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Building Trust Between Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve Cole Hancock and Mia Tarallo

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Building Trust Between Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve

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Building Trust Between Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve

Following the events of this past summer, it is evident that the United States is faced with a problem regarding trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities that those agencies serve. There were large protests, calls to defund police departments, and general unrest in many large cities across the United States following the death of George Floyd. As young Americans, as well as interns for a police department, we are put into a unique position where the issue can be examined from multiple perspectives. We can see what goes on behind the scenes and the daily operations of a police department, while also hearing the opinions and thoughts of our peers on police related issues. Being in this position has allowed us the opportunity to examine possible solutions to bridge the gap and build trust between law enforcement and the public.

In this report, we will be discussing the root causes to mistrust between police and communities, ranging from the local level, all the way to the global level. We will then examine different strategies that law enforcement agencies have implemented to improve relations with the public. Those methods will be analyzed in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and it will be determined whether those strategies are applicable in the city of Georgetown. Finally, an interview with Captain Brown of the Georgetown Police Department will discuss what the police department is currently doing in terms of maintaining a healthy and positive relationship with the residents of the city, as well as what needs to be done to achieve sustainable change not only in the United States, but around the world. To conclude, analysis of empirical data and the case studies will determine appropriate policy recommendations to the city of Georgetown Police Department.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and they were created to help people have a more sustainable future. The 17 Goals, which specifically target different sustainability topics, allow for people and organizations to improve their sustainability and relations with the public. The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity.[1] In this report we will be targeting the following: SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions; SDG 17: Partnerships; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; and SDG 5: Gender Equality. Specifically this report relates to the following targets; 16.1: significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths, 16.3: promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice, 10.2: empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion for all, 10.3: ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities, 5.1: end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, and 5.5: ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.[2]

When it comes to police-community relations and law enforcement in general, sustainable development goal 16 applies the most. SDG 16 not only applies to the Georgetown Police Department, which is on a local level, but also applies on a national level with all law enforcement agencies and their communities. After the past year's events following the killing of George Floyd, it is imperative for law enforcement agencies to work on community relations. Showing the local communities that upholding peace and justice is crucial when working on this relationship. If

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[1] "Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions." UNDP. Accessed April 2021. https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions.html.

[2] https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5

communities don't see officers holding other officers accountable and bringing cases to justice, then trust will not be gained.

Law enforcement agencies gaining the trust of their communities really relies on partnerships, which relates to SDG 17. Partnerships were not only important throughout our internship, but it is also crucial for the Georgetown Police Department and other police departments around the nation to form partnerships throughout their communities. Partnerships allow for connections to be made and for information to be shared, which is always helpful in law enforcement. Partnerships within the community allows for community members to see officers actively participating with local organizations and helping in local events, which will in turn hopefully help police officers with gaining trust of the local communities. According to the United Nations SDG 17 is important on all levels. A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships – at the global, regional, national and local levels – built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the center.[3] Partnerships allow for goals, creations, and information to be shared. Looking at police-community relations, partnerships allow for police to share information with the community and vise-versa. With adequate communication between both police officers and community members trust can form on both sides. Target 17.7 relates to this specifically. Target 17.7 encourages and promotes the effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships. With the public and local law enforcements creatin an effective partnership and relationship, then trust can be built between the two.

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[3] "Global Partnerships – United Nations Sustainable Development." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed April 2021. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/.

