

SIX PILLARS OF 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Pillar One: Building Trust and Legitimacy

Building trust and nurturing legitimacy between police and citizens is the foundational principle underlying the nature of relations between law enforcement agencies and the community they serve. Law enforcement cannot build community trust if it is seen as an occupying force coming in from the outside to impose control on the community.

Pillar Two: Policy and Oversight

If police are to carry out their responsibilities according to established policies, those policies must reflect community values. Law enforcement agencies should collaborate with community members, especially in communities and neighborhoods disproportionately affected by crime, to develop policies and strategies for deploying resources that aim to reduce crime by improving relationship, increasing community engagement, and fostering cooperation.

Pillar Three: Technology and Social Media

The use of technology can improve policing practices and build community trust and legitimacy, but its implementation must be built on a defined policy framework with its purposes and goals clearly delineated. Implementing new technologies can give police departments an opportunity to fully engage and educate communities in a dialogue about their expectations for transparency, accountability and privacy.

Pillar Four: Community and Crime Reduction

Community policing emphasizes working with neighborhood residents to co-produce public safety. Law enforcement agencies should therefore, work with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions that produce meaningful results for the community.

Pillar Five: Training and Education

Today's officers and leaders must be trained and capable to address a wide variety of challenges including international terrorism, evolving technologies, rising immigration, changing laws, new cultural mores and a growing mental health crisis.

Pillar Six: Officer Wellness and Safety

The wellness and safety of law enforcement officers is critical not only for the officers, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety.