

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EDWARD WEBBER  
POLICE COMMISSIONER

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 1, 2014

Gail M. Lolis  
Deputy County Attorney  
H. Lee Dennison Building  
100 Veterans Memorial Highway, 6th Floor  
P.O. Box 6100  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Ms. Lolis:

In accordance with paragraphs VII(d)(i)-(iii) and VIII(l) of our Agreement with the United States Justice Department I enclose our proposed plan for engaging the Latino community in Suffolk County. The success of our efforts shall be measured by the proposed survey instrument which is also enclosed for review.

Sincerely,

Edward Webber  
Police Commissioner



**ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

30 YAPHANK AVENUE, YAPHANK, NEW YORK 11980 – (631) 852-6000



**POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK**

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Edward Webber  
Commissioner of Police  
FROM: Christopher A. Love, Sergeant 1086  
Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Police Commissioner, Legal  
SUBJECT: SCPD PLAN FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY

DATE: 4/1/2014  
COPY TO: As Required

The SCPD will engage constructively with the Latino community in all of its policing operations in order to foster collaborative problem-solving, ethical and bias-free policing, and community confidence in the Department.

Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) assigned to the Community Response Bureau will be detailed to each Precinct. Each CLO will arrange, meet and collaborate with the community groups active within that Precinct. The CLO will focus on strengthening relationships between the police and the community, with special attention given to LEP issues so that all members of the community have an equal opportunity to participate. The CLOs will receive training in federal and state civil rights law, problem oriented policing, cultural sensitivity and other topics relevant to community relations. Finally, the CLOs will work closely with Community Oriented Policing Enforcement (COPE) officers in order to provide community members with problem-oriented police service.

Recruitment Officers within the Community Response Bureau will actively encourage and recruit qualified minority candidates to consider a career in law enforcement by presenting to community organizations such as Adelante of Suffolk County, Pronto of LI, youth groups, high schools, and church groups. Recruitment practices will continue to be analyzed and enriched to determine the most effective measures in achieving this goal.

Community Response Bureau School Resource Officers will continue to conduct presentations to high school and middle school students and maintain a presence at school functions. School Resource Officers (SROs) present a variety of topics which include: Diversity and Tolerance, Gangs and Associated Violence, Prescription Drugs to Heroin, Cyber Law, Recruitment, and many others. The SROs will continue to foster relationships with students in the forty-five public school districts and numerous private schools across the Police District. Community Response SROs will also host over one thousand students from local elementary, middle and high schools at Police Headquarters during Police Week, when students and teachers are invited for guided tours and demonstrations of specialized police operations such as K-9 and Aviation. Community Response SROs also coordinate and attend summer beach programs offered to youths by several townships in the Police District.

SCPD will ensure that the Police Commissioner and/or designated members of the command staff meet with key leaders in Latino and other minority groups on a regular basis at both SCPD sponsored meetings and meetings held in the community.

The Department will engage in community events in an effort to maintain a positive relationship with the Latino community. Such events will consist of free car seat distributions and installations with Education Assistance Corporation (a non-profit human services agency), hosting cooking classes for minority youths, gun buy-back events, food drives with Pronto of L.I., Operation Medicine Cabinet and participation in the annual "National Night Out Against Crime" across the Police District. Additional outreach programs include the Police Athletic League (PAL), the SCPD Citizen Academy and SCPD Youth Academy, Neighborhood Watch and Crimestoppers.

Spanish language learning opportunities for current officers will be provided by the Department through the online course "Spanish on Patrol". Sensitivity and diversity training will be conducted at the Police Academy, which will reach every sworn officer at least annually. The curriculum for this training will be developed with input from local community and advocacy groups as well as subject matter experts in Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy. The Department will solicit input from the Community Advisory Board, other community groups and all CLOs and COPE officers regarding the efficacy and success of all LEP, Spanish language and cultural sensitivity training.

The current Language Access Plan and all vital forms and literature will be made available in both English and Spanish and in all Department buildings with public access, and on the Department's website.

