

Joint Community/Police Partnership Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee

The Joint Community/Police Partnership (JCPP) is a joint project of Hennepin County, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and the Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council to address the needs of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center's diverse cultures and communities and enhance the safety and well-being of residents of those cities. More specifically, it is the hope that JCPP is able to realize the following outcomes:

- The frequency, intensity and total number of conflict-incidents will be reduced.
- Local law enforcement will have a new awareness of how to better approach the different populations and will be better prepared to address unique situations.
- Local community groups and parties will have a better understanding of the expectations, requirements and customs as they interact with local community officials and law enforcement personnel.
- Local law enforcement will see an increase in the number of culturally diverse officers and culturally appropriate materials to positively and effectively engage community members.
- Local community groups will have avenues and specific personnel to communicate with regarding grievances and questions.

One main component of this project is the creation of a Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will provide advice, suggestions, and assistance to the Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center Police Departments to aid them in better serving, communicating with, and understanding the many cultures that reside in, work in, or visit the Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center area. Members of the Advisory Committee will be expected to be knowledgeable about and, in some cases, participate in many of JCPP's activities. JCPP's four main activities will include:

- *Community Input and Training* – JCPP is committed to obtaining input from local community groups, leaders, and representatives of immigrant and diverse groups regarding issues related to law enforcement in order to make this initiative as effective as can be. The Advisory Committee members will be expected to play a principle role in obtaining community input by serving as a conduit and link to the wider community. Members will be expected to provide a voice and venue for individuals from the community to express themselves on such issues. In addition, Advisory Committee members will be expected to be aware of, participate in, and possibly lead (when appropriate) community trainings on law enforcement issues that will be initiated by JCPP.

- *Cultural/Community Awareness Training for Law Enforcement* – With the help of Hennepin County staff, training consultants, local law enforcement agencies, and community members, JCAPP will work to develop and implement cultural competency training for law enforcement officers. As with the community training, the Advisory Committee will be expected to be aware of, advise on, participate in, and possibly lead (when appropriate) these law enforcement trainings.

- *Creation of Community Liaison Officers* – Both Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park will house two new Community Liaison Officers who will have the responsibility of facilitating and providing information and communication between the community and the law enforcement groups. The Advisory Committee members will be expected to assist the Liaison Officers by providing advice and suggestions based on their own cultural knowledge as well as on input they receive from their communities.

- *Creation of Multicultural Oriented Police Cadets* – Each local law enforcement agency will work to recruit, train, and hire two new police officers who demonstrate a unique multi-cultural perspective and who bring with them the unique backgrounds essential to working with diverse cultures. The Advisory Committee will be asked to provide input and advice regarding this process.

In addition to being involved in the aforementioned activities of JCAPP, it is envisioned that Advisory Committee members will:

- Attend regular meetings with project managers to provide assistance and suggestions regarding project activities and planning.
- Learn about the requirements expected of police officers, including how they are recruited and trained, and how the police are held accountable for their actions through criminal and civil law, their employer, and the state peace officer licensing system.
- Keep informed of current and future police-community initiatives and make efforts keep their communities informed of these activities.