

# **Tabernacle Baptist Church Listening Tour Questions and Answers**

**May 12, 2016**

**1. How do you restrain yourselves in conflict? When do you shoot to injure? When do you shoot to kill?**

Officers train for tactical responses to high-risk situations, and part of that training includes how to avoid getting into those situations and/or deescalating those types of situations. Unfortunately, some situations progress to being life-threatening, either to the officer or to nearby civilians. When an officer is in a life-threatening situation and has to use their weapon, the officer shoots to stop the threat. When an officer is forced to use his/her weapon, it is a high-stress situation; therefore, officers are trained to shoot at center mass, which is the largest target and if hit will most likely stop the threat. Aiming at center mass also potentially prevents shots that miss the intended target from hitting an innocent bystander. There are some cases when stopping the threat will result in injury and there will be other times when stopping the threat will result in a death.

Officers are not permitted to use firearms unless deadly force is justified because a gunshot wound to any part of the body can be life-threatening.

**2. In the case of a fatality, why is the conviction rate of officers not higher?**

There is justifiable use of deadly force by police in order to stop a threat on the officer's life and the lives of others. There is greater latitude in using deadly force for police officers because of their unique role in society to protect the public. In most cases, there is not criminal intent in an officer-involved shooting because officers have a duty to protect. This does not mean that there are not cases where officers do have criminal intent and do commit a crime and/or are civilly negligent in using deadly force. In these cases, remedy can and should be pursued by the criminal or civil justice systems.

**3. Why are there not more police in the city? Why does it feel like there are less police?**

While there are fewer police officers than in the past, the Dayton Police Department now uses technology and methods that make more efficient use of police officer staffing and resources, such as changing from an 8- to 10-hour work day. Officers are more strategically assigned and use tools that help to more quickly identify and respond to problems, like crime analysis and response and smart policing initiatives.

**4. Police used to walk the streets and get to know the community members. Where did that go?**

The ability to facilitate a walking patrol is directly related to service demand and staffing. Walking patrol can only be done if call load is low and shifts are fully staffed. Currently, the preferred method of being able to interact and engage the community while patrolling is bicycle patrol. Bicycle patrol has the same advantages as walking patrol, but officers are able to cover more area

effectively. Right now, the Dayton Police Department has bike patrols in all three Patrol Operations Divisions: East, West and Central.

**5. What is the police force doing to improve their visibility and positive profile in the community?**

The Dayton Police Department utilizes numerous community-policing-based programs in order to interact with both adults and children across the city of Dayton. Here are just a few examples from 2015, and many of these programs and events are continuing:

- Coffee With a Cop events – 18 total in 2015 - 11 EPOD, 5 WPOD, 2 CPOD
- Coffee With a Cop events – 6 so far in 2016 – 4 EPOD, 1 WPOD, 1 CPOD
- Personal Safety Classes Taught –36 classes, 676 people trained
- Run, Hide, Fight Classes Taught – 32 classes, 794 people trained
- Graduates from the Citizens Police Academy Fall '15 – 17
- Graduates from the Citizens Police Academy Spring '16 - 14
- Police and Youth Together Camp – 57 kids attended in 2015, this program is expanding to include a camp in Westwood and in East Dayton in Summer 2016
- Landlord Association Members – 96 – this was implemented for information sharing and training purposes
- Police Officer/Citizen Mediation Program – 17 cases
- 'What To Do When Stopped By Police' Presentation & Spaghetti Dinners – 6 events in West Patrol Operations Division
- Painting with Police - 10 events
- Graffiti Clean-up Sessions - 6
- Police Recruiting Events – 191 events from April-December 2015 with a total of 1400 applicants
- Awarded grant funding for PSN Grant to try to reduce juvenile crime in the Westwood Neighborhood (\$500,000)

Additionally, the Dayton Human Relations Council (HRC) works with and on behalf of the Dayton City Commission to foster integrative communities that include police and residents working together to reduce crime and improve living conditions throughout the City. The Community Police Council (CPC) was created in 2011 to advise the HRC on policy and systemic issues that challenge community-police relations. CPC is responsible for ensuring that Dayton is unified around its common goal of mutual trust, accountability, fairness and respect for all. The Council, comprised of community and faith-based leaders, law enforcement, and local government serves the Dayton community by ensuring mutual responsibility for public safety and addressing concerns of all residents. Since its inception, CPC has been committed to:

- Creating opportunities for residents and youth to engage with police and speak out about safety in their neighborhoods.
- Listening to individuals, social groups and organizations speak frankly about their relations with police.
- Building trust through clear and accurate communication.

- Responding swiftly to events dividing police from individuals, neighborhoods and the community.
- Coordinating activities city-wide to strengthen community-police relations.
- Developing mutual responsibility and accountability throughout the Dayton community for public safety.

A critical component of the CPC mission involves community outreach and engagement to expand opportunities for law enforcement and the communities they serve to foster trust, share communal experiences and enhance mutual understanding. Together, HRC has worked with CPC, Dayton Police Department and community partners to develop new and innovative solutions to build bridges and create common ground:

### **Community Spaghetti Dinners**

Hosted by the CPC twice a year, community spaghetti dinners bring together area residents to talk about creating safe communities and reducing gun violence. Activities include community dialogues and a resource fair to help connect community to services designed to help stabilize and empower families and individuals.

### **High School Poetry Slams**

As part of an ongoing strategy to improve community relations and young adult citizen engagement, the Human Relations Council in partnership with the CPC, Victoria Theatre Association, and Dayton Public Schools host an annual “Speak. Be Heard. Be Considered” poetry slam series. The series is designed to serve as the conduit for conversation and empowerment, using spoken word as a tool to 1) address community concerns and issues young adults find important, 2) strengthen the relationships between law enforcement and the young adult community and 3) cultivate community engagement.

### **Live with Honor Public Awareness Campaign**

Initiated by HRC, Live with Honor is a public awareness campaign designed to promote a visible and public message designed to change community norms around accepting a culture of violence. The campaign focuses on positive behavior among the community at large, networks, groups, and the individual and includes outdoor and transit advertising through the Greater Regional Transit Authority, community engagement events, a social media marketing campaign, and online video challenges. The campaign supports the CPC and The Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence (CIRGV) efforts in creating safe neighborhoods and reducing gun violence.

### **Know Your Rights Trainings**

HRC, CPC and Thurgood Marshal Law Society partnered to host a series of community panels to engage the community in meaningful and constructive conversations to build understanding and trust. Know Your Rights and Responsibilities trainings were held throughout the year to educate the community on police policies and procedures and residents' rights and responsibilities. The events featured videos, interactive discussion and presentations designed

to stimulate thought and dialogue and to educate the community on how to effectively interact with officers.

**6. How do we encourage more African-Americans to become officers? How do you diversify the force? Is the Civil Service test the best method for testing?**

The City of Dayton has been pursuing greater diversity in the police force and developing processes that would lead to hiring a more diverse group of recruits to mirror the community. The City implemented a recruiting campaign to attract applicants that will build the best possible police force, with an emphasis on increasing the number of African-Americans and other ethnic minority officers, so the department better reflects the Dayton community. The Dayton Police Department uses a variety of tactics to recruit potential police officers, including visits to churches, schools, and community events across the City. They also work with firms to research national best practices for police recruitment, develop campaign materials in English and Spanish, and promote recruitment resources on radio stations and social media—including digital ads.

**7. PAL or Police Athletic League – does it still exist?**

No, PAL no longer exists within the Dayton Police Department. The department does have numerous other programs in which our officers interact with members of the community, please see the previous answer and attachment.

**8. What thoughts do officers have concerning high school sporting events and the presence or lack of at the event, particularly basketball games?**

Having an adult presence, including police, at large youth events (whether athletic or social) is just a prudent measure to both promote safety and avoid potential conflict and other problems.

**9. What should an individual who is stopped do to ensure their safety?**

Attached you will find a PDF to a presentation the Dayton Police Department has given numerous times at various community meetings and events. It outlines what to do if stopped by police as a motorist and pedestrian. It also covers how to handle police officers coming to your home.

**10. Concerning the drug epidemic in the City of Dayton: how are areas of the city surveyed and which area has the most incidents that concern the Police Department?**

Calls for service related to drug overdoses, specifically opioid overdoses, are currently concentrated in East Dayton. The number of calls for overdoses, use of Narcan, and the number

of overdose deaths across the city are tracked on a monthly basis in order to stay current with any trends that may be occurring.