in discussing what is involved. And regardless of whether you do a quick activity, a core activity, or an idea you create on your own, your participation in National Faith & Blue Weekend in a way that makes sense for your community and your capacity is most important.

Quick Activity A: Sending Greetings (and/or Outreach Circuit)

In this activity, law enforcement officers and/or command staff attend a worship ceremony in person or virtually to provide words of greeting. If virtually, a recording can be made and shared with one or multiple houses of worship. If in person, delegates from the law enforcement agency can be sent. The remarks do not need to be long — just offering thoughts by law enforcement about how officers are working to engage with the community, particularly during the contemporary discourse on policing and social justice. If you are with a house of worship, your clergy can record messages with their thoughts on supporting and engaging with law enforcement, which can then be shared with law enforcement.

For the outreach circuit, clergy members or law enforcement officers can identify a few sites to visit to receive or give words of healing. Alternatively, a police chaplain and members of the clergy can offer words at key locations in the city, for example at a courthouse, park, or hospital.

Quick Activity B: Ask an Officer

In this activity, a house of worship and law enforcement agency set up an online meeting — via Zoom or Google Meet. During the meeting, members of the house of worship ask questions of the officers, and officers respond. A recording of the session could then be shared with all members of the house of worship. Alternatively the event can be held in person, taped, and distributed to members of the house of worship.

Quick Activity C: Message Board

A house of worship can set up a large canvas in their building, and members, particularly children, can write messages or draw illustrations describing what policing means to them and how law enforcement can keep people safe and ensuring equality before the law. Once the canvas is complete, it could be delivered to law enforcement and photographs could be taken of representatives of law enforcement and the house of worship. As a virtual option, a volunteer could set up an email or Facebook page to receive messages and photographs of kids' drawings by a certain date. The messages and drawings can be printed out and bound into a book that could be presented to a law enforcement agency. Another possibility is to get water soluble markers and have children write messages of support and justice on police vehicles.

Quick Activity D: Mural

A house of worship can set up a canvas in their building, and a volunteer can outline a large drawing — or positive message — on a theme related to policing and justice. Members of the house of worship can paint within the drawing to complete the mural, which could then be delivered to a law enforcement agency. As a virtual option, drawings could be mailed either on paper or pieces of cloth. A volunteer could compile the artwork, either stitching together the cloth illustrations or binding the book together.

QUICK ACTIVITIES

Quick Activity E: Item Drive

This activity can be held at either a house of worship or a law enforcement agency and involves collecting a type or types of items for the needy. This can include coats, socks, canned food, books, or sanitary items. A local shelter, library, or food bank can be partnered with to receive the items once collected. Promotion of the event, and early collection days, can be managed in the run-up to National Faith & Blue Weekend.

Quick Activity F: Shredding Service

A law enforcement agency or house of worship can serve as the setting for a shredding service that is made open to the public. Local shredding companies can be found on Google, and some can bring a mobile shredder to a convenient destination. They will charge a minimal fee, which can often be covered by a local business as a donation. During the activity, law enforcement and representatives from the house of worship can be on hand to have casual conversations with members of the public, to pass out safety materials, to do bike registration, and other activities. The event can be accompanied with a hot dog BBQ or even a technology recycling effort (local environmental organizations or municipalities can help find a service). Remember to publicize the event widely.

Quick Activity G: Community Garden Day

Many communities have community gardens that require regular maintenance, and in this activity, law enforcement and houses of worship volunteers can support local gardeners. You can Google local community gardens and reach out to the coordinator (also check social media); then at a designated time — usually on a weekend day — your volunteers can show up to provide support in weeding, planting, and other gardening. The good thing about this activity is that the site and activity is already in place; you just need to bring the people. This activity also allows for informal conversations and meet and greets.

Quick Activity H: Visit Our Seniors

For this activity, members of a law enforcement agency and a house of worship can send a small group to a local senior community or set of senior communities to deliver greetings, to discuss how they are working together to enhance public safety, and even to discuss and take questions on how they see contemporary discourse around policing. This event can be combined with offering a prayer for public safety.

Quick Activity I: Cookie Sale

This activity can occur as a fundraiser for a local nonprofit. Members of the house of worship, law enforcement officers and their families, and other community organizations can bake cookies (which should be wrapped individually, if possible) and sell them in a space that is very accessible to the public. Law enforcement can be on hand to meet and greet, pass out safety flyers, and connect with the public and members of the house of worship.

Quick Activity J: Child Car Seat Checking

For this activity, which can be held at a house of worship, fire department, police office parking lot, or other setting, members of the public are encouraged to bring their cars with car seats for installation and checking to make sure the seats are safely installed. A fire department may provide best practices in car seat checking/installation. You can reach out to local preschools and day cares to pass out a flyer about the event, which can also be paired with a hot-dog BBQ or one of the other quick activities. Law enforcement can be on hand to meet and greet the public.



ACTIVITY 1: CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS (ONE-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity provides the opportunity for the police and community to engage tough, but important, topics on policing. The conversation occurs as a round-table rather than a formal panel (although a panel can be utilized); at the minimum, it should include local law enforcement officers, ideally including a police chief or sheriff, community advocates, and faith leaders. Topics engaged may include law officer-involved incidents, use of force, questions of bias, and officer safety. The goal of this activity is to raise important issues in policing so that they can be discussed out in the open and in such a way as to create greater understanding between the community and law enforcement. We recommend you choose a specific topic that has impacted or created concerns in your community to explore the issue and find common ground or the first steps to common ground. This activity is in contrast to the Community Dialogue event (Activity 2), which is a panel-based overview of how the community, law enforcement, houses of worship, and other organizations can work together to create safe and inclusive neighborhoods.

Materials Needed

Water and chairs that can be gathered in a circle. If possible, a camera that can be set up to record and livestream the event.

Location Needed

The setting can be outdoors or indoors. Church grounds or a fellowship hall will serve well.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To designate a member of leadership to offer opening remarks and then participate in the discussion, to encourage parishioners to participate, and to provide a meeting space.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate a member of department leadership to offer opening remarks and then participate in the discussion, to encourage members of the force to participate, and to be available to answer questions and mingle at the end of the event.

How to Create Connections

Encourage attendees to remain for 30 minutes after the conclusion of the discussion for informal follow-up conversations with round-table participants.



ACTIVITY 1: CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS (ONE-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency. A local house of worship with a reputation for community engagement and a significant-sized congregation would be the ideal partner to work with law enforcement to turn out a good-sized group.
 - Step 2: Designate a topic focus and identify invitees from (a) the congregation, (b) the law enforcement agency, (c) 1-2 additional participants, ideally from community organizations that engage issues of policing or racial justice, and (d) a facilitator who is comfortable with sensitive topics. Confirm two people to provide introductory remarks, ideally a faith and law enforcement leader.
 - Step 3: Identify and confirm the venue.
 - Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 5: Have the facilitator create initial questions that can open up the topic for discussion.
 - Step 6: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 7: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: Participants should arrive 15 minutes before the discussion starts.
 - Step 2: At the start of the event, a welcome should be given by the host of the physical space and then introductory remarks should be given by someone from law enforcement and the house of worship. (3 minutes).
 - Step 3: The facilitator will then allow each of the participants to give a 30-second introduction (12 minutes). (If doing a panel, allow for longer introductions.)
 - Step 4: The facilitator will describe the topic for discussion and establish ground rules for the discussion.
 - Step 5: The first question/topic for discussion will be provided, and a conversation will commence.
 - Step 6: Closing remarks from the facilitator to summarize the dialogue and to thank everyone for coming (5 minutes).
 - Step 7: Break down.
 - Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

This activity can be organized as a Zoom discussion.

- Step 1: Zoom or another videoconferencing software should be selected. Make sure all participants have access to, and are familiar with, the software you choose. You may want to schedule a trial run-through if you are doing a panel. Have the speakers sign in 15 minutes before the start of the discussion.
- Step 2: Starting two weeks in advanced, the event should be promoted heavily through the existing channels of the organizations that will be sending participants. A media advisory should also be used to reach the public that lists an email for RSVPs.
- Step 3: The format should follow the same order as the in-person activity. Those not speaking should be muted.
- Step 4: The event should be recorded and made available on the pages of the participating community organizations.



ACTIVITY 2 - COMMUNITY DIALOGUE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

A conversation on public safety and how community members, faith leaders, and law enforcement can work together to ensure safe neighborhoods while protecting the rights of those who are policed. The conversation will be a small panel, with representatives from the law enforcement agency, the hosting house of worship, a community member with some expertise in criminal justice (such as a local professor or prominent attorney), and a representative of a community organization.

Materials Needed

Table cards for the panel, microphones and audio equipment, and name tags for attendees, along with chairs. Water for the panel.

Location Needed

The setting can be outdoors or indoors. Church grounds or a fellowship hall will serve well.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To designate a member of leadership to speak, to encourage parishioners to attend, to provide a meeting space.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate a member of department leadership to speak, to encourage members of the force to attend as audience members.