After the events that took place this past summer, reducing the inequalities within law enforcement has become a major goal for years to come. The murder of George Floyd opened a lot of conversations about how African Americans and other minorities feel about law enforcement and how prevalent inequalities are within the United States. SDG Goal 10 is specifically related to this report because the issues happening within our country right now are between law enforcement and communities. This past year, certain police departments and specific officers have started to be held accountable due to their actions towards people of color. In this era of technology, social media and people taking pictures and videos of everything, there is now constant proof of racially motivated acts that have been done by officers in the past. SDG 10 is now more important than ever. Reducing the inequalities within communities is critical when it comes to police-community relationships. Low-income communities also face a lot of inequalities when it comes to law enforcement. A concept that is very common within low-income communities is the broken windows theory. This theory is a main cause of inequalities within communities. The broken windows concept states that visible signs of disorder and misbehavior in an environment encourage further disorder and misbehavior, leading to serious crimes.[4] This theory basically trains police officers to scope crime that is not actually present just because of how the community looks and how the community is. This theory alone is a concept of inequality. The Georgetown Police Department and other department around the nation have been working on ways to reduce the inequalities within their communities.

Gender equality has been a powerful movement, especially within the last ten years. More and more women are wanting to hold powerful and important positions in all job fields and law

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[4] "Broken Windows Theory." Psychology Today. Sussex Publishers. Accessed April 2021. https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/broken-windows-theory.

enforcement is no exception to that. SDG 5: gender equality, is related to this report because gender equality within officer positions is becoming very important. Women today are more likely to partake in dangerous jobs than ever before and more women wanting to share their voice. Working in law enforcement is a great way for women in today's day in age to do this. The Georgetown Police Department and departments around the US can benefit from the increase in female officer presence. With women making up such a small minority of law enforcement, almost half of the population has been excluded from a career in which they could affect significant and positive change. This despite considerable evidence has 'a profound impact on the culture of policing'.[5] Female officers are also extremely important in easing police-community relations. Chuck Wexler noted that women officers have three major benefits. (1) Women officers are less likely to use excessive force; (2) women officers can help improve police-community relations; (3) women officers are skilled at addressing violence against women and sex crimes.[6] Gender equality within the police workforce is crucial to ease police-community relations and to make the workplace a more equal opportunity place.

While our internship and report pays close attention to the city of Georgetown and local policing, it is important to realize that changes and improvements at the local levels of governance can lead to improvements in other parts of the country and even other parts of the world. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that we are trying to achieve in Georgetown County must also be applied on a global scale to truly achieve a sustainable future. In terms of our specific project regarding trust between law enforcement and the public, it is important to realize

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[5] Fritsvold, Erik. "We Need More Women Working in Law Enforcement. Here's Why." University of San Diego, March 3, 2021. https://onlinedegrees.sandiego.edu/women-in-law-enforcement/.

[6] Fritsvold, Erik "We Need More Women Working in Law Enforcement. Here's Why." University of San Diego, March 3, 2021. https://onlinedegrees.sandiego.edu/women-in-law-enforcement/.

that this is not a problem that is exclusive to the United States, however data shows it is impossible

to deny that it *is* a problem in the United States. According to the Council on Foreign Relations,

the United States leads other democracies in police killings by a wide margin.[7] (see Fig. 1)

U.S. Leads Other Democracies in Police Killings
Killings by law enforcement, 2019 or most recent year

	Killings per 10 million people	Total killings
United States	33.5	1,099
Canada	9.8	36
Australia	8.5	21
Netherlands	2.3	4
New Zealand	2.1	1
Germany	1.3	11
England and Wales	0.5	3
Japan	0.2	2
Iceland	0	0
Norway	0	0

Source: Prison Policy Initiative.

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Fig. 1

Public opinion on police in the US reflects these statistics. According to the New York

Times, trust in police is at an all-time low currently across the United States. Following the killing

of George Floyd of July, the New York Times had reported that "confidence in police had fallen

to forty eight percent, marking the first time in 27 years that the number had fallen below fifty

percent."[8] The response to the survey varied greatly among respondents who came from different

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[7] Amelia Cheatham and Lindsay Maizland, "How Police Compare in Different Democracies," Council on Foreign Relations (Council on Foreign Relations, November 12, 2020), https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-police-compare-different-democracies.

