



WORKSHOP OF DEMOCRACY POLICE REFORM AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION



info@bridgedetroit.com
bridgedetroit.com

WHAT IS POLICE REFORM?

- Police reform refers to **efforts to change the way police departments do their jobs**. It's an umbrella term that can refer to preventing police departments from using particular types of force, increased accountability and transparency measures, defunding police departments, or abolishing police departments entirely.

WHAT IS THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS?

- Established in 1974 by Mayor Coleman A. Young as a response to the Detroit Police Department's Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets unit. STRESS had been in place since 1971 with the intent of restoring law and order after the 1967 Detroit Uprising.
- STRESS often employed decoy tactics and set Black residents up for targeting. By September 1973, STRESS officers had killed 22 suspects, 95 percent of whom died in decoy operations. Nearly all were Black.
- Residents pushed back against STRESS and the Board of Police Commissioners was formed.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION?

- **CVI is a process of interrupting the cycle of violent crime by establishing relationships with the people involved in or affected by community violence before incidents occur.**
- Some examples:
 - Intervening in conflicts before they turn violent
 - Identifying and mentoring people most at-risk for involvement in violence
 - Connecting at-risk individuals with wraparound services
 - Addressing the broader conditions in the community that contribute to violent crime
- In the past few years, Detroit has allowed a handful of community organizations to carry out their own violence reduction initiatives in designated CVI zones – areas that had a high number of homicides and non-fatal shootings. Violent crime has dropped in most of those zones.
- Detroit now has an Office of Neighborhood and Community Safety to continue CVI work.

WHAT DOES THE BOPC DO?

- **Civilian Oversight & Complaints:** Operates the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) to investigate misconduct complaints, with the authority to subpoena witnesses and administer oaths
- **Policy & Budget:** Reviews and approves DPD policies, rules, regulations and budgets in consultation with the police chief and mayor
- **Disciplinary Authority:** Serves as the final authority for reviewing or imposing discipline on DPD employees
- **Public Accountability:** Conducts weekly meetings and other community meetings
- **Transparency Measures:** Tracks citizen complaints filed against officers

BRIDGEDETROIT IS A PROJECT OF THE NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT CENTER FOR MICHIGAN



@bridgedetroit



www.bridgedetroit.com



info@bridgedetroit.com



(313) 284-6407

