

Task Force on Community and Police Relations

The *Task Force on Community and Police Relations* has been created to help guide discussion and advance the dialogue between the community (in particular African American and Hispanic populations) and law enforcement in Wyandotte County.



The objective is to help build and strengthen trust between the community and law enforcement by identifying issues, perceptions, and challenges to that trust that exist today, creating awareness of these issues, and providing a vehicle and forum in which this information will be distributed and shared with law enforcement, local officials, and the community as a whole.

Ultimately, the goal is for law enforcement and local leaders to utilize these learnings to expand education and awareness, review and improve policing policies and procedures, and build upon community relations and outreach efforts to ensure a high level of trust, interaction, and inclusiveness with all groups and populations in historically diverse Wyandotte County.

Mission:

The *Task Force on Community and Police Relations* will work to coordinate and gather input and insight from the community on law enforcement perceptions, policies, procedures, and protocols in Wyandotte County, including the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Wyandotte County's Sheriff's Office. The group will identify opportunities and appropriate vehicles to gather community input, collecting and distributing the information provided with law enforcement, local officials, and the community. The Task Force is not a policy making body and will not make specific recommendations. Rather, it will help facilitate discussion, serving as a conduit for the gathering and dissemination of information to law enforcement and local officials for review and appropriate action.

Overview:

The Task Force will be co-chaired by Mayor David Alvey and UG Commissioner Harold Johnson. Task Force members include:

- Mayor/CEO David Alvey, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, KCK (co-chair)
- Commissioner Harold Johnson, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, KCK (co-chair)
- Rev. Tony Carter, Jr. Salem Missionary Baptist Church
- Yareli Castor, Student, Donnelly College, KCK resident
- Evelyn Hill, Community Engagement Director, Avenue of Life
- Monsignor Stuart Swetland, President, Donnelly College
- Curtis Smart, M.A. Public Health Administration and KCK Entrepreneur
- Maximilian (Max) Mendoza, Executive Director, Heartland 180, Inc.
- Michael York, Interim Chief of Police, Kansas City, KS Police Department
- Don Ash, Sheriff, Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office

The Task Force will develop and communicate its community input plan soon, with expectations that this may include public forums/listening sessions, online survey tools, and a variety of other vehicles for the community to participate and share their thoughts. Once members and planning is finalized, the Task Force will share a summary of these findings publicly with law enforcement, local officials, and the Unified Government for appropriate action.

For additional information, to provide comments, or share your experiences go to www.Community-TaskForce.org. Staff contacts with the Unified Government are Gordon Criswell at gcriswell@wycokck.org or Maureen Mahoney with Mayor Alvey's office at mmahoney@wycokck.org.

www.Community-TaskForce.org