[8] Ortiz, Aimee. "Confidence in Police Is at Record Low, Gallup Survey Finds." The New York Times. The New York Times, August 12, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/12/us/gallup-poll-police.html.

races and political party. Republicans reportedly had a rise in confidence in police, resulting in an

82% confidence in police.[9] Democrats had the opposite reaction, with their confidence in police

spiraling down to just 28%.[10] The gap between confidence in police among White and African

American in the US has also never been greater. 56% of White Americans said they were confident

in the police, while the number fell to nineteen percent for African Americans.[11]

As mentioned previously, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that we are

trying to achieve in Georgetown is a global initiative as well, so it is crucial to recognize that the

scope of the issue that our report focuses on is worldwide. According to Amnesty International, in

2019 police in Rio de Janeiro killed 1,810 people, an average of five per day.[12] Many of these

incidents are reportedly committed by Brazilian police officers against young black men who pose

no threat, because investigations and prosecutions have not occurred. Governments that regularly

abuse human rights, such as Hong Kong, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Nicaragua tend to favor aggressive

police behavior, especially during protests and demonstrations.[13] While many of the countries may

not be considered as stable as the United States, well developed countries such as the UK are also

experiencing similar issues as the United States. Earlier this month, there were sweeping protests

against a new crime bill that was being introduced to parliament that would give police more power

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[9] Ortiz, Aimee. "Confidence in Police Is at Record Low, Gallup Survey Finds." The New York Times. The New York Times, August 12, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/12/us/gallup-poll-police.html.

[10] Ortiz, Aimee. "Confidence in Police Is at Record Low, Gallup Survey Finds." The New York Times. The New York Times, August 12, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/12/us/gallup-poll-police.html.

[11] Ortiz, Aimee. "Confidence in Police Is at Record Low, Gallup Survey Finds." The New York Times. The New York Times, August 12, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/12/us/gallup-poll-police.html.

[12] "Police Violence Around the World," Amnesty International USA, accessed April 11, 2021, https://www.amnestyusa.org/issues/deadly-force-police-accountability-police-violence/.
[13] "Police Violence Around the World," Amnesty International USA, accessed April 11, 2021, https://www.amnestyusa.org/issues/deadly-force-police-accountability-police-violence/.

to control demonstrations and protests, as well as set restrictions on how long demonstrations could last, and how loud they could be.[14] Some of the protests around the UK in response turned violent, with some police officers being injured, along with demonstrators.[15] As shown, the issue of trust in law enforcement exists at the local, national, and international level, in areas of high poverty and low governance along with highly developed nations and communities. However, positive and sustainable change begins at the local level, and then expands to the national and global level. In the next section of the report, different strategies that law enforcement agencies have implemented to build trust with their communities will be examined, as well as academic studies that show what the effective ways are in improving relations between police and the public.

In New Haven, Connecticut, a group of researchers interested in community-oriented policing conducted a study to examine the effects of positive, informal interactions between police officers and community members.[16] The study began by surveying registered voters in New Haven and asking them questions in reference to police legitimacy, trust and compliance.[17] After the initial survey was complete, researchers sent police officers to the homes of those that responded, hoping to produce a positive, nonenforcement interaction between the police officer and

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[14] Elian Peltier, "Thousands Protest Against Policing Bill in Britain, With Clashes in London," The New York Times (The New York Times, April 3, 2021), https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/03/world/europe/london-protests-policing-bill.html.

[15] Elian Peltier, "Thousands Protest Against Policing Bill in Britain, With Clashes in London," The New York Times (The New York Times, April 3, 2021), https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/03/world/europe/london-protests-policing-bill.html.

[16] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

[17] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

community member.[18] Of the 1,007 individuals that responded to the survey, 412 were successfully reached at the door by the police officer.[19] Following the interaction, community members were later sent a similar survey to the one they had responded to previously. Researchers found that the short interaction that occurred at the door to the respondent's home was a huge success – perceptions of police performance, legitimacy, and willingness to cooperate all increased after the visit.[20] The visits had the strongest effect among Black participants, whose willingness to cooperate, confidence and trust towards police increased twice as much compared to White participants following the visits.[21] Furthermore, the visits had the strongest effect among individuals who held the most negative views towards police prior to the intervention[22], which shows that these small positive encounters can truly make a difference.

