



STL
Positive
Change

Ferguson Commission
Working Group Updates
Preliminary Calls to Action for Policy Reform

March 25, 2015

CALLS TO ACTION APPROVED

Community Priorities and Working Groups

Working Groups will be launched according to the five top priorities the public established during the 1st Commission Meeting:

	<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Working Groups</u>
Central Issues	Citizen Law Enforcement Relations (68%)	Citizen-Law Enforcement Relations
	Municipal Governance (17%)	Municipal Courts and Governance
	Municipal Courts (15%)	
Disparity Focus	Education (63%)	Child Well-Being and Educational Equity
	Economic Opportunity (58%)	Economic Inequity and Opportunity
	Racial and Ethnic Relations (53%)	Racial Equity & Reconciliation (Cross-Cutting Work)

Update Citizen-Law Enforcement Relations

Co-Chairs: Dr. Dan Isom, Brittany Packnett

Citizen-Law Enforcement Relations

Working Group Membership

- Dr. Daniel Isom, Ferguson Commission (Co-Chair)
- Brittany Packnett, Ferguson Commission (Co-Chair)
- Kevin Ahlbrand, Ferguson Commission
- Dr. T.R. Carr Jr., Ferguson Commission
- Karen Aroesty, MO/IL at Anti-Defamation League
- Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell, Eureka College
- Dr. David Klinger, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Marius Johnson Malone, Better Together
- Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Chuck Walker, Jefferson City Police Department
- Dr. Norm White, Saint Louis University
- Romona F. Taylor Williams, Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion & Equity

Comparison Presidential Pillars and Preliminary Priorities

President's 21st Century Policing Task Force Pillars	Ferguson Commission's Citizen-Law Enforcement Working Group Preliminary Priorities
Building Trust and Legitimacy	Update Use of Force statute and consider adequate documentation
Policy and Oversight	Create legal mechanism for empowered civilian oversight
Technology and Social Media	Implement measures and standards for anti-bias training and core cultural competencies
Community Policing and Crime Reduction	Increase rigor of law enforcement preparation through new certification standards or training opportunities
Training and Education	Ensure police agencies have access to prior records of prospective hires
Officer Wellness and Safety	Strengthen whistleblower protections within police departments

Additions from 21st Century Policing Task Force Recommendations

The Ferguson Commission may consider addressing the following areas in Citizen-Law Enforcement Relations:

- Use of Technology
- Community Policing
- Officer Wellness
- Approach to Mass Demonstration
- Prosecution in Officer-Involved Shootings

In addition to the Task Force recommendations, the community prioritized:

- Special training for engaging with people with mental illness
- Development of specific models for cultural training and alternatives to use of force

Update Municipal Courts & Governance

Co-Chairs: Traci Blackmon, Dr. T.R. Carr

Municipal Courts & Governance

Priorities for Reform

The following preliminary priorities were presented for provisional approval for the 2015 legislative consideration during the sixth meeting:

- Enforce the state established cap on traffic fine revenue that a municipality may collect in addition to:
 - Clarifying reporting requirements, enforcement responsibility; and
 - Clearly defining traffic revenue
- Develop alternatives to imprisonment and fines for Failure to Appear and other issues
- Provide for an “ability to pay” hearing before any individual can be detained or otherwise penalized for failure to do so
- Create uniform list of rights and procedural options and consequences across municipalities

Overview of Policy Reform: Municipal Courts & Governance

Based on the second Municipal Courts & Governance working group session, the next set of preliminary calls to action were confirmed:

- No jail for minor traffic violations and other minor infractions
Address Failure to Appear charges and suspensions
- Create uniform fine schedule with an analysis of ability to pay in advance
- Consolidate violations per stop
- Re-evaluate the point system
- Share responsibility of community service oversight for municipalities without capacity

Policy Reform: Municipal Courts & Governance

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Enforce the state established cap on traffic fine revenue that a municipality may collect and clarify reporting requirements, enforcement responsibility and definition of traffic revenue	Strengthen SB 5 to include unintended consequences and other Calls to Action noted	Missouri Legislature

Policy Reform: Municipal Courts & Governance

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Develop alternatives to imprisonment and fines for Failure to Appear and other issues	No jail for minor traffic violations <i>and other (non-traffic-related) minor infractions</i> ; Address Failure to Appear charges and suspensions	Missouri Legislature Missouri Circuit Courts Municipalities

Policy Reform: Municipal Courts & Governance

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Provide for an “ability to pay” hearing before any individual can be detained or otherwise penalized for failure to do so	Uniform fine schedule with an analysis of ability to pay <i>in advance</i>	Missouri Legislature
Create uniform list of rights and procedural options and consequences across municipalities	Consolidate violations per stop; Re-evaluate the point system	Missouri Circuit Court

Additional Policy Reform: Municipal Courts & Governance

Based on the second Municipal Courts & Governance working group session, the question moving forward becomes:

“How might we imagine fair and just governance, aimed at restoring community trust, through our municipal courts system?”