How to Create Connections

Through the use of a breakout session that divides the audience into smaller groups to discuss particular challenges and opportunities in public safety.

Planning Timeline - minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency. A local house of worship with a reputation for community engagement and a significant-sized congregation would be the ideal partner to work with law enforcement to turn out a good-sized crowd.
- Step 2: Designate a safety-related topic focus and identify speakers from both the congregation and the law enforcement agency, 1-2 additional speakers, and a moderator. Identify facilitators for breakout sessions if you feel the crowd will be large and smaller groups better for discussion.
- Step 3: Identify and confirm the venue.
- Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.



ACTIVITY 2 - COMMUNITY DIALOGUE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline - continued

- Step 5: Confirm speakers, gather bios, and create event agenda with topic and speaker bios.
 - Step 6: Within 7 days, have a quick run-through — whether the event is onsite or via Zoom — with representatives of the house of worship, law enforcement agency, speakers, moderator, sponsors, photographer, and anyone else who needs to understand the setup and event order for planning purposes to allow for changes and updates.
 - Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 8: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: Panelists should arrive 30 minutes before the forum starts and, along with the moderator, have an initial discussion; ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 2: At the start of the event, a welcome should be given by the host of the physical space (3 minutes).
 - Step 3: The moderator will then allow each of the panelists to give a three-minute introduction (12 minutes).
 - Step 4: Pre-selected questions to each of the panelists, directed by the moderator (20 minutes).
 - Step 5: Spontaneous questions from the audience will be handed to volunteers and given to the moderator, who will select, or may choose to summarize if a common theme is noted, and ask three questions (10 minutes).
 - Step 6: (Optional) Breakout groups (encourage people to join groups with those they do not know) discuss ways to collaborate to create inclusive and effective public safety (15 minutes).
 - Step 7: Report outs from each of the groups (1 minute per group).
 - Step 8: Closing remarks from the panel (10 minutes).
 - Step 9: Closing remarks from the moderator to summarize the dialogue and to thank everyone for coming (3 minutes).
 - Step 10: Break down.
 - Step 11: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

Hold an online community forum where community members can ask questions and answers can be shared with a broad audience.

- Step 1: Secure Zoom or other online videoconferencing tool. Make sure all speakers have access to, and are familiar with, the software you choose. You may want to sign in with each for a brief run-through. Have the speakers sign in 15 minutes before the start of the panel.
- Step 2: Gather questions in advance.
- Step 3: Bring together panelists at an assigned time.
- Step 4: Have a moderator lead the discussion with the questions submitted in advance.
- Step 5: Allow audience members to submit questions to the moderator in real time. Zoom also allows for breakout rooms if you would like to divide the group into small discussions. For information on how to do breakouts, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206476313>.
- Step 6: Make the video available in real time or as a recording.



ACTIVITY 3: BOOK DISCUSSION (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity is an informal way to begin discussions between members of the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement. This allows dialogue to be centered around a chosen book and provides a more intimate atmosphere for a smaller group activity.

Materials Needed

Book, table, chairs, and snacks (if desired).

Location Needed

The activity can take place in a room located within the house of worship or the local library.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To reach out to members to attend and to manage the logistics of hosting the event.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

Have members of the local department participate in an activity.

How to Create Connections

Informal conversations between officers and residents during the discussion will allow for personal connection during discussions surrounding the chosen book. The book can be thoughtfully picked to decide the intended focus topic.



ACTIVITY 3: BOOK DISCUSSION (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
 - Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location). Libraries are good, neutral locations and often have librarians who can participate and give some background to the book.
 - Step 3: Choose a book, ideally announced 10 days from the event date.
 - Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 5: Create a list of participants with a healthy mix of law enforcement officers and members of the congregation. Make sure each has a copy of or access to the book.
 - Step 6: Designate an individual to lead a topic discussion and create questions that will enhance participation among group members.
 - Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 8: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: Activity leader(s) should arrive for set up at least 15-30 minutes in advance; food and drink can be set up at this time if it is being offered.
 - Step 2: After most attendees arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcoming remarks.
 - Step 3: Activity leader(s) should explain how the book discussion will take place with the group.
 - Step 4: Discussion.
 - Step 5: Have a closing speaker to summarize the event's goals and to thank everyone for coming. Because this is usually a smaller group, it may be appropriate to take a group photo at the end versus numerous photos throughout the discussion.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

You can organize a virtual book discussion.

- Step 1: Zoom or a similar video option is put in place.
- Step 2: Participants are identified, along with a book or article that speaks to ways that people come together.
- Step 3: Spokesperson from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provides welcoming remarks.
- Step 4: A facilitator is selected to facilitate the discussion and then to offer a summary.
- Step 5: A screenshot is taken of all participants in the discussion.
- Step 6: A recording of the discussion is shared on the social media pages of the house of worship and law enforcement agency.



ACTIVITY 4: VIGIL FOR UNDERSTANDING

Short Overview

This activity brings together a diverse cross-section of community members, including from law enforcement agencies and the faith community, to share words and prayers calling for mutual understanding. The activity should not be seen as advancing a particular perspective as much as creating space for participants to offer their perspective on how to come together, give voice to challenges, and heal divisions.

Materials Needed

Microphones and audio equipment, name tags for speakers, and chairs.

Location Needed

The setting can be outdoors or indoors. Church grounds or a fellowship hall will serve well. If possible, the event should be livestreamed.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To designate members to speak, to encourage parishioners to attend, to provide a meeting space, to recruit members from the broader public to attend, and to identify select speakers for the vigil.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate members of department leadership to speak and to encourage members of the force to attend as audience members.

How to Create Connections

By providing space for community members and leaders to listen to each other and offer words of mutual support and understanding.



ACTIVITY 4: VIGIL FOR UNDERSTANDING

Planning Timeline — minimum 10 days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to a local house of worship that has a reputation for community engagement and a significant-sized congregation if you are law enforcement, or if you are representing a house of worship, reach out to a local law enforcement agency. The request should be to designate two co-hosts of the vigil, one from law enforcement and one from the house of worship. The house of worship and law enforcement agency should also identify two speakers for the vigil.
- Step 2: Reach out to other houses of worship and community organizations and ask that they identify a speaker for the vigil. About seven speakers in total should be identified.
- Step 3: Confirm the venue and form a promotional team that will distribute information about the activity through social media, in printed materials, to community organizations, and in appeals to membership.
- Step 4: Create the agenda for the vigil (optional: a topic can be given to each of the speakers, such as “reducing bias,” “safety in fulfilling law enforcement duties,” “how to understand another’s perspective,” “creating healing,” etc).
- Step 5: Ask the speakers to promote the vigil to their respective networks.
- Step 6: Hold the vigil.

Virtual option: The vigil can be held via Zoom or other videoconferencing software. It can also be integrated into a religious service that is already scheduled.

- Step 1: Speakers should arrive 30 minutes before the vigil starts (15 minutes if it’s an online vigil), and along with the moderator, have an initial discussion to review the agenda.
- Step 2: At the start of the event, a welcome should be given by one of the co-hosts (3 minutes).
- Step 3: Remarks from each of the speakers.
- Step 4: Closing remarks from the other co-host (10 minutes).
- Step 5: A recording of the vigil should be made available to the public through the online channels of the house of worship and law enforcement agency.
- Step 6: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.



ACTIVITY 5: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND UNITY MARCH (TWO-HOUR EVENT)EVENT

Short Overview

This activity is intended to take place outside and the organizer can designate a walking route that starts at the house of worship or law enforcement agency and ends there or another location. Members of the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement can create signs that speak to matters of peace and justice, either on their own or this could be done together the week prior to the event day. The activity will include time for attendees to mingle before and after the walk. Delivery of remarks by representatives of the house of worship, law enforcement agency, and community leaders can be done before and after the walk.

Materials Needed

Poster board, markers, sound system/microphone to address crowd participants.

Location Needed

Determine walk start and end location. Map a safe route for the group walk.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To reach out to members to attend, coordinate volunteers to manage the logistics of hosting.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send as many members of the local department to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to assist in the solicitation of donations. Law enforcement can come out of uniform but wear polos or t-shirts or badges so that community members know who they are.

How to Create Connections

This activity will allow members of the house of worship, community, and law enforcement to come together and support each other in peaceful demonstrations that will reach an even broader audience within the community by creating signs and walking through local communities.

Planning Timeline — minimum two weeks from event date, depending on permitting requirements, if any

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Reach out to community organizations that engage issues of justice and ask that they designate speakers.
- Step 3: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather); apply for any required permits for large crowds, especially if you believe the march will block streets.
- Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.



