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President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing

In May 2015, a task force co-chaired by Commissioner Charles Ramsey of the Philadelphia Police Department and George Mason University Professor Laurie Robinson, released best practices in policing and recommendations on how those practices can promote effective crime reduction and build public trust. The report is centered on 6 main topic areas which include: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Officer Training and Education, and Officer Safety and Wellness.

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) already had in place many of the recommendations given in the report prior to its release and we have included some examples within this press release. The LPD has a longstanding history of embedding Community Policing values into the core mission of the Department. Two years ago there was a complete reorganization of the LPD, including but not limited to, the creation of District Response Teams in each sector and the decentralization of the Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit. These changes were made to enhance the LPD's Community Policing efforts and promote evidence-based problem solving strategies as a means to proactively reduce crime. The LPD has incorporated Procedural Justice training into the LPD Police Academy for new recruits and at the LPD in-service training to make sure all officers received this training. Additionally, it has been incorporated into the LPD's training for newly promoted sergeants. Through our in-service and Academy training programs, the LPD reach over 1,000 sworn personnel from Eastern Massachusetts.

As an organization, we will continue to look for opportunities that allow us to incorporate more of the recommendations within the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. To accomplish this, Superintendent Taylor will hold a meeting with all members of the Command Staff to discuss how we can incorporate more of the recommendations into the organization to strengthen trust, reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime in the community.

A link to the final report can be found here:

http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/TaskForce_FinalReport.pdf