
Preface to "A Proposal for an Enlarged Range of Policing: Neighborhood-Driven Policing (NDP)"

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When I was asked to join my good friend and colleague, Professor Bud Levin, in drafting a provocative paper on extending the continuum of policing philosophies, I knew it was going to stimulate feedback. As a police chief, I know all about the paradox police face. They work in a dynamic environment that changes daily, yet police are extremely resistant to organizational change. I knew that my minor contribution would not interfere with Dr. Levin's "take no prisoners" approach! I also knew that we had quickly and succinctly cracked a few doors without fully entering the room to see what lay beyond. Mostly, I knew the fountain of wisdom and experience that is represented by the membership of the Society of Police Futurists International and the Futures Working Group would tear into our draft with vigor.

I am pleased that the papers that followed our initial work have not only identified the many untouched concerns and details needed to put meat on the bones, but have proffered alternatives and expansions to the simple theme of neighborhood ownership of police activities. Even the harshest critique of the original concept offers up guidance for those who would like to advance policing. Indeed, I must admit to little optimism that the concept we described could be fully implemented in the present day. The response papers have, however, renewed my sense that it is time for significant reform in policing.

NDP begins to take shape when assimilating ideas from the response papers, e.g., network centric policing, having an officer "own"

a few hundred homes and integrating the broader components of restorative justice. NDP begins to fade away when reflecting on the significant hurdles of political reality, resistance to change outside and within police agencies, and policing's historical evolution. But whether NDP progresses or fades into the oblivion that sometimes accompanies academic crayon drawings, I hope it will serve as a stimulus for continued dialogue on the future direction of policing.

Rather than view our paper as road kill waiting for the vultures to pick at it, I envision it as the appetizer one nibbles on while preparing for the main course. I can't wait to see what's for dessert.