



Newark Police Division  
Community Engagement  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2018



## **NPD Community and Youth Engagements, Partnerships and Events**

The NPD engaged in a multitude of community events during the first quarter of 2018. NPD community participants include community groups, neighborhood associations, city agencies, and many more. The purpose of NPD Community engagements are to engage with the community, particularly its youth in meaningful ways, to problem-solve, address crime-quality of life issues.

Community engagements and events are listed below:

1. Coffee with a Cop: NPD Community Service Officers (CSOs) hosted numerous “Coffee with a Cop” events in the first quarter of 2018. During the quarter, NPD CSOs from the Fourth Precinct hosted “Coffee with a Cop” at “Doc’s Waffle House” where they discussed issues and concerns brought up by citizens. On March 28, 2018, NPD patrol officers and CSOs from the Third Precinct, along with the Precinct Captain, hosted “Coffee with a Cop” at “Café Canela”. The CSOs discussed crime and quality of life issues, and answered concerns brought up by the citizens. On February 15, 2018, NPD CSOs from the First Precinct collaborated with management at the New Community Center Senior Building and hosted “Coffee with a Cop”, which gathered approximately fifteen (15) residents. The NPD CSOs engaged the residents in community issues and the CSOs took the opportunity to speak about the NPD “Citizen Clergy Academy”, as well as joining the First Precinct Community Council. A few days later, NPD First Precinct CSOs hosted another “Coffee with a Cop” event at the Bethany Senior Center, which had an attendance of approximately 40 seniors. Topics discussed during this event were the NPD “Citizen Clergy Academy”, First Precinct Community Council membership, phone scams, identity theft, personal safety and upcoming NPD events.

2. Newark Police Citizen/Clergy Academy – The Newark Police Citizen/Clergy Academy is an 8-week course that seeks to give residents an inside look at police work and emergency services in the City. The course offers lessons on police training, emergency dispatch, police deployment decisions, firefighting, fire safety and how the city prepares for major emergencies. CSOs from all precincts conducted recruitment drives throughout the quarter. The Citizen/Clergy Academy Class officially began on March 6, 2018 and meets weekly for eight weeks.
3. Celebrating Black History: On January 13, 2018, NPD CSOs from the First Precinct, along with members from the Rutgers Police Department, attended the Camden Street School holiday event, which highlighted first quarter scholars and school stars, including a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. The NPD CSOs took the opportunity to speak to various groups of children about school bullying, cyber bullying and peer pressure. On February 1, 2018, Second Precinct CSOs held a “2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Black History Month Workshop” at Abington Avenue Elementary School. CSOs made presentations and engaged in dialogue with the youth.
4. Celebrating Security Home and Abroad: On February 25, 2018, NPD CSOs from the First Precinct hosted an event at High Park Gardens where one of the CSOs was the keynote speaker of the event. This event honored eight (8) United States Armed Forces Veterans and was attended by approximately seventy-five (75) residents from High Park Gardens, including members of the Co-op Executive Board.
5. Bingo Night: On March 29, 2018, NPD CSOs from the First Precinct attended Bingo Night at the New Hope Village Apartments community room, which was hosted by the site manager. NPD CSOs played Bingo with residents and took the opportunity to answer any concerns and questions brought up by the residents. NPD CSOs from the Third Precinct also hosted Bingo Night with seniors at the Court Tower Apartments. Third Precinct CSOs had the honor and pleasure to present five (5) winners with Shop Rite Supermarket gift cards.

6. Showering Residents with Love: On Valentine's Day, NPD CSOs from the Fourth Precinct showered residents with love in the area of South Orange Avenue and Maybaum Avenue. The CSOs distributed seventy-six (76) roses and thirty (30) boxes of chocolates to residents and motorists.
7. Youth Basketball: During the first quarter, NPD CSOs from the Third Precinct, in collaboration with The Rock Christian Fellowship, held a youth basketball game at the Hawkins Street School between youth from Hyatt Court and Terrell Homes. On January 14-15, 2018, NPD CSOs from the First Precinct contributed to the Mayor's Basketball Tournament, including setting up a "Biddie Basketball League" for children under 10 years of age. The Biddie Basketball League was requested by parents of the Youth Basketball League for their younger siblings.
8. Helping Those in Need: CSOs from the Second Precinct collaborated with Urban Renewal Corp. (URC), a shelter for the homeless, to host several events. A Stay Clean event was organized where they gifted residents of the shelter with bags filled with toiletries. In a separate event, NPD CSOs along with the City of Newark Mayor's Office collaborated with UCR and Parsippany based Green Giant in donating 1,500 pounds of frozen vegetables to the homeless.
9. From One Generation to the Next: On February 14, 2018, Second Precinct CSOs hosted a lunchtime talk with students at Sussex Avenue School Renew for their 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. CSOs collected handmade Valentine's Day cards from first, third, and fifth graders to distribute to senior citizens. The CSOs then visited Forest Hill Healthcare and Sinai Post-Acute Nursing and Rehab Center, where they distributed the Valentine's Day cards made by the students to the senior citizens. CSOs also gifted senior citizens with lollipops and wished them a Happy Valentine's Day.
10. United Way Celebrity Read: Non-profit United Way collaborated with NPD to host Celebrity Read at multiple elementary schools throughout the City. Celebrity Read is a community-building initiative inspiring elementary school children to read, dream, and set and accomplish goals. Celebrity Readers travel to local schools where they read a brief passage about accomplishments of model people of color. CSOs at the events spoke to the children and selected a variety of books for the children to

choose from. Second Precinct CSO Molina then read the selected book for the students as each student took part in reading for the CSO as well.

