



# Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



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**TRAINING BULLETIN**

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing

### Presidential Task Force Report

#### **Introduction:**

The past several years have been challenging for law enforcement across the nation. A number of high profile incidents have strained police-community relations, questions about police legitimacy and procedural justice. The results have been a national conversation about policing. In response, a high level national government-led effort to format action to address foundational concerns was created with the Presidential Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. The task force was made up of representatives from law enforcement chiefs, police unions, police training officers, community leaders, youth activists, and university professors. The report was published in 2015 and contains many recommendations that the Santa Barbara Police Department currently instils within its culture, philosophy, and will continue to support.

This training bulletin was created to briefly outline the Presidential Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing final report, which is organized into six pillars:

- Pillar One – Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Pillar Two – Policy and Oversight
- Pillar Three – Technology and Social Media
- Pillar Four – Community and Policing and Crime Reduction
- Pillar Five – Training and Education
- Pillar Six – Officer Wellness and Safety

#### **Pillar One: Building Trust and Legitimacy**

Building trust and nurturing legitimacy on both sides of the police/citizen divide is the foundational principle underlying the nature of relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Decades of research and practice support the premise that people are more likely to obey the law when they believe that those who are enforcing it have authority that is perceived as legitimate by those subject to the authority. The public confers legitimacy only on those whom they believe are acting in procedurally just ways. In addition, law enforcement cannot build community trust if it is seen as an occupying force coming in from outside to impose control on the community. Pillar one seeks to provide focused recommendations on building this relationship.

## **Pillar Two: Policy and Oversight**

Pillar two emphasizes that if police are to carry out their responsibilities according to established policies, those policies must reflect community values. Law enforcement agencies should collaborate with community members, especially in communities and neighborhoods disproportionately affected by crime, to develop policies and strategies for deploying resources that aim to reduce crime by improving relationships, increasing community engagement, and fostering cooperation.

## **Pillar Three: Technology & Social Media**

The use of technology can improve policing practices and build community trust and legitimacy, but its implementation must be built on a defined policy framework with its purposes and goals clearly delineated. Implementing new technologies can give police departments an opportunity to fully engage and educate communities in a dialogue about their expectations for transparency, accountability, and privacy. But technology changes quickly in terms of new hardware, software, and other options. Law enforcement agencies and leaders need to be able to identify, assess, and evaluate new technology for adoption and do so in ways that improve their effectiveness, efficiency, and evolution without infringing on individual rights.

## **Pillar Four: Community Policing & Crime Reduction**

Pillar four focuses on the importance of community policing as a guiding philosophy for all stakeholders. Community policing emphasizes working with neighborhood residents to co-produce public safety. Law enforcement agencies should, therefore, work with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions that produce meaningful results for the community. Specifically, law enforcement agencies should develop and adopt policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement in managing public safety. Law enforcement agencies should also engage in multidisciplinary, community team approaches for planning, implementing, and responding to crisis situations with complex causal factors.

## **Pillar Five: Training & Education**

As our nation becomes more pluralistic and the scope of law enforcement's responsibilities expands, the need for expanded and more effective training has become critical. Today's line officers and leaders must be trained and capable to address a wide variety of challenges including international terrorism, evolving technologies, rising immigration, changing laws, new cultural mores, and a growing mental health crisis.

## **Pillar Six: Officer Wellness & Safety**

The wellness and safety of law enforcement officers is critical not only for the officers, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety. Pillar six emphasizes the support and proper implementation of officer wellness and safety as a multi-partner effort.