In an interview with Captain Brown of the Georgetown Police Department, I brought up the New Haven study and whether it would be deemed possible for Georgetown Police to send

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[18] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

[19] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

[20] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

[21] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

[22] Peyton, Kyle, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and David G. Rand. "A Field Experiment on Community Policing and Police Legitimacy." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, October 1, 2019. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/40/19894.

officers to residents' homes to introduce themselves and to create a positive interaction. While Captain Brown said that sending officers door to door would be logistically challenging, he emphasized that leadership within the department instructs officers to create positive interactions with members of the community.[23] As the study showed, it makes a real difference. Whether that be stopping at the basketball courts to play basketball with kids or helping someone on the side of the road with a flat tire, these interactions lead to a mutual respect between police officers and community members.[24] The New Haven study also demonstrates that building trust between law enforcement and the community does not have to be elaborate or expensive outreach programs that cost the department money and resources - it can be simple, small tasks that make a huge difference.

While positive, informal interactions between police and the public result in beneficial outcomes, so do organized, formal efforts by law enforcement. Criminal Justice scholar Ellen G. Cohn argues that the development of a Citizen Police Academy (CPA) has resulted in a new mechanism for improving police-community relations and enhancing public cooperation.[25] In a Citizen Police Academy, citizens are taught about police operations, policies and procedures, and police citizen communication is facilitated.[26] CPA's do not produce reserve police or employees of the police department. Instead, their purpose is to provide an understanding between

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[23] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department, April 1, 2021
[24] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department, April 1, 2021.

[25] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

[26] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

communities and police through education and other experiences, such as ride-alongs.[27] CPA

programs typically run from 10 to 13 weeks, with some police agencies using lectures and a

"classroom" approach, while others use more hands-on activities.[28] The success and

effectiveness of CPA's depends on a number of factors. For one, the budget of the CPA will

often times determine its ability to be successful. The more money and resources that are put into

the CPA, the more effective it usually is (some police forces charge tuition to those enrolling to

help cover costs).[29] The author also found that there were greater results from CPA's in which

the officers teaching the course were not forced to do so, but rather wanted to and were

enthusiastic during the whole course.[30]

　　　　While CPAs can be costly, the advantages and results that come from them seem to be

worth it. According to the author, four common themes emerged from CPAs: "(1) an increased

understanding of and appreciation for the intelligence, versatility and professionalism of the

"average" police officer; (2) an increased appreciation and support for continued training and

formal education for police officers; (3) a decided willingness to be less influenced by the

prejudices of others in conversations related to the police; and (4) an increased sense of

individual responsibility to work with the police in matters related to order maintenance and

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[27] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice*3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

[28] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice*3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

[29] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice*3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

[30] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice*3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

crime prevention."[31] Citizen Police Academies are not reserved for large cities or metropolitan

areas. Neighboring police departments, such as Myrtle Beach, Mt. Pleasant, and Georgetown

County Sheriff's Department have had success using CPAs. In a conversation with Captain

Brown, I learned that a CPA for Georgetown Police was in development. However, the CPA

would not be implemented until the pandemic is over and it is safe to have residents in the police

department.[32] In my interview with Captain Brown, he emphasized the importance of education

and transparency,[33]which is precisely what a CPA provides to the public.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, Citizen Police Academies cost money, but are

very effective. A popular suggestion made by the pubic when talking about police reform was to

"defund the police." However, after doing research, this concept or strategy would likely have

adverse effects on police and community relations. It is first important to look at the data in

terms of spending on police in the United States. Contrary to popular belief, the United States is

nowhere near the top spenders on law enforcement when compared to other countries.[34] Instead,

the United States finds themselves in the middle (see Fig. 2).[35]

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[31] Cohn, Ellen G. "The Citizen Police Academy: A Recipe for Improving Police-Community Relations." *Journal of Criminal Justice*3 (1996): 265–71. https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(96)00011-6.