ACTIVITY 5: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND UNITY MARCH (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — continued

- Step 4: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency and create the event agenda with route length included, such as “1-mile march,” and start location. Wait until the event to hand out the actual route in case of changes.
 - Step 5: Recruit volunteers to manage on-site assistance and to direct walkers along the route; leaders from a house of worship and law enforcement agency may want to walk the route in advance to be familiar with any obstacles it may present.
 - Step 6: (optional) Create a night at the house of worship to draw and make signs together.
 - Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 8: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: Set up committee arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 minutes in advance.
 - Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place along the route to take photos.
 - Step 3: Before the walk starts, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide a welcome and thoughts for the peace, justice, and unity march.
 - Step 4: Organize an activity (such as talking to three people you don’t know whose sign you like during the march) to be done during the march and offer certificates (e.g., Most interesting fact learned about police by a community member and about community member by police, most names learned along the walk, etc.) and/or small prizes for winners at the concluding event space.
 - Step 5: Once most marchers have arrived at the end location, have closing speakers summarize the march’s goals for peace and justice and thank everyone for coming.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

You can organize a virtual march where people share their thoughts and images online.

- Step 1: Create a Facebook event page.
- Step 2: Ask members of law enforcement, community organizations, and members of the house of worship to record and post a short video about their thoughts on how to support peace and justice.
- Step 3: Ask participants to post a photo with their families, carrying a sign with messages about peace and justice.
- Step 4: Take and post screenshots at the beginning and end of the virtual march.



ACTIVITY 6: ESSAY CONTEST

Short Overview

Young adult members of a house of worship, and the general public, will be encouraged to write an essay on a topic related to policing. The topic will be identified by an award committee made up of representatives from (at the minimum) a house of worship(s) and a local law enforcement agency. The topic should inquire about issues related to public safety, overcoming bias, mutual understanding, and other contemporary issues that engage the intersection between law enforcement and community safety.

Materials Needed

Plaques can be ordered for the top three winners. Local businesses can also be approached to offer a gift card to the winners.

Location Needed

None needed.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To engage their young adult members to participate in the activity, to appoint adult members to serve on the award committee, and to promote the activity in its online media.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To appoint members to serve on the award committee, to promote the activity in its online media, and to publicize the winner(s) to media contacts.

How to Create Connections

The award committee will facilitate connections between law enforcement officers and community leaders as they serve together. Also, essay writers will have the opportunity to consider different perspectives, including those of law enforcement, as they develop their paper.



ACTIVITY 6: ESSAY CONTEST

Planning Timeline — minimum two weeks to receive essays

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Recruit an award committee, made up of membership from the agency and the house of worship.
- Step 3: Select the topic(s) to be written about, defining the specific question to address, the date of submission required (it is recommended that there be at least a two-week span: one week for submissions to be collected and one week for the award committee to read and decide on a winner(s)), categories (such as by age), and the criteria of submissions (number of words, how they are to be submitted).
- Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship to send an email and social post to members about the contest, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) reaching out to local schools to promote the contest, etc.
- Step 5: Engage with local businesses to solicit gift cards or other prizes.
- Step 6: Collect submissions and distribute to the award committee.
- Step 7: Bring together (virtually or in person) the award committee to discuss the submissions and select winner(s).
- Step 8: Select the means (virtual or in person, date, time) to make the announcement of the winners.
- Step 9: Plan to announce winners at a service or stand-alone event timed with National Faith & Blue Weekend, on social media, and to local media.

Day of Steps

- Step 1: Select a member of the award committee to make the announcement.
- Step 2: Identify and publicize the virtual meeting link, if applicable.
- Step 3: Pick up the award and any prizes.
- Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos. If not in person, remember to take screenshots.
- Step 5: Have an opening speaker describe the background of the contest and National Faith & Blue Weekend.
- Step 6: Have a member of the award committee present the winner and prize.
- Step 7: Publicize the winner through the social and media channels of the law enforcement agency and the house of worship.
- Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.



ACTIVITY 7: MUSIC FESTIVAL (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

The concert will be an informal talent show with representatives from the house of worship and the local law enforcement agency providing musical representation. Also, a local band and the church choir can be engaged to sing at the concert. Tickets could be charged, with the proceeds donated to a charity; however, please note that law enforcement cannot gather or distribute money, so this must be done by the faith organization or a representative from the charity receiving the donation.

Materials Needed

A stage or riser if held outdoors, chairs, microphones, soundboard, and speakers/amplifiers.

Location Needed

For an outdoor setting, a park. Indoors, a fellowship hall will work well and often have the audio equipment needed.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To provide acts for the performance, to potentially host the event in their hall, to provide a leader to offer welcoming remarks, to provide a choir if possible.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the force to attend the performance, and if possible, to provide musicians to perform. To also have a leader of the force offer remarks to the audience.

How to Create Connections

During the performance, offer a 15-minute intermission for audience members to introduce themselves to their neighbors, with the goal of each member of the house of worship meeting at least two police officers, and each police officer meeting at least two members of the congregation.

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date, preferably 30+ days

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify and secure location (if outside, identify backup location or date in case of bad weather).
- Step 3: Design your concert — the number of musical groups, type of music, theme, food/drink options, free or ticketed. Ticketing can be set up through Eventbrite or a similar online system.
- Step 4: Recruit musical groups from the church, the community, and the law enforcement agency. The performances should be volunteer.
- Step 5: Contact local vendors to see if they will donate food or if they want to set up booths/food trucks to sell food/drink.
- Step 6: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.



ACTIVITY 7: MUSIC FESTIVAL (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — continued

- Step 7: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
 - Step 8: Secure any audio or video needs, along with chairs and a stage.
 - Step 9: Within seven days, have a quick run through with the musical groups, representatives of the house of worship, law enforcement agency, volunteer lead, sponsors, photographer, and anyone else who needs to understand the setup and event order for planning purposes to allow for changes and updates.
 - Step 10: Confirm musical acts and create event agenda/lineup.
 - Step 11: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 12: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: The bands should arrive early for sound checks — at least an hour, depending on the number of musical groups in the lineup.
 - Step 2: Set up committee arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 minutes in advance.
 - Step 3: After most attendees arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcoming remarks, usually within 30 minutes of the official start time.
 - Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 5: Performances and intermission.
 - Step 6: Concluding remarks and thank you by faith leader and leader of the law enforcement agency to summarize the event's goals and to thank everyone for coming.
 - Step 7: Break down.
 - Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

An online concert can be scheduled where the musicians perform from their homes. To implement this option, follow the same steps as an in-person event, recruiting musicians, creating a lineup, and engaging in a rehearsal.

- Step 1: Identify musicians.
- Step 2: Establish the lineup/order of performance.
- Step 3: Select a Master of Ceremonies.
- Step 4: Promote the event and create a Facebook page to host the concert.
- Step 5: Organize a rehearsal.
- Step 6: Hold the event, livestreaming if possible to the page of law enforcement agency and the house of worship. Make the recording available afterwards to both partners.
- Step 7: Share a clip of the recording at a religious service and a Sergeant's Meeting.



ACTIVITY 8: ART FESTIVAL (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity can take place either indoors or outside and carry a specific theme (e.g., community, peace, etc.). The art festival is a chance for members of the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement to meet and participate in this publicized event. The activity can be open to the community or members within the house of worship and can focus on youth art entries or various ages. The event can conclude with awards for top entries and will include time for attendees to mingle and a chance for the delivery of remarks by representatives of the house of worship and law enforcement agency. The art festival could include fine arts, theatrical performances, dance, etc.

Materials Needed

Wall space or areas where art can be hung or placed, space for performance, microphone, awards or gift certificate for winning entries, which can be sought through donations from local businesses.

Location Needed

A local park or the grounds of the house of worship. A fellowship hall can also be used or a larger common space area within the house of worship.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To reach out to members to attend, coordinate volunteers, organize contestant entries, and manage the logistics of hosting the event to create space for participant's art.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local department to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, and to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap up.

How to Create Connections

This activity can be a large-scale event and allow for sizable community involvement. Participants can remain with their art pieces and engage community and law enforcement attendees, as well as make a connection through crowd mingling. The heart of this activity is the informal conversation between officers and residents; however, many people are unsure how to start the conversation. Therefore, we suggest you encourage dialogue by asking that each community member and officer speak to three people they don't know, set up a receiving line, or create a game with prizes, such as a \$25 local restaurant gift card for those who discover three fun facts they learned from another participant.

Judges from the house of worship, community, and law enforcement can be selected or there can be a voting system created for the community to help select winners.



ACTIVITY 8: ART FESTIVAL (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum 14 days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
 - Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather).
 - Step 3: Reach out to local vendors to see if they will donate gift certificates.
 - Step 4: Create sign-up for participant entries to ensure space with a description of what is appropriate for the event, such as “family-friendly” or “maximum of 10 art pieces” or “dance programs 5-10 minutes” and how participants will be chosen, such as “first 5 artists to sign up” or “anyone signed up by X date.”
 - Step 5: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 6: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement, select artists and judges (if using), create map/layout of festival, and create agenda/timeline for event.
 - Step 7: Get volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
 - Step 8: Develop a “run of show” timeline and, within seven days, have a quick run through with the faith community host, the law enforcement agency, art judges, and artists/dancers, etc., so they can see the setup and be properly equipped.
 - Step 9: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 10: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Set up committee arrive early; food and drinks (if offering any) should arrive 30 minutes in advance.
 - Step 2: After most attendees arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcoming remarks and introduce judges (if using) and/or event moderator/emcee.
 - Step 3: Organize activity (such as talking to three artists and/or judging favorite pieces for “audience choice”).
 - Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 5: Have a closing speaker to announce the winner(s) (if a contest), to summarize the event’s goals, and to thank everyone for coming.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

You can organize a virtual art gallery, complete with a selection committee and diverse mediums.