To increase awareness in community meetings and events, upcoming programs will be posted in local newspapers, such as Noticia and La Tribuna, and broadcast on radio stations, such as Long Island Talk Radio 103.9 FM and La Fiesta Nueva 98.6/96.9 FM. Social media, such as NIXLE, Twitter and Facebook will also be utilized to make crime notifications, seek community feedback and highlight developments in the Language Access Plan.

The Community Response Bureau has developed a survey instrument to gauge the success of the Department's engagement of the Latino community. This survey will be distributed through Precinct CLOs and COPE officers, be made available at all public access areas of Department facilities, and be accessible online. Additionally, every six months, the SCPD will ask community and political leaders within the Latino community to critique its programs and initiatives. The Community Response Bureau will analyze results obtained from both print surveys and organizational feedback, and will produce an annual report that identifies successes and areas in need of improvement, along with a strategy for making necessary improvements. Throughout the pendency of the Agreement, the Department will provide reports summarizing issues addressed at community meetings and the actions taken by the Department in response. An English language draft of the written survey is attached for review and suggestions.

Finally, the Department's website can be found at

<http://apps.suffolkcountyny.gov/police/index.htm>

As of this writing all links are functional and all information is up to date. Translation of vital documents and policies continues, and new material is posted as it becomes available. In the near future a more extensive collection of Rules and Procedures will be made available as well.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Love 1086/1000". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

Christopher A. Love, Sergeant 1086/1000  
Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Police Commissioner, Legal



## ***Suffolk County Police Department Community Engagement Survey***

**1. Please check how you were provided this survey:**

- By a SCPD Community Liaison or COPE officer**
- By a local community leader or advocate**
- At my church**
- On the SCPD website**
- Other**

**2. When was your most recent contact with the SCPD?**

- Within the last week**
- Within the last month**
- More than a month ago**
- More than a year ago**

**3. Please indicate which precinct contact with the SCPD occurred:**

- 1st Precinct**
- 2nd Precinct**
- 3rd Precinct**

- 4th Precinct**
- 5th Precinct**
- 6th Precinct**
- 7th precinct**
- Unknown**

**4. How would you describe the frequency of your contact with the Suffolk County Police Department over the last year?**

- Frequent contact**
- Occasional contact**
- No contact**

**5. Would you describe these contacts as mostly initiated by you, mostly initiated by the police or about equal?**

- Mostly initiated by me**
- Mostly initiated by the police**
- Equally initiated by me and the police**

**6. What was the nature of your contact with the SCPD?**

- Victim of a crime**
- Stopped for a traffic violation**
- Arrested**
- Reported an incident**
- Requested information**
- Medical emergency**
- Community event or meeting**

- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Please describe your level of satisfaction reference the contact cited above:**

- Extremely satisfied
- Satisfied
- Not satisfied

**8. Please rank the following crime concerns: (1 most important, 10 least important)**

- Burglary from homes
- Disorderly Conduct
- Drugs
- Noise
- Theft ( includes shoplifting and theft from vehicles)
- Auto theft
- Gang activity
- Youth issues
- Underage drinking
- Vandalism

**9. How much of a problem is crime in your neighborhood of Suffolk County?**

- A big problem
- A minor problem
- Not a problem
- I don't know

**10. What services would you like to see implemented or more of? (Select all that apply)**

- Bike patrol**
- Foot patrol**
- More patrol cars**
- School Resource Officers**
- Community Liaison/COPE officers**
- Community substations**

**11. Please rank the police issues that are most important to you: (1 most important, 4 least important)**

- Community and quality of life issues**
- Drug enforcement**
- Police visibility**
- Response to calls for service**
- Traffic enforcement**

**12. Generally speaking, when it comes to threat of crime, how safe do you feel in your neighborhood?**

- Safe**
- Unsafe**

**13. Do you feel the same, more safe or less safe in your neighborhood now than you did three years ago?**

- I feel safer than I did three years ago.**
- I feel less safe than I did three years ago.**
- I feel about as safe as I did three years ago**