[32] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department. April 1, 2021
[33] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department. April 1st, 2021
[34] Amelia Cheatham and Lindsay Maizland, "How Police Compare in Different Democracies," Council on Foreign Relations (Council on Foreign Relations, November 12, 2020), https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-police-compare-different-democracies.
[35] Amelia Cheatham and Lindsay Maizland, "How Police Compare in Different Democracies," Council on Foreign Relations (Council on Foreign Relations, November 12, 2020), https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-police-compare-different-democracies.

Among OECD, U.S. Police Spending Ranks in Middle
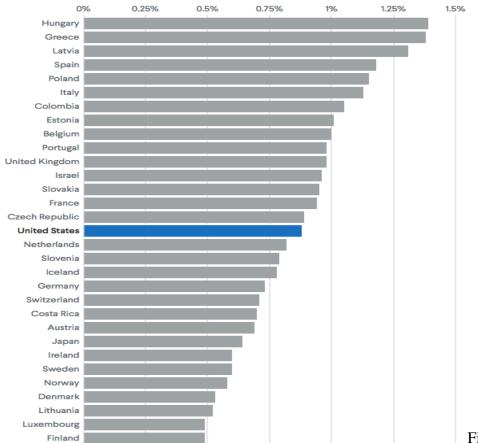Spending on police as a percentage of GDP, 2017

Fig. 2

"Defunding the Police" will ultimately make it impossible for local departments to run the programs that help connect them to their communities, because those programs require funding. Captain Brown mentioned national night out, self-defense classes for young girls entering college, outreach programs, and the CPA that is soon to take off.[36] All of those things help Georgetown Police Department engage and build trust with the communities, and all require funding. The problem that the US currently is facing in regard to policing is complex and taking away money from law enforcement agencies is not as simple as many may see. Where funding is

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[36] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department. April 1, 2021

allocated may need to be revisited, however taking funds away will cause even further separation between police forces and the public.

People are raised with different views on the police. Nancy La Vigne collected data from six major cities: Birmingham, Alabama; Fort Worth, Texas; Gary, Indiana; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Stockham, California. The purpose of the study that was conducted was to determine how different people within high-crime, low-income communities view the police. The survey for this data was targeted towards a very large audience. Participants were of all ages ranging between 18-104. They had many difference races and ethnicities, and were a mix of gender. A major outcome of this study was the fact that it proved community members believed police officers are bias. Across six questions on perceptions of bias among the police, approximately half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that police officers were biased or behaved biasedly. The statement, "police officers will treat you differently because of your race/ethnicity" received the highest agreement (55.5 percent) from respondents.[37] People within these six major cities, as mentioned above come from all different backgrounds, incomes, etc., so the fact that not just low-income families and/or communities believe that police officers are biased based on race, gender, etc. is a very important find. However, this article also mentions that for police to not be biased the communities need to be understanding, cooperative, and trusting. If the police can't trust the community and the community can't trust the police, there is going to be a lot of problems.

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[37] La Vigne , Nancy, Jocelyn Fontaine , and Anamika Dwivedi. "How Do People in High-Crime, Low-Income Communities View the Police? ." urban.org. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/88476/how_do_people_in_high-crime_view_the_police.pdf?swcfpc=1, February 2017.

Police around the country deal with very minimal trust from their communities. When it comes to looking at Georgetown and how the Georgetown Police Department can work on community trust, it would be beneficial to look at how other police departments work on community-police relationships. 2020 was a year that proved that many people do not trust the police and it is important to know these statistics to better understand ways in which these relationships can be fixed.