- Step 1: Recruit participants who will create art, sculptures, or theatrical pieces.
- Step 2: Create a Facebook event page to display the artwork.
- Step 3: Set a deadline for uploading artwork.
- Step 4: Send certificate to the artist whose creation gets the most likes.
- Step 5: Consider putting together a judging committee.
- Step 6: Have a judging committee select winners in categories, such as by age or type of artwork.



ACTIVITY 9: DANCE CONTEST (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity can take place either indoors or outside and carry a specific theme (e.g., community, peace, etc.). The dance contest is a chance for members of the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement to meet and participate in this publicized event. The activity can be open to the community or members within the house of worship and can focus on youth dances or various ages. The event can conclude with an award ceremony for the best performance and an opening with delivery remarks by representatives of the house of worship and law enforcement.

Materials Needed

Stage or area where dances can take place, chairs, music/sound system, microphone, awards or gift certificate for winning entries, which can be sought through donations from local businesses.

Location Needed

A local park with a stage or the grounds of the house of worship. A fellowship hall can also be used or a larger common space area within the house of worship. This needs to be a place where attendees can be seated for the performances.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To reach out to members to attend, coordinate volunteers, to organize contestant entries, and to manage the logistics of hosting the event and creating a space to successfully run each performance.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local agency to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to assist in the solicitation of donations, to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap up.

How to Create Connections

This activity can be a large-scale event and allow for sizable community involvement. Judges from the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement can be selected or there can be a voting system created for the attendees to help select winners. Once the performances are completed, the awards ceremony can allow attendees to interact with participants and connect through crowd mingling.

Planning Timeline — minimum 10 days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather).
- Step 3: Reach out to local vendors to see if they will donate food and/or gift certificates for winners.
- Step 4: Create sign-up for participant entries to ensure space (can also hold auditions if there is a large interest to create finalists for the contest).
- Step 5: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.



ACTIVITY 9: DANCE CONTEST (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — continued

- Step 6: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency, select judges, and create agenda/run-of-show.
 - Step 7: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
 - Step 8: Within seven days, have a quick run through with representatives of the contestants, representatives of the house of worship and law enforcement agency, volunteer lead, sponsors, photographer, and anyone else who needs to understand the setup and event order for planning purposes to allow for changes and updates. If time and available location, have a final dress rehearsal.
 - Step 9: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 10: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Set up committee arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 minutes in advance.
 - Step 2: Perform equipment audio/visual check.
 - Step 3: After most participants and audience members arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcome, thoughts, and introduce judges.
 - Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 5: Performance (intermission can be included; depending on the number of dances chosen).
 - Step 6: Have a closing speaker to summarize the event's goals, announce the winner(s), thank everyone, and signal closing of the event.
 - Step 7: Break down.
 - Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

A video dance contest can be organized; make sure to include dancers from the house of worship and the law enforcement agency as well!

- Step 1: An event page is created on the house of worship's social media platform(s).
- Step 2: A welcoming video is taped by the faith leader and by the law enforcement leader.
- Step 3: A deadline is set for participants to submit their clips, which must be less than a designated length.
- Step 4: House of worship members and law enforcement members are invited to view and 'like' the videos.
- Step 5: The promotional committee selects a winning video or designates categories for winners. A special win is provided to the video with the most likes.
- Step 6: Trophies can be sent to the winners.



ACTIVITY 10 - PICNIC/BARBECUE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

An open-air activity with an indoor backup option, the picnic is a chance for members of the house of worship, the broader community, and law enforcement to meet in an informal setting. The activity will include time for attendees to eat and mingle and a chance for the delivery of remarks by representatives of the house of worship and law enforcement.

Materials Needed

Tables, tablecloths, plates, cutlery, and cups for food and beverages. A megaphone or microphone and speaker for the delivery of remarks. Food can be sought through donations from local businesses or as a potluck. Name tags and markers.

Location Needed

A local park or the grounds of the house of worship. A fellowship hall can be used as a rain backup.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To reach out to members to attend, coordinate volunteers, organize the food, and manage the logistics of hosting the event.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local agency to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap up.

How to Create Connections

The heart of this activity is the informal conversation between officers and residents; however, many people are unsure how to start the conversation. Therefore, we suggest you encourage dialogue by asking that each community member and officer speak to three people they don't know, set up a receiving line, or create a game with prizes, such as a \$25 local restaurant gift card for those who discover three fun facts they learned from an officer.



ACTIVITY 10 - PICNIC/BARBECUE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline - minimum seven days from event date, preferably 60+ days

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
 - Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather).
 - Step 3: Reach out to local vendors to see if they will donate food; create alternate plans for a potluck.
 - Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 5: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency and create an agenda.
 - Step 6: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
 - Step 7: Within seven days, have a quick run through with representatives of the house of worship, law enforcement agency, volunteer lead, sponsors, photographer, and anyone else who needs to understand the setup and event order for planning purposes to allow for changes and updates.
 - Step 8: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 9: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Set up committee arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 minutes in advance.
 - Step 2: After most attendees arrive, have spokespersons from house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcoming remarks, usually within 30-60 minutes of official start time and at least by the halfway point of the event.
 - Step 3: Organize activity (such as talking to three people you don't know).
 - Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 5: Have a closing speaker to summarize the event's goals and to thank everyone for coming.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

You can organize a virtual potluck where law enforcement members and members of the house of worship bless the food, share recipes, take photographs of culinary creations being prepared and enjoyed, and put together a cookbook for distribution.

- Step 1: Create an event page on Facebook.
- Step 2: Have participants post their favorite recipes.
- Step 3: Have the faith leader tape a recording of blessing the food.
- Step 4: Post photos of the prepared food and of sharing the food with family members.
- Step 5: Consider putting together a cookbook with the recipes and photos for distribution to members of the house of worship.



ACTIVITY 11 - ATHLETIC EVENT (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

An activity that brings community members and law enforcement officers together through an informal athletic event, such as a softball or basketball game.

Materials Needed

Water, light snacks, colored 'pennies' (can be picked up at a local sporting goods store), sports equipment.

Location Needed

Either a baseball/softball diamond or a basketball court. Volleyball or kickball is also an option. Fields and courts can usually be reserved through a local recreation department.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To invite members to participate; reach out to the youth group, members men's and women's groups, etc. To designate a member of leadership to deliver the welcoming and closing remarks.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members to participate. To designate a member of leadership to deliver welcoming and closing remarks.

How to Create Connections

Rather than have teams be law enforcement vs. community members, mix them up to create blended teams. During the game, have the leadership and community leader take turns blowing a whistle to stop the game and ask a question about the community and about the law enforcement agency. Whichever team answers correctly first earns their team a point. Then restart the game. After the game, encourage the teams to go to a local restaurant to celebrate or have a tables set up nearby with snacks and water/soft drinks to mingle and talk.

Planning Timeline - minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify a date and secure location (and backup date in case of bad weather). Decide if you want to provide refreshments, such as water, soft drinks, or snacks, to the team members as well as spectators.
- Step 3: Reach out to members of the law enforcement department and the house of worship to secure player sign-ups; ensure at least 20 people for a softball game and 10 for a basketball game. Remember to find coaches and umpires to support the game.
- Step 4: Buy (or ask for donation of) a trophy from a local sports shop to provide to the winner. Alternatively, you can create certificates for each of the winners with a place to add their name and for representatives of the law enforcement agency and house of worship to pre-sign on the bottom.



ACTIVITY 11 - ATHLETIC EVENT (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline - continued

- Step 5: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 6: Confirm players from the house of worship and law enforcement agency. You may include fun/unusual/humorous facts about the players to set the mood. You can either assign teams in advance or bring markers and paper to write names down and draw teams at the event.
 - Step 7: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down, including how you will handle water/snack distribution.
 - Step 8: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 9: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Set up committee, food/drink, players, coaches, and umpires should arrive 30 minutes before the game warm-up starts.
 - Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 3: Have pre-game remarks delivered by a faith leader and leader of the law enforcement agency.
 - Step 4: Start game, keep score, announce a winner.
 - Step 5: Have closing remarks delivered by a faith leader and representative of the law enforcement agency with a summary of the event's success and a thank you for all attendees.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

A virtual gaming contest can be held through an online game, such as Madden, Fortnite, or NBA 2K.

- Step 1: Identify players and the video game to be used.
- Step 2: Make teams, mixing players between law enforcement agency and members of the house of worship.
- Step 3: Schedule the game and, if possible, utilize Twitch or other gaming service to broadcast the competition on the Facebook pages of the house of worship
- Step 4: If you have a lot of participants, you can organize a bracket and then have a tournament.
- Step 5: If the contest is not being played live, select a game and the criteria for how it will be played and the day on which it will be played. Then have players take a screenshot of their score and post it to a Facebook event page.
- Step 6: Order a trophy and send it to the winner.



