THE INAUGURAL

PLECET CONFERENCE

May 3-6, 2023 | Atlanta, GA

Professionalizing Law Enforcement - Community Engagement Training

An Initiative of **MOVEMENT FORWARD**

Note: This is a planning document only. The participants are to be invited, subject to change, and the final details are to be confirmed. (Updated on February 1, 2023)

THE INAUGURAL
PLECET Conference

PURPOSE

To professionalize the emerging community engagement sector of policing by instituting an annual specialized training, networking, and professional development conference for sworn and non-sworn personnel assigned to community engagement roles within law enforcement agencies across the nation.

CONCEPT STATEMENT

MovementForward, Inc. (MFI), the Atlanta-based social change organization that hosts the acclaimed annual National Faith & Blue Weekend (Faith & Blue), with support from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), along with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) will convene the inaugural Professionalizing Law Enforcement-Community Engagement Training (PLECET) Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown in Atlanta, Georgia, May 3-6, 2023. The conference will feature a premiere group of instructors, speakers, presenters, community leaders, scholars, researchers, and community engagement practitioners with proven successes.

Research has shown, and community members and law enforcement professionals agree, enhanced and expanded training for public safety personnel is needed to reduce crime, build trust, and enable successful police-community collaboration. Improved academy and in-service instruction addressing de-escalation, mental health, human trafficking, and opioid overdoses, among others, are already being implemented across the nation. As crime rates rise, communities and police also concur that strong community-law enforcement partnerships are increasingly requisite for public safety. Yet, there is a colossal lack of training and professional development opportunities for community engagement roles within the law enforcement profession.

While many agencies participate in community outreach programming such as National Faith & Blue Weekend, Police Athletic Leagues, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, and citizen police academies, to name a few, there currently is no comprehensive law enforcement recruit or in-service training available for public safety professionals tasked with community engagement and outreach. This stands apart from how law enforcement professionals assigned to forensics, narcotics, school safety, fleet maintenance, investigations, hostage negotiation, public information, and other specialized functions all have targeted, unique training and networking opportunities through which they have access to best practices, peer support, industry expertise, and current research.

Based upon tenants of Intergroup Contact Theory, the inaugural PLECET Conference will begin to "professionalize" the critical and highly specialized community engagement sector of the law enforcement profession. Designed for law enforcement personnel with community engagement and outreach responsibilities, the conference attendees will also include agency heads, researchers, municipal staff and officials, nonprofit representatives, communications professionals, and technologists.

During the PLECET Conference, public safety community engagement practitioners will learn about best and promising community outreach practices and resources that will help them excel in their roles. Participants will

Note: This is a planning document only. The participants are to be invited, subject to change, and the final details are to be confirmed. (Updated on February 1, 2023)

also have an opportunity to formally and informally network with other law enforcement professionals working in similar roles across the nation, which will provide immediate and sustained professional development opportunities.

The conference will utilize a standard workshop, caucus, and plenary structure with planned opportunities for networking. After an opening plenary session with prominent national leaders, each participant will take eight separate courses. The training will include workshops with an instructionally designed curriculum constructed to equip community engagement officers with best-in-class competencies to maximize their potential impact in local communities. The conference will culminate in a national town hall meeting focused on effectively utilizing community engagement to reduce crime and build trust. Local, state, federal, tribal, and campus law enforcement agencies throughout the United States will attend. Lunch will be provided on-site daily and is included with conference registration. Space is limited, and registrations are allocated on a per-state basis at no cost to local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

During the conference, a new **Law Enforcement-Community Engagement Network (LECEN)** of law enforcement professionals will be formed to provide ongoing training, peer support, access to critical information, and networking.

Every year that MFI has directed National Faith & Blue Weekend, inquiries have been received from law enforcement community engagement leads who are enthusiastic about holding community events but often lack sufficient knowhow to maximize the opportunity. While most agencies have good program concepts, many lack the expertise, organizational capacity, and resources required to implement their ideas. Further, most agencies have not received any form of training on how to best engage with and involve community members, or how to promote their outreach programs, events, and ongoing activities. Others have successfully organized impactful events but lack the expertise to transform these activities into long-term and sustained strategic partnerships that reduce crime and increase mutual trust. These are just a few examples of the community engagement training gaps that will be addressed during the PLECET Conference.

PROSPECTIVE PRESENTERS AND INSTRUCTORS

- U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance
- U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs
- U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
- Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Cops and Barbers Worldwide
- Police Athletic Leagues
- Learning for Life
- National Night Out
- One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP)
- Shop with a Cop
- National Policing Institute
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Stand Together Foundation
- The Policing Project
- Vera Institute of Justice
- Communications Firms
- Corporate and Business Entities

Note: This is a planning document only. The participants are to be invited, subject to change, and the final details are to be confirmed. (Updated on February 1, 2023)

SCHEDULE

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY
5/3/23

2:00pm:
Registration Opens

7:00–9:00pm:
Welcome Reception

DAY 2
THURSDAY
5/4/23

8:00–8:50am:
Opening Ceremony and Plenary

9:00–10:20am:
Training Sessions

10:30–11:50am:
Training Sessions

12:00–1:20pm:
Panel Discussion
and Luncheon

1:30–2:50pm:
Training Sessions

3:00–4:20pm:
Training Sessions

7:00–10:00pm:
Professional Networking
Reception

DAY 3
FRIDAY
5/5/23

8:00–8:50am:
General Plenary

9:00–10:20am:
Training Sessions

10:30–11:50am:
Training Sessions

12:00–1:20pm:
Panel Discussion
and Luncheon

1:30–2:50pm:
Training Sessions

3:00–4:20pm:
Training Sessions

6:00–7:00pm:
Reception

7:00–9:00pm:
National Townhall Meeting

DAY 4
SATURDAY
5/6/2023

10:00–11:30am:
The Torch Awards
Brunch (Tickets Required)

MovementForward, Inc.
2987 Clairmont Road, NE - Suite 230
Atlanta, GA 30329
(404) 605-7000
www.movementforward.org

Note: This is a planning document only. The participants are to be invited, subject to change, and the final details are to be confirmed. (Updated on February 1, 2023)