

The Policing Project at NYU School of Law partners with communities, lawmakers, and the police to enhance safety, accountability and transparency in policing. Our team of attorneys, advocates, and community organizers is ready to help you draft and pass legislation that protects safety and addresses community concerns about aggressive policing.

Contact us: legislation@policingproject.org

HOW WE WORK

We support local advocacy and legislative efforts. We can provide draft statutory language, expert testimony, and feedback on proposed bills. We also are happy to just hop on a call to help think through the issues.

ISSUE AREAS

We offer model statutory language that addresses the following topics:

PREVENTING EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

Providing clear guidance to officers on appropriate uses of force.

- Sets strict limits on officer use of force, and requires officers to de-escalate when possible
- Addresses specific circumstances involving canines, chokeholds, tear gas at protests, and "less lethal" weapons (e.g. batons and Tasers)
- Includes clear training requirements, as well as robust reporting, investigation and enforcement mechanisms

DATA COLLECTION & TRANSPARENCY

Ensuring agencies gather and report the right data, and make it accessible to the public.

- Requires public access to agency policies, collective bargaining agreements, and disclosure of payouts to victims of police misconduct
- Ensures data is collected on officer stops, use of force and complaints, and that the data is made publicly accessible in a clear format
- Outlines public access to body-worn camera footage and complaint investigation records

MODEL LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

OFFICER DISCIPLINE & DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS

Ensuring officers who are convicted of serious misconduct are not permitted to continue working in law enforcement.

- Gives states' Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) broad authority to investigate alleged misconduct and to suspend or decertify officers for serious wrongdoing
- Requires agencies to conduct comprehensive background checks when hiring officers, to uncover any past allegations or warning signs

TRAFFIC STOPS FOR MINOR OFFENSES

Addressing traffic stops made for minor reasons that can lead to dangerous situations for officers and individuals.

- Requires agencies to collect data on all stops, citations and arrests, and to make the data public
- Limits the scope of stops that do occur by reducing use of consent searches and K9
- Limits traffic stops for equipment and other low-level traffic violations. Officers still can issue citations when pulling over individuals for a different reason, or mail the driver a citation.

WARRANT REFORM

Reducing the number of warrants issued and improving warrant database integrity.

- Reduces the use of warrants for missed court appearances, or failure to pay fines and fees
- Offers proactive measures such as text reminders to reduce failures to appear

BARRIERS TO OFFICER ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensuring agencies conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations of police misconduct.

- Eliminates provisions in state law and/or collective bargaining agreements that make it difficult to hold officers accountable, such as mandatory waiting periods after serious use-of-force incidents
- Requires agencies to accept anonymous or unsigned complaints, and prohibits the purging of disciplinary records