ACTIVITY 12: PARADE (ONE-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity is designed to be a short-and-sweet way to bring the community and law enforcement together. A parade of people, bikes, and cars will be lined up, intermingling patrol cars and community cars. Every car will have a pro-community message attached to each side. Children will be encouraged to make signs and decorate cars. Floats could also be designed. The parade will follow a designated route, and houses and businesses on the route will be encouraged to make and display their own signs. You can add a rally prior to the drive and/or a small rally at the conclusion of the drive to support the participants and to thank them.

Materials Needed

Poster paper, markers, balloons, tape. Blue painters tape to attach signage. A megaphone will be needed if a congregational leader plans to speak during the parade. Be sure to research any permitting requirements needed for parades in your community.

Location Needed

The drive will be outdoors along a prescribed route. We recommend approximately a mile or less as you will be driving slowly and have multiple vehicles. We also recommend choosing a popular retail or residential area or major streets around a key neighborhood meeting point like a house of worship or a community center. Before the drive, poster and sign making can be done indoors, such as in a fellowship hall.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To designate a member of leadership to speak at the kick-off/conclusion of the drive and to encourage members to attend.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate a member of department leadership to speak at the kick-off and/or conclusion of the drive and to encourage members of the force to drive their vehicles at the activity.

How to Create Connections

Through informal conversations at the sign-making and car-decorating session, as well as at the pre- and post-parade rally, if you choose to have one.



ACTIVITY 12: PARADE (ONE-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency. Multiple houses of worship can also participate, as can multiple law enforcement agencies.
 - Step 2: Set the time and date for the activity; the line-up time should be 30 minutes before the parade begins.
 - Step 3: Work with law enforcement to establish a route for the parade and acquire any permits that may be necessary in your community; also establish a line-up location, such as a house of worship parking lot.
 - Step 4: Host a call with leaders for the participating organizations to discuss the logistics.
 - Step 5: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 6: Make and distribute a poster to homes and businesses along the route, encouraging residents and business owners to keep their lights on and to make their signs. Suggest pro-community messages that can be used.
 - Step 7: Identify an opening and closing speaker from law enforcement and from a house of worship.
 - Step 8: Identify the space and time for sign-making and car- or bike-decorating sessions. We recommend this be done in advance; however, you can add these sessions to the beginning of your parade event.
 - Step 9: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 10: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Gather posters/signs to adhere to cars.
 - Step 2: Arrive at the line-up location and have volunteers help direct cars to mix between law enforcement and civilian vehicles.
 - Step 3: After most cars arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement provide welcoming remarks through megaphones. Some houses of worship have an FM broadcast station that can be used to deliver remarks.
 - Step 4: Commence driving the route. Law enforcement may be able to provide an escort so that cars can proceed safely in a line and at a slow pace.
 - Step 5: Ensure photographers are in place along the route to take photos.
 - Step 6: At the end of the route, which should be where the lineup occurred, have closing remarks delivered.
 - Step 7: Break down.
 - Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.



ACTIVITY 13: LAW ENFORCEMENT OPEN HOUSE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

An informal activity that is kid-oriented. Officers will bring their (safe) equipment and cruisers to the parking lot of a house of worship where children will have the chance to interact with the equipment, such as turning on and off the lights of a cruiser. Adults can also have a meaningful conversation with law officers to better understand how and why equipment is utilized.

Materials Needed

Light food, coffee, and drinks. Often can be secured through donations by a local supermarket or restaurant.

Location Needed

A parking lot, preferably the house of worship so that congregation members can feel comfortable.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To host the event.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send officers and equipment to the activity.

How to Create Connections

Informal connections will be created between officers and congregants. The heart of this activity is the informal conversation between officers and residents; however, many people are unsure how to start the conversation. Therefore, we suggest you encourage dialogue by creating a game with prizes, such as police logoed pens or pads of paper for every child who can tell the officers three facts they learned from their visit that day. You can also create scorecards with checkboxes or Bingo cards with squares that require kids to go from station to station to learn a fact about that piece of law enforcement equipment or the community. To add an additional level of depth, adults can speak with law enforcement officers about the equipment and how they decide when to use them and what goes into their decision making.

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather). Notify nearby neighbors that there will be sirens being pressed during the time of the event and invite them to attend.
- Step 3: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.



ACTIVITY 13: LAW ENFORCEMENT OPEN HOUSE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — continued

- Step 4: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency and create event agenda.
 - Step 5: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
 - Step 6: Organize an activity (such as talking to three people you don't know, three fun facts you learned today, or a Bingo card/checklist to show you visited each station) to be done during the event and offer certificates and/or small prizes for those who complete the task.
 - Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 8: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
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- Step 1: Law enforcement arrive early to the location and set up stations for visitation (should have markers, stamps, or hole punches to mark off gamecards, if using); members of the congregation arrive early to volunteer.
 - Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 3: After most attendees arrive, have spokespersons from the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide welcoming remarks, usually within 30-60 minutes of official start time, and at least by the halfway point of the event.
 - Step 4: Tour/meet and greet occurs.
 - Step 5: Have a closing speaker to summarize the event's goals and to thank everyone for coming.
 - Step 6: Break down.
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

Law enforcement officers can create a video tour of their office and walk through the different equipment that they utilize.

- Step 1: A welcoming video is taped by both the faith leader and a leader from the law enforcement agency on a Facebook page created for the event.
- Step 2: Law enforcement officers create and post small videos on the different equipment in their office.
- Step 3: Children from the house of worship post comments, asking questions about the different equipment.
- Step 4: Law enforcement officers provide responses and answers.



ACTIVITY 14: FOOTBALL TAILGATE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity can take place at a parking lot near the football stadium or at a public park or the premises of a house of worship (if the game is being played without a crowd). Football Tailgate is a chance for members of the house of worship, law enforcement, and the broader college football community to meet and participate in a celebration of their local college or high-school team. This activity can include grilling, games such as cornhole, and time to mingle between law enforcement and the community. The activity can also include a raffle for items donated by local businesses, and/or a chili contest or ice cream social.

Materials Needed

Outdoor grill, cornhole (or any tailgating game), game day paraphernalia. A television or projector and screen to broadcast the game, if possible.

Location Needed

A parking lot at the local college football stadium, a public park or on the premises of a house of worship.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To invite members to participate; if a high school game, reach out to families of students and if a college game, reach out to students; organize the food; organize tailgating games; designate volunteer coordinators. To have a faith leader deliver remarks at the start or conclusion of the event.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local department to the activity; designate one or two members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap up. To have a member of the force deliver remarks at the start or conclusion of the event.

How to Create Connections

The heart of this activity is unity between officers and residents over the shared support of their local football team. Attendees should share food and have informal discussions.



ACTIVITY 14: FOOTBALL TAILGATE (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship of law enforcement agency
- Step 2: Secure location and date and team to support
- Step 3: Reach out to local vendors to see if they will donate food; purchase tailgate food that can be easily cooked on a grill such as hot dogs and hamburgers. Secure tailgating games such as cornhole and horseshoes.
- Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social post to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
- Step 5: Recruit volunteers for setting up and breaking down.
- Step 6: Within seven days of the event, coordinate with all representatives to ensure the supply of games and food is managed.
- Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
- Step 8: Send pictures and summary to National Faith and Blue Staff on the event.

Day of Steps

- Step 1: Set up team arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 mins in advance.
- Step 2: After most attendees arrive, have a spokesperson from the house of worship and law enforcement provide welcoming remarks, usually after 30 mins of the official start.
- Step 3: Organize activities such as cornhole and horseshoes between law enforcement and the house of worship members during halftime.
- Step 4: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos
- Step 6: Have closing remarks to summarize the event's goals and thank everyone for coming.
- Step 7: Break down
- Step 8: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

- Step 1: Create a Facebook event page
- Step 2: Organize house football viewing parties across multiple homes, at least one for law enforcement and one from the house of worship, and connect via zoom.
- Step 3: Have law enforcement and faith leaders deliver welcoming remarks
- Step 4: At halftime, have the viewing parties each offer a cheer with a faith leader and member of law enforcement serving as the judge to determine the winner (a trophy could be secured and provided to the winner)



ACTIVITY 15: MOVIE NIGHT (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

This activity offers a social way for law enforcement and the community to get to know each other. In the activity, a portable screen is put up either indoors or on a field, and a family-friendly movie is shown. Food stations can be set up and opening remarks can be delivered by officers, community leaders, and religious leaders. The activity can also include a raffle (local businesses can be approached to donate items) with the funds going to a local charity. Face painting can also be provided.

Materials Needed

Portable screen, LCD projector, extension cord, DVD player or laptop with Internet connection, microphone and speaker (if a lot of people are expected), tables, garbage bin.

Location Needed

Open field, parking lot, or auditorium (consider a worship or social hall). An inclement weather backup is strongly recommended.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To invite members to participate, coordinate volunteers, co-manage logistics, provide space if needed, and have a member of the clergy offer opening remarks.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local agency to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap-up.

