

GAME CHANGER

EVENT SURVEYS COLLECTED BETWEEN APRIL 2017 AND FEBRUARY 2018

The Number One Problem between Community and Law-Enforcement (as reported by participants)

Prior to the event

Law Enforcement	<i>Communication</i>
Civilian	<i>Fair treatment/lack of police integrity</i>

After the event

Law Enforcement	<i>Communication</i>
Civilian	<i>Communication</i>

Main Messages from Evaluation Surveys

- Community members' perceptions of law enforcement were more positive than law enforcement (LE) anticipated.
- There is a clear difference of perceptions, particularly initial perceptions, between groups living in higher and lower crime areas. The community members and LEs that serve those community members living in higher crime areas have less favorable perceptions of law enforcement than the community members and LEs that serve community members living in lower crime areas.
- The Game Changer events improved perceptions of law enforcement among the community members, especially, community members living in high crime neighborhoods.
- After the events, the difference in positive perceptions of law enforcement between groups living in higher and lower crime areas narrowed. The community members living in higher crime areas changed to very positive perceptions, while community members, (the most pronounced demographic groups: African American, 14-25 years old, high school or some college/associate degree holder as highest completed education) living in lower crime areas lowered their favorable view of law enforcement, which may have been mediated after hearing the experiences of other people.
- Almost all participants indicated that Game Changer events had a positive impact on community members' perceptions of LE or LE's perceptions of community members.
- The post survey results showed the Game Changer events helped community members better understand the work of LE.

- In the follow-up survey, community members and LE indicated they had initiated conversations with others beyond those who participated in Game Changer events regarding law enforcement and community relations.

Specific Findings

- LE indicated that they expected community members' perceptions to be more negative than they were. Notable differences between community members' actual perception and LE's expectations of community members' perception were as follows:

- *Makes me feel afraid* – Many of the community members indicated “Not true at all” or “Hardly true” while many of LE expected community members would think that it was “Somewhat true”
- *LE get away with harassing community* – twenty-three percent of community members indicated “Not true at all” versus only nine percent of LEs responses

Even though LE's expected perceptions were generally more negative than community members' perceptions, for the question “Revenue generation plays a role in the policing of certain neighborhoods,” community members' perceptions were more negative than those expected by LEs.

- *Revenue generation plays a role in the policing of certain neighborhoods* – 31% of community member indicated “Very true” versus 16% of LE's.
- There is a clear gap between the initial perceptions among community members who think they live in relatively high crime neighborhoods and those who think they live in lower/no crime neighborhoods; The Average Perception Scale Scores were 2.45 and 2.97 respectively (a higher perception scores indicates a more favorable view of LE: 4 is the highest and 1 is the lowest. *See more detailed at the end of this document).
- **Latino groups** – Participants living in lower/no crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=2.99) had more positive perceptions of LE than those living in higher crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=2.38).

The same trend was found among LE expectations of community members' perceptions. LE attributing more positive perceptions to community members living in lower/no crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=2.77) than those living in higher crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=2.49). The post survey, however, showed

improvement in perceptions of LE (from 2.38 to 2.60 on the Average Perception Scale) among community members living in high crime areas.

- **High school education groups** – On the pre-survey, participants living in lower/no crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=3.24) had more positive perceptions of LE than those living in higher crime areas (Average Perception Scale Score=2.27).

After the event, high school education groups no longer had either the lowest or highest perception scores (Average Perception Scale Score= 2.91 for those living in higher crime areas, Average Perception Scale Score=2.99 for those living in fewer crime areas).

- **African American LE groups** – This group had the lowest expected community members' perceptions towards them for both community members living in higher and lower crime area. (Average Perception Scale Score=2.08, Average Perception Scale Score=2.61 respectively).

After the event, the community members living in higher crime areas served by African American LE group improved their perception so that the group no longer had the lowest perception (Average Perception Scale Score=2.58). On the other hand, community members living in lower crime areas, served by African American LE group lowered their perceptions, which may have been mediated after hearing other participants' stories.

- **African American community member groups** – These community members had relatively negative perceptions of LE comparison to other demographic groups; African American community members living in lower crime areas had the lowest perception (Average Perception Scale Score = 2.78) amongst other demographic groups living in lower crime areas.

The post survey showed that African American community members living in higher crime areas improved their perception of LE (Average Perception Scale Score = 2.70); contrarily, African American community members living in lower crime areas reduced their view of LE (Average Perception Scale Score = 2.56), exhibiting a similar trend observed in African American LE group.

- The following demographic characteristics do not have noticeable difference in initial perception of LE between community groups designated as higher or lower crime areas:
 - **White Male community member groups** – both groups have very positive perception (Average Perception Scale Score over 3.00).

After the event, the perception decreased slightly for those living in higher crime areas.
 - **White Male LEs and LEs with bachelor’s degrees groups** – all reported a fairly positive perception of LE (Civilian), or a belief that the community viewed them positively (LE) (Average Perception Scale Score are 2.60s).

After the event, as similarly indicated by community members, LE believed they were viewed less favorably by community members after the event than before the event, among LEs serving community members living in higher crime areas.

- The post survey showed that LE’s beliefs about how the community perceives them did not improve favorably. Questions with noteworthy negative changes were:
 - Make people feel safe
 - Make people afraid
 - Biased toward minority
 - Hold a negative view of minority
 - Mental health status of LEs and community members

- The community members’ perceptions toward law enforcement improved after the events, particularly improved questions were:
 - Show respect to all
 - Make me feel afraid

- For the question “Make me feel afraid” community members’ perceptions of LE versus LE’s expected perceptions of them after the events was different.
 - LE’s expected perception changed markedly towards believing that community members viewed them negatively, while community members’ perception of LE improved.

- When examine only those who reported living in high-crime neighborhoods, both community members and LE serving those neighborhoods, reported more favorable view of LE after the events. Significantly improved questions among community members were:
 - Show respect to all members
 - Biased toward minority
 - A desire to make our community safer
 - The metal health status

While the improved question for LEs was:

- Seem to stop people for no reason (i.e. believing that the community sees them as stopping persons for no reason)
- When asked to rate their perception directly rather than on a scale, 94% of the civilians said that their perception of law enforcement changed in a positive direction, and 85% of the LE reported that their perception of lay members of the community changed in a positive direction.

NOTES

* Average score of all questions range from 1 to 4; a higher value means law enforcement is seen as more beneficial (civilian) or law enforcement thinks civilians see them as more beneficial (law enforcement); negatively worded questions were reverse coded. The scale ranges from 1 to 4 with 4='Very True' and 1='Not True at All'. Responses of 'I don't know' were not included. 2.5 is the middle score. The following score numbers can be used 1. Not favorable, 2. Hardly favorable, 3. Somewhat favorable, and 4. Very favorable