11. Youth Leadership Development Academy: NPD CSOs attended the Mayor's Youth Leadership Development Academy Pancakes & Conversation event at King's Restaurant in the Fifth Precinct. The Mayor and youth had pancakes and the Mayor conversed with the youth on how to lead in the community and how to make an impact on society and the world.
12. Pledge & Protect: On February 27, 2018, the Second Precinct Commander and CSOs attended the Pledge & Protect LGBT event hosted by Garden State Equality at the Broadway House for Continuing Care. Garden State Equality is New Jersey's statewide advocacy and education organization for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.
13. Neighborhood Block Watch: CSOs from all districts recruited members of the community to partake in Block Watch. Block Watch, commonly referred to as the Neighborhood Watch, consist of concerned residents who, in cooperation with the NPD, directly participate in the detection and prevention of crime. The program provides training to involved citizens to recognize suspicious or criminal activity and report these activities.
14. 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Adult Medical Day Care: CSOs from the Second Precinct collaborated with social worker, Ms. Bojadschijew, and made a surprise visit to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Adult Medical Day Care where they greeted staff and seniors. The CSOs answered concerns brought up by seniors and staff and they gifted disabled individuals with socks, hats, gloves and scarves to stay warm during the cold winter.

### **NPD Collaborative Problem-Solving Partnerships**

The information below highlights NPD's problem-solving activities, including specific problems addressed and steps taken by NPD and the community towards their resolution.

1. CommUNITY & COPS: During the months of February and March, NPD Consent Decree and Planning Division attended and hosted a total of seven community meetings throughout the City. The purpose of these meetings was to gather community input for the development of the NPD's Community Engagement Policy. Precinct commanders in their respective commands hosted the first five meetings. The last two meetings were marketed as citywide and hosted by the Consent Decree and Planning Division (they took place in the Fifth and Fourth Precincts, respectively). The seventh meeting was scheduled for April 4, 2018. With assistance from the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ), this community input was gathered through the use of a ten-question (later eleven-question) questionnaire. The questions were:

1. What does the term "community policing" mean to you? Based on this definition, how do you think the Newark Police could best practice community policing?
2. How can Newark Police have better community partnerships/relationships?
3. What has been your most positive experience with a member of the Newark Police? What made it positive?
4. What has been your most challenging experience with a member of the Newark Police? What made it challenging?
5. What are the biggest crime-related or quality of life issues in your neighborhood? What do you think the Newark Police could do better to address these issues?
6. What is your preferred method of receiving communication from the Newark Police?
7. To what extent does your law enforcement agency work together with community members to solve local problems? Why do you think this is?
8. Do you think that improvement can be made in how the Newark Police communicate with the public? If so, what?

9. Do you think it is easy or difficult to provide input to the Newark Police (e.g., comments, suggestions, and concerns)? If you find it difficult, what would you change?
10. If there was one thing you would want to see in a Newark Policing community policy, what would it be?
11. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions.

At the end of the meetings, the questionnaires were collected by NJISJ with the results to be provided to NPD in the month of April.

2. Newark Police Precinct Council Meetings: The Precinct Council meets monthly with the goal of facilitating conversation and a forum for residents to voice their concerns directly to the Precinct Commander and other NPD personnel.

### **Staffing allocation and personnel deployment to support community policing and problem-solving initiatives**

Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose announced the grand opening of the City of Newark's 6th Precinct at a press conference held March 27, 2018 at the new Precinct, located at 491 Irvington Avenue in Newark.

"The opening of the 6th Precinct reflects this administration's commitment to expanding police services in concert with the rapid growth and redevelopment occurring in the City of Newark," Mayor Baraka said. "Establishing a broader police presence in the Ivy Hill Park section is an achievement that we have sought for years. We are pleased to provide area residents with the assurance that we are making real strides toward addressing their neighborhood concerns."

"The addition of the 6th Precinct is an accomplishment that the entire City of Newark can be proud of," Director Ambrose said. "The people in the area deserve it and it's been a long time coming," he added. "This new police facility shows that the Police Division is progressing and that we are putting our resources to work in the areas of greatest need and where it will make the biggest impact among residents and visitors."

The new 6th Precinct will be staffed by approximately 60 police officers, including two Community Service Officers.

## **Obstacles and Recommendations**

NPD is working to develop efficient ways to track and document community policing activities. In 2018, it is the goal of the NPD to improve the collection of community engagement and policing data, and utilizing this data to improve our community engagement efforts and improve our community partnerships.