

Ohio Justice and Policy Center

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://ohiojpc.org/2020/06/04/protests-pandemic-recommendations-equitable-cincinnati/>

Campaign and Advocacy

by [Marais Jacon-Duffy](#) | Jun 4, 2020 | [News, Policy Reform](#)

On June 4, after more than a week of protests across the United States and almost three months into a global pandemic, The Ohio Justice & Policy Center and the Cincinnati Black United Front released a list of eight recommendations. These are concrete ways for law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and local governments to respond to the two imminent threats to the livelihood of Black citizens: police brutality and the current pandemic.

The Values and Reasons Behind These Recommendations

All people deserve safety and justice. All communities should have the power to hold criminal-legal systems accountable to the people they serve. These values—safety, justice, fairness, community power, and accountability—are crucial to the success of our democracy and our society.

The violent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many others sparked protests in Cincinnati and around the country. People are calling for an end to racial violence and discriminatory policing, as well as an increase in police accountability. The local bodies that would advance these goals, like the Citizens Complaint Authority, are unfortunately stalled. At the same time, recent data shows that policing of the Governor's pandemic-related Orders generated **high levels of arrests** in Cincinnati and the rest of Hamilton County, a **significant racial disparity** in arrests, and numerous **improper arrests**.

Our recommendations offer clear, concrete ways for local law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and local governments to work toward our common values and build trust with the community. The recommendations are reflective of a longstanding effort in Cincinnati to improve policing and to ensure that people of all races and backgrounds are treated fairly. In April 2002, the City of Cincinnati entered into the historic Collaborative Agreement in order to resolve pending litigation alleging discrimination and excessive force in policing. The agreement included the City of Cincinnati, the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the community as a whole. It focused on community problem-oriented policing practices; mutual accountability; improving use-of-force policies, documentation, and investigations; commitment to fair, equitable, courteous, statistically bias-free policing; and an independent civilian review process. While the official agreement ended in 2008, the City stated that it was committed to its underlying principles.

In June 2017, the City and community members announced a voluntary Refresh of the Collaborative Agreement. The parties hired Saul Green, who had served as the court-appointed monitor of the Agreement, to review reports from various City agencies, evaluate community feedback, and conduct an independent review. Mr. Green produced recommendations and action steps for implementing problem-oriented policing, ensuring bias-free policing, having a stronger Citizens Complaint Authority with community engagement, getting community input in policing, and promoting mutual accountability.

There has been a lot of progress and a lot to be proud of. There is also a lot of work left to do.

Now more than ever, we need a mutual commitment to safety, justice, fairness, community power, and accountability. We all value justice over blame, and we all want to work together on common goals. We have a shared interest in building trust between communities of color and law enforcement, in protecting the health and safety of all people, and in ending violence and discrimination. While the last few months exposed and underscored problems in our legal system, borne largely by people of color, there are ways to ensure equitable, effective criminal justice in the future.

Recommendations:

Signed,

Ohio Justice & Policy Center

David Singleton, Executive Director

Sasha Naiman, Deputy Director

Cincinnati Black United Front

Iris Roley, Project Manager

Supporters and Co-Signers:

Due to the incredible support for these recommendations, we are still in the process of adding names to this list. If you would like to be added, or if we missed you, please contact Iris Roley or OJPC.

ACLU of Ohio

Bennett Guess, Executive Director

Aftab Pureval, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts

All-In Cincinnati
Denisha Porter MPH, RS, HHS, Director

All of Us or None, Cincinnati Chapter
Zaria Davis and Michael Mitchell

Alphonse Gerhardstein

Arenstein and Gallagher
Bill Gallagher

Beloved Community Church
Rev. Nelson Pierce Jr. and Robin A. Wright

Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati
Wednesday Shipp, President

Camille Jones, MD

Center for Closing the Health Gap
Renee Mahaffey Harris, President & CEO

Cincinnati AFL-CIO
Peter McLinden

Cincinnati Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Sami Silverstein, President

City Servants
Pastor Jerry Culbreth

Community of Reason: Atheists & Humanists of Ohio & Kentucky
Jen Scott, President

Community Police Partnering Center
Dorothy P. Smoot, Executive Director

Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati
T. Duane Gordon, CEO

David Mann, Cincinnati City Councilmember

Derek Bauman, community activist and retired police officer

Donyetta Bailey of Bailey Law Office, LLC

Eileen Cooper Reed

Filling The Gap

Friedman & Gilbert
Jacqueline Greene, Partner

PRN Global Resources
Clarice Warner, President/CEO

Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Ellen M. Katz, President/CEO

Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center
Allison Reynolds-Berry, Executive Director

Interdenominational Ministers Alliance
Pastor Lesley E. Jones

Invest in Neighborhoods
Elizabeth Bartley, Executive Director

Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
Henry Hane, Executive Director

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, City of Cincinnati Councilmember

Jesse Roley, Owner of RoSho Awards & Graphics

Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati
Jackie Congedo, Director
Ronna Greff Schneider, President

Julie M. Murray

John and Francie Pepper

Karen Bankston, PhD, MSN, FACHE, FAAN

Kerrie Rose Clark

Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender
Raymond Faller, Chief Public Defender

Lighthouse Youth & Family Services
Paul Haffner, President/CEO

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Cincinnati
Kristen Baker, Deputy Director

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati
Margaret A. Fox, Executive Director

Michele Young, attorney

More Inclusive Healthcare
Lisa Sloane, Founder & CEO

NAACP, Cincinnati Chapter
Joe Mallory, 1st Vice President

Neighborhood United
Brian Garry, Chair

Ohio Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
Jacqueline Greene, Executive Committee Co-Coordinator

P.G. Sittenfeld, Cincinnati City Councilmember

Pantsuit Politics
Beth Silvers, co-host and author

Pastor Ennis Tate, Faith & Community Alliance, Avondale Concerned Clergy, and New Beginnings Church of the Living God Avondale

Pastor Brown, Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church & Managers Advisor Group member

Peoples Church Cincinnati
Pastor Chris Beard

Pilgrim Baptist Church
Rev. Jonathan D. Brown Ed.D

Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio
Kersha Deibel, President & CEO

Pretrial Justice Institute

Price Hill Will
Rachel Hastings, Executive Director

Rickell Howard Smith, Attorney at Law

Reverend Sharon K. Dittmar

Sandra M. Jones Mitchell

Shakila T Ahmad, Community and Interfaith Activist

Sister Sally Duffy

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio
Eddie Koen, President and CEO

Dorothy P. Smoot, Chief Impact Officer

United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Moir Weir, President & CEO

Vanessa Y. White, PhD

Victoria Parks, Hamilton County Commissioner

Wendy R. Calaway, J.D.

Womens Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
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YWCA of Greater Cincinnati
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