



Chicago Police Accountability Task Force Presentation by Michael J. Harrington/Network 49 - Feb. 25, 2016

I am Michael Harrington of NETWORK 49, an organization of 49th Ward and Rogers Park residents. We are outraged by police violence and racism, official cover-ups, corruption, and lack of professionalism by more than just “a few bad apples.”

STEERING COMMITTEE

John Baker
Kevin Brown
Hank Byrne
Thom Clark
Gabe Gonzalez
Ivan Handler
Michael J. Harrington
Katy Hogan
Michael James
Christine Johnson
Ed Mullen
David Orr
Rev. Marilyn Pagán-Banks
Ines Sommer
Jack Swenson
Betsy Vandercook
Jason Weaver

Our police department must be accountable to us, the residents who pay the bills and are the ultimate employer. A strong plan for professionalism, accountability, and public oversight is necessary for a safe and just Chicago.

Here are four of the many key areas of concern:

(1) **MILLIONS FOR WEAPONS:** End reliance on weapons. Tazers kill. They are disproportionately used on children, seniors, and the mentally ill. They won't end police violence. Our \$10 million Taser International contract and millions spent on guns and military gear should instead target human, economic, and community development.

(2) **RECRUITMENT:** We call for deeper background checks; mental health, stress and temperament evaluations; and scrutiny into the racial views of police applicants. Spouses and family of applicants can reveal who is not ready to “serve and protect.”

(3) **TRAINING:** Improve police academy training. Require it for current officers, in particular training on how (a) to de-escalate potentially violent encounters and (b) to reduce use of force.

(4) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM:** Re-invent community policing and foot patrols. CAPS must include residents from every walk of life, especially youth. However, CAPS and more cops on the street won't work - in fact it will make matters worse - without an expectation of swift repercussions for police misconduct. Adopt and monitor policies for **IMMEDIATE DISCIPLINE, SANCTIONS, FIRING, and CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT**. Actively involve citizens - the ultimate employer - in scrutinizing police misconduct and strengthen independence from the mayor's office of IPRA or any other oversight body. Thank you.