How to Create Connections

The heart of this activity is in creating informal connections between community members and law enforcement officers. For that purpose, the event should start at least 20 minutes before the movie starts for casual conversation, and an intermission can be held midway through the screening. During the intermission, audience members can introduce themselves to their neighbors, with the goal of each member of the house of worship meeting at least two police officers, and each police officer meeting at least two members of the public.



ACTIVITY 15: MOVIE NIGHT (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum 10 days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Secure location, date, and film to show
- Step 3: Reach out to local vendors to see if they will donate food or items for a raffle. Optional: Secure games such as cornhole and horseshoes.
- Step 4: Secure the screening items (projector, etc).
- Step 5: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social post to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a worship service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
- Step 6: Recruit volunteers for setting up and breaking down.
- Step 7: Within seven days of the event, coordinate with all representatives to ensure all items are secured.
- Step 8: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
- Step 9: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Day of Steps

- Step 1: Set up team should arrive early; food and drinks should arrive 30 minutes in advance. Tables for food should be set up on the periphery. Remember trash bins!
- Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
- Step 3: After most attendees arrive, have a spokesperson from the house of worship and law enforcement provide welcoming remarks before the movie commences.
- Step 4: Have intermission/meet your neighbor.
- Step 5: Have closing remarks to summarize the event's goals and thank everyone for coming.
- Step 6: Break down.
- Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to sponsoring organizations, including the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, Faith & Blue, and any sponsors.

Virtual Programming

- Step 1: Create a Facebook event page
- Step 2: Select the film and create a Zoom link. Have a tech-savvy volunteer share their screen and display the movie across their connection. Alternatively, every streaming service offers “watch parties” where many viewers can watch the same movie at the same time and even offer comments in real time. This includes Disney + (Group Watch), Hulu (Watch Party), Amazon (Watch Party), and Netflix (Teleparty). Other services include TwoSeven and Scener.
- Step 3: Have law enforcement and faith leaders deliver welcoming remarks (via Zoom).
- Step 4: Movie time!



ACTIVITY 16: TRUNK OR TREAT (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

A trunk or treat event in which the community and the police host a safe and secure environment to trick or treat for the children while allowing the community to get to better know the police that serve it. A parking lot is utilized for children to get to try out their Halloween costumes early, and officers can provide a safety briefing for parents on how to keep safe while trick or treating, when at home, at work, and in transit. Officers can also provide car seat install and safety checks. The event can be combined with an ice cream social. Face painting can also be provided. Office vehicles and equipment can be on hand.

Materials Needed

Tables for any treats provided by the house of worship or law enforcement, a microphone and speaker, and garbage bins.

Location Needed

A parking lot at a local house of worship or governmental office.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To invite members to participate, coordinate volunteers, co-manage logistics, provide space if needed, and have a member of the clergy offer opening remarks.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local agency to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap-up, and to man a few treat stations. If a safety briefing is offered, to provide the instruction.

How to Create Connections

This activity creates connections through informal conversations. Officers should circulate during the event and introduce themselves, along with manning the treat stations. A fun activity may be added (such as talking to three people you don't know, three fun facts you learned today, or a Bingo card/checklist to meet/find different people, such as the Police Chief, the clergy leader, etc.).



ACTIVITY 16: TRUNK OR TREAT (TWO-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum 10 days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather).
- Step 3: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a worship service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
- Step 4: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency and create event agenda.
- Step 5: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
- Step 6: Organize the connection activity and a prize for those who complete the task.
- Step 7: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
- Step 8: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.

Day of Steps

- Step 1: Set up team should arrive early; people with trunks should arrive 15 minutes early. The event should be held before dark to ensure young children are able to participate. Tables for food should be set up on the periphery. Remember trash bins!
- Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos
- Step 3: After most attendees arrive, have a spokesperson from the house of worship and law enforcement provide welcoming remarks. Additionally the activity should be introduced and shared out.
- Step 4: Have closing remarks to summarize the event's goals and thank everyone for coming.
- Step 5: Break down.
- Step 6: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

- Step 1: Create a Facebook event page; invite members of the house of worship and law enforcement.
- Step 2: Have families make short videos of their children dressed up for Halloween and post them on the Facebook event page.
- Step 3: Tape remarks from law enforcement and faith leaders to add to the page.



ACTIVITY 17: COMMUNITY TAG SALE (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

An activity where community members are able to clean out their attics/garages and sell extra items. Officers can set up a station offering safety briefings, VIN etching, or bike registration on site. The event can also be combined with an ice cream social, and face painting can also be provided. Office vehicles and equipment can be on hand.

Materials Needed

Tables for people to use to display their wares. They can be provided by the house of worship or law enforcement, a microphone and speaker, and garbage bins.

Location Needed

A parking lot at a local house of worship or governmental office.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To invite members to participate, coordinate volunteers, co-manage logistics, provide space if needed, and have a member of the clergy offer opening remarks.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To send members of the local agency to the activity, to designate one or two members of leadership to deliver remarks, to designate members of the force to serve as volunteers for event set up and wrap-up, and to run a few stations. If a safety briefing is offered, to provide the instruction.

How to Create Connections

This activity creates connections through informal conversations. Officers should circulate during the event and introduce themselves, along with running the stations. A fun activity may be added (such as talking to three people you don't know, three fun facts you learned today, or a Bingo card/checklist to meet/find different people, such as the Police Chief, the clergy leader, etc.), with winners offered a donated prize.



ACTIVITY 17: COMMUNITY TAG SALE (THREE-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline — minimum 14 days before event date

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency.
- Step 2: Identify and secure location (and backup location and/or date in case of bad weather).
- Step 3: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a worship service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
- Step 4: Publicize the event widely, including on Next Door, Craigslist, and through posters that can be provided to local businesses to display.
- Step 5: Consider inviting food trucks to sell during the event.
- Step 6: A registration link should be created where people, particularly those from the local house of worship, can apply to have a table at the event.
- Step 7: Confirm speakers from the house of worship and law enforcement agency and create event agenda.
- Step 8: Recruit volunteers to manage site set up and break down.
- Step 9: Confirm tables for those who are going to be selling items.
- Step 10: Organize the connection activity and a prize for those who complete the task.
- Step 11: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
- Step 12: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.

Day of Steps

- Step 1: Set up team should arrive early; sellers should arrive at least 30 minutes early. The event should be held around late morning/early afternoon. Tables for food should be set up on the periphery. Remember trash bins!
- Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
- Step 3: After most attendees arrive, have a spokesperson from the house of worship and law enforcement provide welcoming remarks. Additionally the activity should be introduced and shared out.
- Step 4: Have closing remarks to summarize the event's goals and thank everyone for coming.
- Step 5: Break down.
- Step 6: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

- Step 1: Create a Facebook event page; invite members of the house of worship and law enforcement.
- Step 2: People can then post to the page items that they are selling, along with the price.
- Step 3: Tape remarks from law enforcement and faith leaders to add to the page.
- Step 4: Item pick-up can be then coordinated on a set date, hosted by the law enforcement agency or house of worship.



ACTIVITY 18: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (FOUR-HOUR EVENT)

Short Overview

Collaborating with a local community service organization, the house of worship and law enforcement agency provide volunteer staffing to a local initiative. Examples can include helping with a Habitat for Humanity build, organizing food at a food bank, or participating in a river clean-up.

Materials Needed

The materials will usually be provided by the volunteer organization. If possible, volunteers can wear t-shirts, which can be acquired through the National Faith & Blue Weekend website.

Location Needed

The location will be provided by the volunteer organization.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To recruit members to participate in the activity. To have a faith leader offer welcoming and closing prayers for the activity.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To recruit members of the law enforcement agency to participate in the activity. To have a leader offer welcoming and closing remarks for the activity.

How to Create Connections

Participants should be mixed to ensure that law enforcement officers and members of the house of worship are working side by side. The heart of this activity is the informal conversation between officers and residents. However, many people are unsure of how to start the conversation. Therefore, we suggest you encourage dialogue by asking that each community member and officer speaks to three people they don't know, set up a receiving line, or create a game with prizes, such as a \$25 local restaurant gift card for those who discover three fun facts they learned about another participant.



ACTIVITY 18: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (FOUR-HOUR EVENT)

Planning Timeline - minimum seven days from event date, though some nonprofits need 30+ days' notice

- Step 1: Identify a nonprofit/volunteer organization that has opportunities for groups of 20 or more participants.
 - Step 2: Reach out to a local house of worship or law enforcement agency to solicit their participation.
 - Step 3: Identify and secure activity and volunteer details.
 - Step 4: Form a small promotion committee that will take steps including: (1) working with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce it at a religious service, (3) posting promotional materials on bulletin boards, (4) identifying event photographers, etc.
 - Step 5: Create an agenda and/or timeline of events for participants that includes information on the nonprofit/volunteer organization with which you will be working.
 - Step 8: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 9: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, nonprofit organization, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Set up a check-in table or have 2-4 volunteers with clipboards checking in attendees, especially if they will have differing assignments; hand out T-shirts (if you are using).
 - Step 2: Ensure photographers are in place to take photos.
 - Step 3: Have opening remarks delivered by a faith leader and leader of the law enforcement agency.
 - Step 4: Participate in activity, taking photographs.
 - Step 5: Have closing remarks delivered by a faith leader and representative of the law enforcement agency with a summary of the event's success and a thank you to the nonprofit host organization and all attendees. Pose for group photo.
 - Step 6: Break down (if necessary).
 - Step 7: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

Virtual Programming

A food drive can be established where members of the house of worship and law enforcement agency collect and then drop off food at a local food bank. The food can be dropped off at a specific time, and the volunteers can be photographed together, wearing masks, or a compilation of photos of each drop can be created.

