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President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing at White House 7/22

The purpose of this report is to outline the meeting on Friday July 22nd about the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing that took place at the White House. The FOP, represented by Michael Martin and Marisa Beam, and NOBLE were the only two law enforcement organizations to attend. The rest of the meeting was attended by chiefs from across the country.

21st Century Policing Update with Director Ron Davis of the COPS Office

Director Davis gave an overview of where the policing update is being implemented across the country and how to help departments moving forward with the implementation of these programs. He admitted that many departments were practicing these programs recommended in the report before it was ever published.

Q&A portion followed Director Davis' brief remarks. Main concern of many of the chiefs attending the briefing was how to get the funds from their local governments for all the new programs in this report. Many of their local governments are already cash strapped. Director Davis offered contacting his office to help them be put in touch with National League of Cities and Counties and other groups like those for help.

Officer Safety and Wellness with John Matthews (Director of Federal Partnerships, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund)

Matthews gave a rundown of statistics of officers killed in the line of duty. He broke the statistics down in much of the same way that Officer Down Memorial Page does it. He used data from all of 2015 and up to July 21, 2016.

The average age officers killed in the line of duty was 41 years old with an average of 12 years on the job. According to Matthews and his data it is the veterans of the force that are more likely to be killed than the rookies. He said it is because many veterans of the force think they have seen it all and become complacent.

57,000 officers are assaulted per year according the NLEOMF.

Ambush and firearms related deaths are up 72% from last year.

44 officers have been killed in ambush attacks since 2014. There have been 14 officers killed by ambush attacks so far in 2016 which matches the total number of officers killed in ambushes for all of 2015.

Officers are 2.4x more likely to die from suicide than homicide according to NLEOMF data.

Matthews urged the chiefs in the room for more money for officer mental wellness programs and for them to install programs to keep their officers physically fit.

Police Data Initiative with Clarence Wardell (Digital Services Expert, White House Office of Management and Budget) and Denise Ross (Senior Advisor, White House Office of Management and Budget)

This is a White House program to create open data transparency between police departments and the community they police. Only 21 departments are currently apart of this initiative. The types of data includes use of force, police pedestrian and vehicle stops, officer involved shootings and more, helping the communities gain visibility into key information on police/citizen encounters.

This data is all made public. In some cases they had less community complaints when this data was made available to the public. Many chiefs in the room were skeptical of this approach and worried it would create more issues then solve them.

Departments involved in this program are Seattle PD, Richmond PD (California), Oakland PD (California), Los Angeles PD and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, Dallas PD, Austin PD, New Orleans PD, Atlanta PD, Columbia PD (SC), Charlotte-Mecklenberg PD, Knoxville PD, Hampton PD (VA), Newport News PD, Louisville PD, Cincinnati PD, Indianapolis PD, Montgomery County PD (MD), Camden PD (NJ), Philadelphia PD, and Rutland PD (VT).

Implicit Bias Training with Bryant Marks Ph.D. (Director, Program for Research on Black Male Achievement, Morehouse College Presidential Advisor, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans)

Marks did a brief implicit bias training exercise for those who have never taken one before. It is to show how we are all implicitly bias. Marks went to say that this does not mean you are racist, but subconsciously are more likely to have these thoughts from what police see every day. He did note that white liberals have more implicit biases than anyone else. Marks argued that data shows policing can be better if all officers receive this training routinely and would create better community relations.