**14. Which of the following SCPD programs are you aware of?**

- Police Athletic League (PAL)**
- Neighborhood Watch**
- Child car seat donations and installations**
- Bicycle safety courses**
- Food drives**
- Cooking classes for minority youths**
- Citizen Academy**
- Youth Academy**
- Crimestoppers**
- Summer beach programs for youths**
- School Resource Officer presentations at schools**
- Recruitment presentations by SCPD Community Officers**
- Community Liaison and COPE officer outreach meetings with the public**
- Police Week at SCPD Headquarters**

**15. How did you become aware of the above programs (check all that apply):**

- Community Liaison or COPE officer**
- Newspapers**
- Radio Advertisements**
- Television**
- SCPD Website**
- Community or civic meeting**
- Church**

- **Internet/Social Media (Facebook, Twitter or NIXLE)**
- **Friend/relative**
- **School**

**16. Which of the following programs have you or your family members participated in:**

- **Police Athletic League (PAL)**
- **Neighborhood Watch**
- **Child car seat donations and installations**
- **Bicycle safety courses**
- **Food drives**
- **Cooking classes for minority youths**
- **Citizen Academy**
- **Youth Academy**
- **Crimestoppers**
- **Summer beach youth programs**
- **School Resource Officer presentations at schools**
- **Recruitment presentations by SCPD Community Officers**
- **Community Liaison and COPE officer outreach meetings with the public**
- **Police Week at SCPD Headquarters**

**17. Based on your participation with the aforementioned programs, how would you describe your experience:**

	Needs		
	Excellent	Good	Improvement
Police Athletic League (PAL)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood Watch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child car seat donations/install	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle safety courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food drives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cooking classes for youths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizen Academy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Academy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crimestoppers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer beach youth programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School Resource Officer at schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruitment presentations by SCPD Officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Liaison/COPE officer meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police Week at Headquarters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**18. Do you think the police in your community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly?**

- Almost always**
- Most of the time**
- Only some of the time**
- Almost never**

**19. How concerned are you that you or a family member will be a victim of a crime in your neighborhood? Would you say you are**

- Very concerned**
- Somewhat concerned**
- Not very concerned**
- Not at all concerned**

**20. Compared with the SCPD three years ago, do you believe the SCPD is more likely, less likely or equally likely to treat all residents equally, respecting their rights and complying with the law?**

- More likely**
- Equally likely**
- Less likely**

**21. How would you describe relations between the SCPD and the neighborhood where you live? Would you say they are...?**

- Excellent**
- Good**
- Fair**
- Poor**

**22. Based on your personal experience, how many of the SCPD officers you encounter treat you, your friends and your family members with respect?**

- Almost all officers treat us with respect**
- Most officers treat us with respect**
- About the same number treat us with respect as do not treat us with respect**

- Most officers do not treat us with respect**
- Almost none of the officers treat us with respect**

**23. Based on your personal experience, how would you describe any change in the way the SCPD treats you, your friends and your family members compared to two or three years ago? Would you say the SCPD is...?**

- Much more respectful today**
- Somewhat more respectful today**
- About the same as two or three years ago**
- Somewhat less respectful today**
- Much less respectful today**

**24. How certain are you that the SCPD will take and fully investigate a complaint against one of their own officers for police misconduct?**

- Very certain**
- Somewhat certain**
- Not certain**

**25. Overall, do you think the SCPD is doing an excellent, good, fair or poor job?**

- Excellent**
- Good**
- Fair**
- Poor**

**26. Are you a resident of Suffolk County?**

- Yes**
- No**

**27. If you are a Suffolk County resident, please provide the neighborhood you live in:**

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**28. What is your gender?**

- Male**
- Female**
- Do not wish to answer**

**29. Which of the following categories include your age?**

- Under 15 years old**
- 15 to 19**
- 20 to 29**
- 30 to 39**
- 40 to 49**
- 50 to 59**
- 60 to 69**
- 70 or older**

**30. Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent?**

- Yes (Hispanic/Latino)**
- No (not Hispanic/Latino)**
- I don't know**
- Do not wish to answer**

**31. What group do you mostly identify with?**

- African American**
- Asian**
- Pacific Islander**
- White**
- Other**
- I don't know**
- Do not wish to answer**