This past year showed that many communities do not trust and respect police officers, and it also showed that there are officers (not all) that have racial bias. In an article published by PBS, a third off all Americans - 35 percent – said they have a great deal of confidence that police officers in their communities treat black and white people equally.[38] When looking at the entire country, 35 percent is extremely low, which means that much of the country believes that black and white civilians are not treated equally by the police. Attached also are two polls with data showing how Americans feel about the treatment of people in their communities by police officers (see charts below).[39]

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[38] Santhanam, Laura. "Two-Thirds of Black Americans Don't Trust the Police to Treat Them Equally. Most White Americans Do." PBS. Public Broadcasting Service, June 5, 2020. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/two-thirds-of-black-americans-dont-trust-the-police-to-treat-them-equally-most-white-americans-do.

[39] Santhanam, Laura. "Two-Thirds of Black Americans Don't Trust the Police to Treat Them Equally. Most White Americans Do." PBS. Public Broadcasting Service, June 5, 2020. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/two-thirds-of-black-americans-dont-trust-the-police-to-treat-them-equally-most-white-americans-do.

Poll: How much confidence do you have that local police will treat black and white people equally? PBS NEWS HOUR

	A great deal	A fair amount	Just some	Very little/no confidence at all	Unsure
National adults	35%	28%	17%	18%	1%
White	42%	28%	16%	12%	1%
African American	6%	25%	17%	48%	4%
Latino	27%	36%	16%	20%	0%

NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted June 2nd through June 3rd, 2020, n=1062 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points.

Poll: How much confidence do you have that local police will treat black and white people equally? PBS NEWS HOUR

	A great deal	A fair amount	Just some	Very little confidence	Unsure
June 2020*	35%	28%	17%	18%	1%
December 2014	41%	30%	11%	16%	3%

NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted June 2nd through June 3rd, 2020, n=1062 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points.

*Very little / no confidence responses combined

As one can see from these images, most people believe that African Americans receive different treatment from police officers. This also has something to do with the Broken Windows Theory. This theory is applied to low-income communities, where African Americans and Latinos are more present than white Americans. The broken windows theory automatically makes police more likely to target people of a certain race or ethnicity for almost no reason. A 2019 study showed that black men and boys face much higher risk of being killed by police in their lifetime – 96 deaths out of 100,000 are at the hands of police – than do white men and boys, whose likelihood of death by

police is 39 out of 100,000.[40] With a specific race already at a much higher risk to experience police brutality, communities trust towards their police officers is going to be low and questionable. Based off this information, police departments around the country need to work on improving and implementing SDG 10, reducing inequalities. Looking at the information given by these articles, it is evident that African Americans and Latinos are victims of police inequality. If officers and departments want to see more trust from the local communities, then the racial inequalities need to be addressed and fixed.

Building trust between the police force and the community is very difficult to do unless the community trusts the community. For communities and police to understand and cooperate with each other, then the people of the communities need to do the same with each other. Stoecker talks about how urban areas and cities are usually segregated by race, ethnicity, age and income. People of different backgrounds view the police differently based on how they grew up and how they were raised. White community members had treated police as service providers and regularly participated in feedback efforts, but members of the other communities in the district had not. African Americans often perceived police as antagonistic to the community. Latinx community members worried about their immigration status questioned by police, an anxiety complicated by the negative perceptions of police some may have brought with them from their countries of origin.[41] Based off how communities are, Stoecker suggests ways in which these communities can

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[40]Santhanam, Laura. "Two-Thirds of Black Americans Don't Trust the Police to Treat Them Equally. Most White Americans Do." PBS. Public Broadcasting Service, June 5, 2020. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/two-thirds-of-black-americans-dont-trust-the-police-to-treat-them-equally-most-white-americans-do.

[41] Stoecker, Randy. "Building Community-Police Relations by Building Community-Community Relations." Police Chief Online , July 10, 2019. https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/building-community-police-relations-by-building-community-community-relations/.

strengthen their community-community relations. When these relations are strong it allows for more trust and cooperation to be put towards the police.

