

Maryland Youth Advisory Council
Baltimore City Community Conversation
November 17, 2016
Patterson Park Branch Library
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Community Conversation

Problems, Issues and Concerns in the Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to resources √√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People to call centers and hotlines • At-risk youth • The poor • Funding • Funding for Rec and Parks √ • Public School Reform √ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum • Administration – effective leadership • Emphasis on tests/scores • Supports for students with special needs • Alternative learning pathways • Safety issues – students and teachers • Effective conflict resolutions √ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How young people are taught to handle conflict • School discipline policy • Bullying • Effective leadership – schools, government, city council √√ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School food • Food deserts • Poverty • Gentrification • Rent prices increase • Affordable housing • Tenant rights – landlords • Cleanliness of the City – trash and rats • Police Community Relations √√√√√√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of community policing • High murder rate • Crime rate • Drug dealing • Updated access to pedophile registry • Lack of effective partnerships – more relationships with faith-based and the community • Jobs √

Prioritized Issue Areas
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of Access to Resources 2. Poor Police-Community Relations

Causes of Lack of Access to Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding – low priority • Little to no student/youth engagement • Focus on building youth detention centers • Lack of jobs • Lack of guidance/support • Lack of community feedback • Low participation of homeowners • Lack of accountability for politicians • Need for increased presence of grassroots organizations • Lack of community mobility • People aren't putting in effort – do people see the bigger picture – just trying to survive • Personal priorities • Lack of priority for Baltimore city residents - housing

Causes for Poor Police-Community Relations

- Hostility towards police from community
 - Police misconduct
 - Civil rights violations
- Police need strict background checks
- Fear from crime reporters
- Generational mistrust of police
- War on drugs – militarized police force and mindset of war
- Use of force training
- Different expectations of police duties
- Pointing of guns – method of compliance
- Lack of community policing
- Police are not active in the community
- Priorities of police on the street
- Profiling
- Police don't live in the community – cannot relate
- Police don't look like the residents they serve
- Police don't communicate with residents
- Negative interactions with community – only interactions
- Lack of neighborhood liaisons
- Lack of proactive policing
- Need for equal attention from police of all communities
- Lack of equal treat from police
- Attention from the media – only negative

Solutions for Poor Police Community Relations

- End the war on drugs
- Not just the police but the community
- Personal upbringings
- More positivity from the media
- Continuum of force – change the rules
- Better police training
- Need for accountability
- Need police to live in the city
- Sensitivity training
- Police should resemble the community they serve
- De-escalation training/crisis intervention
- Mental health first aid training
- Community control of the police
- Police need access to resources – cars, equipment, etc
- More community-police liaisons