FERGUSON COMMISSION MEETING
January 20, 2015
Youth Summit Polling Results & Discussion Findings
Meeting Attendance: 144
Nearly 6 out of 10 reside in St. Louis County

- St. Louis City, MO: 39%
- St. Louis County, MO: 59%
- St. Clair County, IL: 1%
- Other: 1%
Nearly 6 out of 10 work or go to school in St. Louis County
ELECTRONIC POLLING RESULTS

Nearly 6 out of 10 attendees were women
ELECTRONIC POLLING RESULTS

2 out of 3 attendees were African American.
ELECTRONIC POLLING RESULTS

Nearly 5 out of 10 were under 18
Roughly 8 out of 10 were under 35

- 14 to 18 years: 40%
- 22 to 34 years: 26%
- 19 to 21 years: 9%
- 35 to 44 years: 7%
- 45 to 54 years: 7%
- 55 to 64 years: 5%
- 13 and under: 6%
ELECTRONIC POLLING RESULTS

Roughly 8 out of 10 had never attended a Commission meeting
PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

- Youth Open Mic Session
- Small Group Discussions:
  - Families / Homes
  - Schools
  - Neighborhoods / Communities
YOUTH OPEN MIC COMMENTS

Police Brutality / Harassment
• Black youth are negatively stereotyped
• Police unfairly target and routinely disrespect youth

Race Relations
• St. Louis is divided, separate and unequal
• Want a region where black lives matter, youth are unafraid and society is fair

Impacts of Crisis
• Youth have missed school
• Young people have gotten into trouble trying to express themselves

Youth Activism & Involvement
• Youth have been active in protests
• Young people’s voices need to be heard and valued
NEEDS: What do you need to be safe, supported and healthy in your homes & families?

- **Encouragement & Empowerment**
  - Adults need to tell youth that they are capable of greatness

- **Good Communication & Mutual Understanding**
  - Family members need to talk and listen to one another

- **Guidance & Supervision**
  - Youth need direction from their parents

- **Awareness & Acceptance**
  - Families need to accept difference
  - Families need to know their culture / history

- **Love & Caring**
  - Love is the foundation on which to build family

- **Truth & Transparency**
  - Parents need to be honest and share life’s truths

- **Security**
  - Physical, emotional, spiritual & financial
FAMILIES / HOMES INSIGHTS

**IMPROVEMENTS:** What should be done to build stronger, more stable families?

- **Demonstrate Respect**
  - Value all members of the family

- **Increase Awareness & Exposure**
  - Expose youth to other cultures, mindsets and values

- **Maintain Quality Time**
  - Spend time together as families to strengthen relationships

- **Provide Guidance**
  - Help shape youth’s thinking and choices

- **Strengthen Community Connections**
  - Connect with neighbors and the community. It takes a village to keep a family strong and healthy
SCHOOLS INSIGHTS

NEEDS: What do you need to advance your learning and success in school?

Class Discussions / Education About Ferguson & Racism

School Improvements
- Curricula
- Career Readiness
- Family Connections

Teacher Involvement & Commitment

Teacher Recruitment Training & More Engaging Instruction

Teacher & Staff Support of Youth Protests & Activism
**SCHOOLS INSIGHTS**

**YOUTH ACTION:** What can you do to improve your school success?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVISM</th>
<th>COMMUNICATION</th>
<th>HIGHER EDUCATION</th>
<th>STUDENT INVOLVEMENT &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get involved in activism</td>
<td>Share opinions</td>
<td>Learn about college &amp; career</td>
<td>Get more involved in school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make youth voices and issues heard</td>
<td>Don’t be silenced, even if views are unpopular</td>
<td>Research pathway programs from high school to college and workforce</td>
<td>Get peers involved in school projects and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in school walk-outs / die-ins</td>
<td>Good communication makes people smarter</td>
<td>Learn about scholarship opportunities &amp; programs</td>
<td>Be accountable for your actions</td>
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SCHOOLS INSIGHTS

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS: What community supports do you need to be successful?

- After School Programs
  - Schools cut programs because of funding
- More Community Centers for Youth
  - Youth need places to be other than the streets
- Paid Student Internships
  - Money is a real need for young people.
  - Employment is key
- School / Community Discussions, Connections & Action
  - Schools should be places for youth to talk about the issues that matter and connect more deeply to their communities
- Youth Focused Events
  - More events like the Youth Summit are needed
COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

NEEDS: What do you need to be safe, supported and healthy in your neighborhoods and communities?

- Positive Law Enforcement & Citizen Relations
  - Improved communication between police and community
- Respect, Empathy & Forgiveness
  - Dialogue based on empathy and forgiveness
- Improved Media Coverage
  - More positive news coverage of community and protests
- Youth Accountability
  - Youth better manage their image and behaviors
- Reduction of Violence & Murder
  - Break the cycle of violence and crime
COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

PRIORITIES: What neighborhood / community issues are most important to you?

- Police Aggression
  - Police brutality and harassment are rampant

- Nightlife for Teens
  - Teens have limited options after 8pm

- Race Relations & Interactions
  - We need to talk about race, addressing discrimination and white privilege

- Unequal Access
  - Education, community resources...

- Community Pride & Development
  - Need to respect community assets
  - Need more retail development & amenities

- Community Safety
  - Violence is prevalent
COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

STRATEGIES & INTERVENTIONS: What should be done to address your top issues / priorities?

- Create Nightlife for Teens
- Eliminate Educational Inequality
- Improve Law Enforcement / Community Relations
- Support Youth Programs
- Promote Personal Development & Responsibility
- Increase Involvement in Politics & Policy