In a survey done by the Pew Research Center, it has been shown the Democrats and Republicans have very different views on the police and how they do their jobs. When it comes to protecting people from crime, 79% of Republicans say police are doing an excellent or good job, compared to 53% of Democrats.[42] Along with protecting people from crime, it was concluded that Republicans believe that the right amount of force is being used and police are doing a good job treating racial and ethnic groups equally and fairly. Specifically, 76% of white Republicans feel this way compared to 27% of white Democrats.[43] Democrats and Republicans have forever had different views on how this country is run and how law enforcement does their job. This survey gives plenty of statistics on the differences Democrats and Republicans have on law enforcement jobs.

With so many communities around the country not trusting their local police, it is important that agencies and departments try and come up with steps to help build that trust. An article written by the U.S Department of Justice lays out and explains some steps that could help. These steps include: (1) Acknowledge and discuss with your communities that challenges you are facing; (2) Be transparent and accountable; (3) Take steps to reduce bias and improve cultural competency; (4) Maintain focus on the important of collaboration and be visible in the community; (5) Promote internal diversity and ensure professional growth opportunities (justice.gov). These

[42] Brown, Anna. "Wide Partisan Gap in Views of Police." Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center, August 28, 2020. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/13/republicans-more-likely-than-democrats-to-have-confidence-in-police/.

[43] Brown, Anna. "Wide Partisan Gap in Views of Police." Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center, August 28, 2020. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/13/republicans-more-likely-than-democrats-to-have-confidence-in-police/.

recommendations were given to help local departments build police-community relationships and hopefully start to let the community see that the police officers are there to help. A main point in this article is that police need to acknowledge the past and learn from it. Police should acknowledge the history of racial minorities and others who have faced injustice at the hands of the police. And police should never discount the negative experiences of individuals with the police. African Americans have a history of being marginalized and mistreated by the police, leading to a lack of trust and resentment.[44] It is also important for police officers to understand that a lot of mistrust coming from African Americans is generational because they have seen how their friends and family have been treated by law enforcement in the past. If treatment isn't changed it just proves that communities wont trust police. The steps provided by the Justice Department are extremely beneficial in fixing community-police relationships. These steps also target all four of the sustainable development goals we mentioned at the beginning of the report.

Building trust between police and the community is not a process that happens overnight. It is a relationship that requires constant attention, care, and resources dedicated to it as time goes on. When the city of Georgetown does implement a Citizens Police Academy (CPA) once the pandemic is over, it will need to promote the academy, as well as be able to provide funding for the operations of it for several years. The purpose of a CPA is not to have it active for one year and then to forget about it – that will only cause short term change. As each year goes on, innovation needs to occur, keeping what works and modifying the things that are not as effective.

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[44] "Importance of Police-Community Relationships and Resources for Further Reading ." U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service , n.d. https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836486/download.

It is also important to realize that with any police department, there is a fair amount of turnover among officers. Older officers retire on a regular basis, and often, new, younger officers are hired to fill their shoes. When an officer retires, and a new officer is brought in, the community should be aware of this. The new officer should get to know the community, just as the community should get to know the officer. This is crucial for building a sustainable relationship between law enforcement and the community.

When it comes to training new officers, the education needs to be reformed, especially after the events that took place in 2020. Police academies and education has virtually zero standardization, which is a major problem.