- Step 1: Identify and reach out to a local food bank.
- Step 2: Establish a time by which the food will be collected and a location to gather the food.
- Step 3: Have participants drop off food at the local law enforcement agency or house of worship.
- Step 4: On an arranged day, have participants together collect the food, organize a car caravan, and drop off the food at the food bank. Remember to take a socially distanced photograph.



SPECIAL ACTIVITY: HOST A BLOOD DRIVE

Short Overview

We are excited to share that MovementForward, Inc. has partnered with the American Red Cross to facilitate a community service project. This partnership will afford the opportunity for houses of worship and law enforcement agencies to work together to host a blood drive. There is also a special focus for these events to inform the public about sickle cell disease.

What Red Cross will Provide

- **Planning Assistance** — The Red Cross representative will work with you to plan and organize the blood drive.
- **Recruitment Tools** — The Red Cross representative will help you determine how many donors you need and how to recruit them, including an online scheduling tools for your donors.
- **Equipment & Supplies** — The Red Cross bring everything we need to your location, set it up and take it down at the end, including snacks and drinks.
- **Trained Staff** — The Red Cross staff will confidentially screen donors and collect donations, safely and professionally.

Location Needed

You will need a suitable inside space to host the blood drive — at least 1,200 square feet of open, climate-controlled space with at least four electrical outlets, bathroom access nearby and tables and chairs. A house of worship fellowship hall will serve well

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To provide space to host the blood drive, to recruit volunteers to provide staffing during the drive, to share news about the blood drive to the congregation and recruit donors. The community group can also help advertise the drive to the public. Because black donors are underrepresented, there is a particular value in reaching out to the black community to become donors to help close the sickle cell gap.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To recruit volunteers to provide staffing during the drive, to share news about the blood drive to fellow officers and to recruit donors. A PIO or other public-facing staff position can also work on promoting the drive to the public.

How to Create Connections

A representative from the House of Worship and the Law Enforcement agency should be on hand to recruit donors as they come in. Having shift sign-ups might help. While donors are awaiting their turn, they can be provided with information on Faith & Blue and how the community can work together to create safe and just communities.

Planning Timeline

- Step 1: Reach out to the house of worship or law enforcement agency and choose an event coordinator.
- Step 2: Email the special account blooddrive@faithandblue.org to let us know that you are interested in hosting a blood drive, and the contact information for your event coordinator.
- Step 3: A member of our staff will reach out to the coordinator and connect them with a local Red Cross representative who will provide detailed information and support them in preparing and executing your blood drive.



SPECIAL ACTIVITY: HOST A BLOOD DRIVE

About Sickle Cell Disease

Who is impacted by sickle cell disease?

Approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. are living with sickle cell disease. Most people with sickle cell disease are African American or of African descent. In fact, the disease affects 1 out of every 365 African American babies born in this country.

What is sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to be hard and crescent-shaped (like a sickle) instead of soft and round. As a result, it is difficult for blood to flow smoothly and carry enough oxygen to the rest of the body, which may result in severe pain, organ and tissue damage, or even strokes.

How is sickle cell disease treated?

Blood transfusions help provide a lifesaving treatment during a sickle cell pain crisis by replacing sickled red blood cells with healthy red blood cells. This helps deliver oxygen to tissues and organs and unblock blood vessels. Donated blood is the only source of this treatment.

How can I help?

Blood donors have the unique ability to help patients with sickle cell disease. A person with sickle cell disease may need a precise pairing with a blood donor, especially if frequent transfusions are necessary. If a patient receives a transfusion of a blood type that is not a close match, they may form antibodies against the mismatched antigens. To help avoid transfusion-related complications, a patient is more likely to find the most compatible blood match from a donor of the same race or similar ethnicity.

	Population	% of Population Donating	% of Red Cross Donations
African American	13%	0.45%	3.7%
Asian	6%	0.7%	2.6%
Caucasian	76%	1.1%	86%
2+ Races	2.7%	0.8%	1.3%
Native American	1.3%	0.4%	0.4%

Did you know?

To meet the needs of patients, the Red Cross needs to collect nearly 13,000 blood donations and more than 2,600 platelet donations every day.

84% of donations are collected at community-based blood drives, hosted by generous sponsors—close to where people live and work.

For more information about this partnership please visit: faithandblue.org/blooddrive



ACTIVITY 19: CITIZENS' ACADEMY

Short Overview

A citizens' academy is a forum designed to offer a structure for the flow of information from local law enforcement and policy makers to community residents that helps disburse and explain rules, regulations, laws, and guidelines. It is a voluntary collaboration set up by interested residents, local law enforcement, and elected officials who hold hired, appointed, or elected positions in capacities that impact community relations within the local area.

Resources Needed

It is recommended that a minimum of 10 people from the community who have expressed interest are identified before creating a citizens' academy class or session. Developing an agenda and securing the participation of local law enforcement participation are the first steps toward success.

Location Needed

The Citizens' Academy sessions should be held at a location accessible to the public. We also recommend choosing a popular retail or residential area or major streets around a key neighborhood meeting point like a house of worship or a community center. Prior to the meetings, poster and directional signage can be posted indoors, such as in a fellowship hall.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

To designate a member of congregational leadership to speak or greet at meetings and be a host site for the sessions.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate a member of department leadership to facilitate the dissemination of policing information, to serve as advisor to sessions on law enforcement guidelines, and to encourage audience or attendees to get engaged and provide feedback to local law enforcement.

How to Create Connections

Content covered in a Citizens' Academy are as unique as the areas they cover, so their approach to information dissemination may also vary. Each planning law enforcement representative or zone liaison should make a point of gaining a good working knowledge of the community in its zone or area. With the flow of information coming from local law enforcement to the local community, careful listening and discussion in advance will help law enforcement devise an effective communication approach. A meeting between local law enforcement and the citizens' academy coordinator is recommended to keep the approach under review.

The citizens' academy coordinator role is to coordinate with the local community and local law enforcement. Both the community in general and the citizens' academy coordinator will need to have ready access to information on law enforcement guidelines and development plans. It is therefore essential that local law enforcement make this information available to the citizens' academy coordinator.

Connections can be created through respectful interaction, informal and formal exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Acknowledgment of the parties' perspectives is also an important way to create connections. Each community council should



ACTIVITY 19: CITIZENS' ACADEMY

appoint one person as their point of contact for the local law enforcement on all planning matters, provide contact information, and inform the local law enforcement of community concerns and needs accordingly. A regular contact person in the local law enforcement agency should also be clearly identified for each citizens' academy. This will usually be a community liaison zone officer for the area concerned.

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Identify local law enforcement point of contact (i.e., community liaison).
 - Step 2: Work with law enforcement to make an introduction to the appropriate officer.
 - Step 3: Host a call with that designated officer to discuss the session needs and logistics.
 - Step 4: Develop an agenda based upon the guidelines as shared by local law enforcement.
 - Step 5: Work with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to inform the local community about the event, (2) having the religious leader announce the academy at a religious service.
 - Step 6: Develop marketing materials such as posters, postcards, e-cards to help spread the word; place and distribute materials about two weeks before the event. Prepare a survey for distribution the day of the event.
 - Step 7: Identify an opening and closing speaker from law enforcement and from a house of worship.
 - Step 8: Identify the space and time for sign-up. We recommend this be done in advance.
 - Step 9: Develop and share an agenda or a run-of-show that indicates the start time, speakers, topics, speaking time allotted, Q&A time, and closing and share this with all speakers.
 - Step 10: Determine if AV accommodations are needed. If so, arrange for them with the facility or house of worship in advance.
 - Step 11: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 12: Compile survey results.
-
- Step 1: Arrive at a house of worship or community center an hour in advance.
 - Step 2: Set up sign-in station.
 - Step 3: If using electronic sign-in, have a paper sign-in sheet as back-up in case of an Internet outage.
 - Step 4: Capture attendees' name, phone, and email on the sign-in sheet.
 - Step 5: Identify where the speakers will sit and speak. Place water at their seats.
 - Step 6: Brief speakers on the agenda and other housekeeping details upon their arrival.
 - Step 7: Host the citizens' academy according to the agenda or run-of-show.
 - Step 8: Manage Q&A segment with respect to all speakers — ask that people are respectful of the time given by speakers by being civil, brief, and kind. Also, ask that they are considerate of others in attendance who may also have questions.
 - Step 9: Distribute survey to attendees to solicit feedback.
 - Step 10: Within 3 days, send an email or thank you message to speakers and house of worship for their participation.
 - Step 11: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.



