

OneCOP Initiative Overview

The One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) model is a proactive rather than reactive approach to addressing tensions around police-involved incidents as well as ongoing crime and violence in local communities. OneCOP, an initiative of MovementForward, Inc., has several objectives that incorporate the six pillars outlined by the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing: 1) improving public safety through collaboration and information sharing to prevent, combat and solve crimes by tapping into the varied resources of faith-based institutions; 2) increasing community engagement with patrol-level police officers, via congregations, resulting in decreased bias and increased familiarity, mutual respect and trust; and, 3) proactively creating a direct link between law enforcement executives and community leaders in an effort to prevent violent responses to officer-involved crises while also giving voice to growing public concerns relative to policing.

In light of tensions currently felt between many civilians and law enforcement professionals, leaders in every relevant sector must work cooperatively to improve and strengthen relationships between officers and citizens BEFORE an explosive scenario occurs in their local communities. The purpose of this innovative effort is to curb mounting tensions between citizens and law enforcement officers by building partnerships and mutual understanding, as well as establishing a structured framework for the public to assist law enforcement efforts. Nearly every major national law enforcement association in the United States has signed-on to participate and collaborate with OneCOP.

History and Background

The One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) initiative was conceptualized in the summer of 2009, following a rash of high-profile violent crimes in metro Atlanta, as "One Church One Precinct," a short-term project aimed at engaging faith leaders in solving those specific crimes. Clergy leaders saw an urgent need to coalesce and act in unison with police to address crime. On Saturday, June 13, 2015 in downtown Atlanta, hundreds of law enforcement officers and citizens of every age, race and ideology stood in solidarity to promote and foster an on-going culture of concern, cooperation and reciprocal respect relative to police-community relations. In an effort to create an atmosphere of peace, unity and reconciliation, a televised Town Hall meeting was held in the historic Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College featuring law enforcement and community leaders, families of fallen officers, and families of citizens killed by officers. The rebirth, rebranding and permanent repurposing of OneCOP is the programmatic continuation of that pivotal dialogue. The conceptual framework for the programmatic initiative was formally announced on July 7, 2016 at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta during a regional meeting of key faith and law enforcement leaders.

How and Why Congregations?

OneCOP recognizes that faith based institutions are places of mass gathering and collective action that host millions of people weekly in communities of every kind. They are, therefore, largely untapped resources for strengthening police-community cooperation. Violent crime as well as negative exchanges between cops and citizens cannot be addressed by law enforcement officers alone - the entire community must act collectively to address the dual cultures of violence and distrust. OneCOP unites the various assets of faith-based organizations with law enforcement agencies to improve public safety by "Creating a Culture of Consciousness, Concern and Cooperation." Each congregation is partnered with officers at the beat or precinct level, based upon exact location, using various technological tools. Participating congregations will 'adopt' and partner with their respective officers to create strategic trust building as well as crime fighting, prevention and solving activities depending on the specific needs and demographics of each particular area. Houses of worship are places of hope and provide law enforcement efforts ideal entry into communities and neighborhoods. Our efforts will result in an overall increase in public safety and in innovative, structured collaboration between communities and police. All congregations - regardless of size, affiliation, denomination, racial or social composition, or geography - have a role to play in building mutual respect, combating bias and making society safer overall. This is not a religious or sectarian program.



Implementation Examples



Partners should be certain to structure events, activities and programs to address the specific and particular needs of the surrounding community where your partnering house of worship is located. Creativity and ingenuity are strongly encouraged - you understand the unique needs of your area! The OneCOP congregational coordinator for partnering houses of worship should work with officers to plan and execute all events and activities in accordance with the comprehensive national implementation plan. The OneCOP staff is also available to assist at any time. **Below are some examples of the types of things partners can do jointly to get started:**

BUILDING TRUST & LEGITIMACY

- Ride-Alongs
- Neighborhood Block Party & Dance Contest
- Friendly Cops vs. Youth Athletic Contest
- Create community/congregation advisory group
- Outing to Major Sporting or Music Event
- Barbecue or Ice Cream Social
- "Coffee with a Cop" at Coffee/Donut Shop
- "Law Enforcement Day" Congregational Service
- Senior Citizens "Southern Cuisine" Event for Law Enforcement
- Youth Rap Session
- Alternative Sentencing Program for Misdemeanors
- School Supply Drive

COMMUNITY POLICING & CRIME REDUCTION

- Public Safety Briefings
- Safety & Self-Defense Classes
- Neighborhood Canvass with Literature about Area Criminal Activity
- Community Clean-Up in Crime-Infected Area
- Midnight Peace Walk/March Against Crime in Gang-Impacted Area
- Gun Buy-Back Program
- Community Policing Panel Discussion
- National Night Out Event
- Congregation on Patrol (COP) Force
- Link community with Crime Tips technology i.e.: CrimeReports.com

TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Cultural Sensitivity Training
- "Know Your Rights & Responsibilities" Seminar
- Risk Management and Situational Awareness Workshop
- Criminal Record Expungement Forum
- Active Shooter Training
- Tour of the Police Academy
- Tour Youth Detention Facility
- Technology Safety & Security Workshop
- Fraud and Scam Detection Forum
- Mock Role Reversal Event

OFFICER WELLNESS & SAFETY

- Assist with the provision of Accidental Life Insurance Policy for Officers
- Suicide Prevention Program/Hotline
- Holiday Giveaways
- Stress Management, Emotional and Grief Counseling as Needed
- Public Safety Career Fair
- Encourage Officer Discounts at Local Businesses
- Policing in Action Positive Photo Contest
- Advocate Officer Pay Raises
- Offer Emergency Aid When Needed and Possible
- Congregation families "Adopt-A-Cop"
- Offer officers complimentary access to the congregation's gym or fitness facility