> "At present, police academies, the shorter-term, skills-based programs for officers, skew toward a military-style training model whose leaders have often been dismissive of change, say law enforcement experts. There are few mandates to give officers substantive training in anti-bias, conflict resolution and other approaches that some experts say could help mitigate violence. While efforts to ensure that police are educated about de-escalation and racial bias have gained momentum after Floyd's death, there's also a growing sense that training cannot reach very far without a more fundamental reimagining of the role of police."[45]

Updating the current police education system is extremely critical because if younger and newer officers are not trained to cater current times, then we are going to continue to see police brutality and violence. Unless new officers are educated on better de-escalation techniques and

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[45] Preston, Caroline. "Police Training Is Broken. Can It Be Fixed?" The Hechinger Report, April 1, 2021. https://hechingerreport.org/police-education-is-broken-can-it-be-fixed/.

better situation control then we are going to be stuck in this constant cycle. Creating a universal

police education program that fits all local police departments is going to be a key aspect of

building community trust. An issue with current training is that all counties are educated and

trained differently, and it is common for instructors to be harsh on recruits. Instructors bullied

and demeaned new recruits and referred to people on the streets as "scumbags," "junkies" and

"punks". Recruits are also often broken down just to be built back up based on how the

instructors want these officers to be.[46] With education like this, it is inevitable to produce officers

that are going to resort to violence.

When making recommendations specific to the Georgetown Police Department, we

found it difficult to find things that they should be doing better in terms of engaging with the

community. Many of the strategies used by other law enforcement agencies discussed in this

paper to build trust with the community are already being used by the Georgetown Police

Department. While interviewing Captain Brown, he mentioned the numerous things that the

police department does to engage in the community, such as National Night Out, teaching self-

defense classes to young girls going off to college, and the creation of a Citizens Police

Academy. [47] Captain Brown also mentioned how important it is for a police department to be

reflective of the community they serve[48], which is an ideal Georgetown Police successfully

replicates. The city of Georgetown is diverse, with forty six percent of the population being

African American.[49] Georgetown Police employs a large number of African American officers,

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[46] Preston, Caroline. "Police Training Is Broken. Can It Be Fixed?" The Hechinger Report, April 1, 2021. https://hechingerreport.org/police-education-is-broken-can-it-be-fixed/.

[47] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department. April 1, 2021.

[48] Captain Brown. Georgetown Police Department. April 1, 2021.

[49] "QuickFacts Georgetown, South Carolina," Census.gov (United States Census Bureau, 2019), https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/georgetowncitysouthcarolina/PST045219.

as well as administrative staff. It is also worth noting that Chief Waites of Georgetown Police is also African American.

The efforts that Georgetown Police is taking to build trust is paying off. According to Police Scorecard, which gathers data on police departments around the country and gives them scores, there have been no uses of deadly force by Georgetown Police since data had started being collected in 2013.[50] The site also mentions that there are zero unsolved homicides by the Georgetown Police Department[51], which also helps build trust with the community, because victims feel as though justice has been served.

To conclude, the city of Georgetown Police Department has an opportunity to become a facilitator of change when it comes to police – community relations. Trust in police is a national problem, however that cannot be addressed until the issue is looked at in our local communities. The city of Georgetown PD taking any of the steps described above is a movement in the right direction, whether it be big or small. Patience must be required, as a healthy, sustainable relationship between the police department and community will not develop overnight, it is going to take a lot of time and effort, however the city of Georgetown is ready to take on the challenge and continue to facilitate trust between the police department and community one step at a time. In doing so, UN Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions will be reached. Target 16.6 will be accomplished, which highlights the importance of developing effective, transparent and accountable institutions at all levels of law

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[50] "Georgetown Police Department," Police Scorecard (CampaignZero, 2019), https://policescorecard.org/sc/police-department/georgetown#.

[51] "Georgetown Police Department," Police Scorecard (CampaignZero, 2019), https://policescorecard.org/sc/police-department/georgetown#.

enforcement.[52] Along with that, UN Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships will also be reached. In particular with that goal, Target 17.17 will be accomplished which is to "encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships."[53] If law enforcement agencies around the world can take the just some of the steps described in this report, then the future relationship between police and the public will be much more sustainable.

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[52] "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations (United Nations), accessed April 29, 2021, https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/.

[53] "Global Partnerships – United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations (United Nations), accessed April 29, 2021, https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/.

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