- What does the independent operation of the judicial court look like?
- How can accountability and transparency be ensured in the court system?
- Do we have too many municipal courts?
- How can we staff and fund courts without competing allegiances?
- What will it take to re-evaluate the point system?
- How can the responsibility of community service oversight be shared across municipalities?
- How will revenue be generated for municipalities? To what, if any, extent should the courts be responsible for revenue generation?

Update Child Well-Being & Educational Equity

Co-Chairs: Becky James-Hatter, Dr. Grayling Tobias

Child Well-Being & Educational Equity Working Group Membership

- Becky James-Hatter, Ferguson Commission (Co-Chair)
- Dr. Grayling Tobias, Ferguson Commission (Co-Chair)
- Rasheen Aldridge, Ferguson Commission
- Dr. Carol Basile, UMSL
- Koran Bolden, Street Dreamz
- Dr. Crystal Gale, Roosevelt High School, SLPS
- Dr. Sharonica Hardin, Ritenour School District
- Katie Kaufmann, Ready by 21
- Dr. Katie Plax, The Spot
- Dr. Ramesh Raghavan, Washington University in St. Louis
- Dr. Scott Spurgeon, Riverview Gardens School District

Policy Reform: Child Well-Being & Educational Equity

In consideration of Missouri SB 1 and HB 42

On behalf of the Child Well-Being & Educational Equity working group and in the best interest of the children in this region, Co-Chairs ask that the Missouri General Assembly consider the following recommendations:

- 1) **Prioritize accredited schools in the same district.** First transfer to an accredited school in the same district, if space is available.
- 2) Adopt the Voluntary Inter-District Choice Corporation (VICC) calculation of **\$7,200 as the maximum rate.**
- 3) Ensure members of assistance teams are qualified, based on their past performance in failing districts with similar circumstances and omit or change language to “may” consider the recommendations of the assistance teams.

Policy Reform: Child Well-Being & Educational Equity

In consideration of Missouri SB 1 and HB 42

On behalf of the Child Well-Being & Educational Equity working group and in the best interest of the children in this region, Co-Chairs ask that the Missouri General Assembly consider the following recommendations:

- 4) **Accept students. No student shall be denied a transfer based on criteria that does not exclude him/her from attending a school in their resident district.** Only students who have committed a safe schools violation be ineligible for transfer.
- 5) **Mandate accountability.** If districts are going to accept students and funds, they must accept accountability. **We do *not* support any language that would allow a receiving school district to postpone accountability** and the educational welfare of a child.

Policy Reform: Child Well-Being & Educational Equity Calls to Action

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Ensure accountability for students	<p>Prioritize accredited schools in same district when transferring students from unaccredited schools.</p> <p>Adopt the Voluntary Inter-District Choice Corporation (VICC) calculation of \$7,200 as the maximum rate.</p>	Missouri Legislature

Policy Reform: Child Well-Being & Educational Equity Calls to Action

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Ensure accountability for students	<p>Accept students. No student shall be denied a transfer based on criteria that does not exclude him/her from attending a school in their resident district. Only students who have committed a safe schools violation be ineligible for transfer.</p> <p>Mandate accountability. If districts are going to accept students and funds, they must accept accountability.</p>	Missouri Legislature

Policy Reform: Child Well-Being & Educational Equity Calls to Action

<u>Priority Area</u>	<u>Call to Action</u>	<u>Accountable Body</u>
Strengthen the capacity of school districts to implement policy	Ensure members of assistance teams are qualified, based on their past performance in failing districts with similar circumstances and omit or change language to “may” consider the recommendations of the assistance teams	Missouri Legislature

Appendix

Working Group Standard Operating Principles

Explore the underlying social and economic issues in the St. Louis metropolitan area using a common set of principles including:

- (1) Honoring community expertise and youth perspective;
- (2) Looking beyond *what is* to create a model for *what can be*;
- (3) Leveraging existing data to generate evidence-based recommendations;
- (4) Centering on principles of equity and justice; and
- (5) Prioritizing action with a sense of urgency

Working Group Final Products

- Best practice recommendations and models that account for the multi-dimensional and intersecting nature of root cause issues.
- All working groups examining the following levels of intervention, accordingly:
 - Policy-based;
 - Systems level;
 - Practice-based; and
 - Individual-level
- Feasibility assessment
- Implementation and translation
- Community sessions and activities to gather input

Working Group Membership Selection Process

Members were selected by Working Group Co-Chairs to ensure the appropriate level of expertise and adequate healthy tension would be present for each discussion:

- Working Group Co-Chairs and staff conducted a series of stakeholder interviews to confirm representatives for each working group;
- Reviewed Ferguson Commission applicants with appropriate expertise on each topical area;
- Invited notable grassroots and institutional organizations to nominate appropriate representatives to serve on each working group