ACTIVITY 20: COMMUNITY POLICING PROJECT

Short Overview

A community council is designed to offer community members a way to work with law enforcement to promote the well-being of the community. It is a voluntary organization set up by people and run by local residents to act on behalf of the community. For National Faith & Blue Weekend, the activity can be the formation of the Community Policing Council.

Resources Needed

It is recommended that a minimum of five or more people from the community and law enforcement who express interest in creating or participating are identified before forming a council. An agenda, mission, and meeting minutes will need to be created to guide the council on achieving its goals.

Law Enforcement and Community Council Responsibilities

Community councils are as unique as the areas they cover, so their approach to consultations and response may vary. Each planning law enforcement representative or zone liaison should make a point of gaining a good working knowledge of any community councils in its area. Its liaison procedures should acknowledge local variations and be tailored to the characteristics of the local areas. Careful listening and discussion in advance will help law enforcement devise effective consultative arrangements with which those involved can collaborate and affect change. Occasional meetings between local law enforcement and community councils are recommended to keep these arrangements active.

If community councils are to find, coordinate, and express the views of the local community, both the community and the community council will need to have ready access to information on law enforcement guidelines and development plans. It is therefore essential that local law enforcement make this information available.

Location Needed

The community council meetings should be held at a location accessible to the public. We also recommend choosing a popular retail or residential area or major streets around a key neighborhood meeting point like a house of worship or a community center. Before the meetings, poster and directional signage can be posted indoors, such as in a fellowship hall.

Role for Faith-Based, Community or Civic Organization

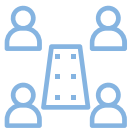
To designate a member of leadership to speak or greet at meetings and be a host site for the meetings.

Role for Law Enforcement Agency

To designate a member of department leadership to speak at the kick-off and/or conclusion of the meeting, serve as an advisor to community council on law enforcement guidelines, and to encourage members of the council to get engaged and provide feedback to the local law enforcement.

How to Create Connections

Connections can be created through respectful interaction, informal and formal exchange of ideas and knowledge. Acknowledgment of the parties' perspectives is also an important way to create connections. Each community council should appoint one person as their point of contact for the local law enforcement on all planning matters, provide contact information,



ACTIVITY 20: COMMUNITY POLICING PROJECT

and inform the local law enforcement of community concerns and needs accordingly. A useful way of ensuring that no information is lost during absence could be to set up a generic email account that can be accessed by other office bearers in the community council. Internal arrangements for considering applications will be for each community council to decide. A regular contact person in the local law enforcement should also be clearly identified for each community council. This will usually be a community liaison zone officer for the area concerned.

Planning Timeline — minimum seven days from event date

- Step 1: Identify a community activity where sign-ups can be collected.
 - Step 2: Identify local law enforcement point of contact (e.g., community liaison).
 - Step 3: Develop an organization framework or list of opportunities to improve or repair specific to your local community.
 - Step 4: Work with law enforcement to make an introduction to the appropriate officer.
 - Step 5: Host a call with that designated officer to discuss the council needs and logistics.
 - Step 6: Work with the house of worship and law enforcement agency to send an email and post on social media to members about the event and the call to join the council, have the religious leader announce the call to join the council at a religious service.
 - Step 7: Identify an opening and closing speaker from law enforcement and from a house of worship.
 - Step 8: Identify the space and time for sign-up. We recommend this be done in advance.
 - Step 9: Hold event (see Day of Steps below).
 - Step 10: Compile contact information from attendees and send a thank you note to attendees, speakers, vendors, and anyone else involved.
-
- Step 1: Arrive at a house of worship an hour in advance.
 - Step 2: Ask to make or that an announcement is made of the opportunity to sign-up.
 - Step 3: Set up sign-up station with “Community Council” sign-up signage.
 - Step 4: If using electronic sign-up, have a paper sign-up sheet as back-up in case of an Internet outage.
 - Step 5: Capture name, phone, and email on the sign-up sheet.
 - Step 6: Have someone attend to the sign-up for the full duration of the event.
 - Step 7: Collect sign-ups at the end of the activity.
 - Step 8: Within three days, send an email or call the interested parties to introduce, share the mission, and inform of the first meeting.
 - Step 9: Connect with local law enforcement and a house of worship to coordinate first and future Community Council meeting.
 - Step 10: Set up a meeting invitation and send it to local law enforcement, house of worship point of contact, and interested members of the newly formed Community Council.
 - Step 11: Send photos with descriptions/captions to your partners, including community organizations, the house of worship, law enforcement agency liaison, info@faithandblue.org, and any local sponsors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the National Faith & Blue Weekend?

The purpose of National Faith & Blue Weekend is to create safer and stronger communities by connecting law enforcement officers and the residents they protect and serve. National Faith & Blue Weekend consists of events that will occur in communities of every kind and will include a wide array of activities such as picnics, athletic events, forums, and community service projects. All activities will be designed to facilitate law enforcement officers and the public getting to know one another and to build mutual understanding.

Who can participate in National Faith & Blue Weekend?

Anyone! The National Faith & Blue Weekend website provides resources including posters and postcards, contact information, and sign up forms. You can register to host your activity or find an event that is occurring nearby.

For participants, our goal is to create safer and stronger communities by connecting law enforcement officers and the residents they protect and serve. Some residents may be skeptical or not understand what the event entails, and so they may not attend; however, we have found that a lot of people who have never met with law enforcement feel more comfortable attending when they can see their friends and neighbors having fun, and they can see what the event was all about.

Are activities going to require you to participate in religious activities?

No. At their core, all Faith & Blue events are designed to facilitate connections between the public and law enforcement rather than engage in religious activities.

Is there funding available to organize an activity?

There will be a limited number of sponsorships for event costs and for boosting social media posts. For more information on funding, contact info@faithandblue.org.

When can I sign up for an activity?

You can sign up to host an activity at faithandblue.org until the day before National Faith & Blue Weekend starts.

How can I find a nearby event?

The website (faithandblue.org) allows you to search for an event by location and type of event.

Do I have to do one of the 30 activities? Can I design my own?

Of course, you can design your own! We welcome creativity! We do ask that custom activities follow the key principles: It (1) involves both a community group and a law enforcement agency, (2) is positive, and, (3) is open to the general public.

Why do I need to have a photographer at my event? Won't that be expensive?

Photographers do not have to be professional! You can appoint a congregant or a community volunteer with a smartphone, such as iPhone or Android, to take photos. It is important to capture the fun people are having, as well as photos of the activities so that you can use them to attract community members to future events.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I need to have a photographer at my event? Won't that be expensive? (continued)

We suggest that at least one person — if not more, depending on how many events are going on and how long the event is — is given specific shots to take, then asked to take any others he/she thinks would be fun for posting on your website or on social media. Managing expectations on what photos you will have will make the organizer and the photographer more comfortable and the result a success.

Of course, you are welcome to hire a professional photographer. You may want to ask your congregation or community group to see if you have a professional photographer who would do the event for free or reduced price, especially if they receive credit for their donation/discount when the photos are posted. If virtual, remember to have someone take screenshots.

What should participating law enforcement officers wear to our events?

Our experience has shown that community members, especially youth, are more comfortable mingling with officers and talking when the officers are out of uniform. This has also been pointed out consistently in community outreach listening sessions.

Therefore, we suggest officers wear casual clothing, yet still be identified as an officer, so that community members can see they are attending and know who to approach if they want to talk or ask questions. Examples of this casual wear include (a) a polo / golf shirt with your law enforcement logo, (b) a special T-shirt designed for the event or even (c) the same solid color T-shirt with no markings. You can also wear a bandana or billed cap with your logo to identify you as an officer. Officer identifications should be at head level, as opposed to a badge at the hip, so that people can identify you more easily.

Some exceptions may include events such as a Law Enforcement Open House or formal talks on a very serious matter such as active shooter training. In these cases, officers may choose to wear their official uniforms at the event.

How do I stay involved after National Faith & Blue Weekend?

We offer an ongoing program called One Congregation One Precinct that utilizes a similar approach to Faith & Blue. You can learn more about this program at <http://onecop.net>. We will also provide new programming following National Faith & Blue Weekend, including quarterly activities and the launch of a network with curated resources and peer-to-peer engagement. You can stay informed about these offerings by joining our email list at <http://faithandblue.org/newsletter-sign-up/>

Anything else?

Yes! Just remember that the activities are endless. And plenty of the activities can be combined — for example, an art festival with a tag sale or an essay contest with a crucial conversation. Be creative and let us know how we can help!

If I have other questions, how do I find answers?

You can contact us at info@faithandblue.org or 404.605.7000.

Special thanks to the
National Faith & Blue Weekend Sponsors:



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 22-092

Agenda Date: 8/17/2022

Agenda #: 3.

AGENDA REQUEST
GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

Subject:

Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee.

Background:

(type text here)

Department Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)