

# Charleston Illumination Project



Citizens Academy Graduation Ceremony, November 2018



Pictured left to right: Jakki D., participant; Lt. Shylah Murray, Community Outreach Commander; Jessica Watkins, Community Outreach Coordinator; Melissa B., participant

## Aug. 2018 - Dec. 2018

## Bi-Annual Report - Pt.2

Goal #1: Develop better understanding between citizens and police of different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences to build mutually beneficial relationships



### LGBTQIA COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual

After an unfortunate assault on a transgender woman, of color, which occurred on Ann Street earlier this year, a Town Hall Meeting was held to address concerns within the LGBTQIA community.

## RESULTS

-The successful passing of a city municipal Hate Crime Ordinance. The ordinance will be located in Chapter 21 of the City of Charleston Municipal Codes once completed.

-LGBTQIA Sensitivity/Gender Identity Training has been introduced to CPD. The training covers the following:

- Gender identity terminology
- LGBTQIA sensitivity
- Police procedure as it relates to transgender victims, witnesses, and suspects
- Micro-aggressions
- Implicit bias

Training is being conducted during the pre-academy, which guarantees that newly hired police officer recruits get exposure to the LGBTQIA community.

Goal #2: Build mutually respectful, trusting relationships between citizens and police

### CITIZENS ACADEMY 2018



Participants, Susan Hartry and Minister Timothy Grant in conversation.

The new, extended version of Citizens Academy began October 17, 2018. The five week course was well attended, hosting up to 20 students each week. 13 instructors, including Chief Reynolds, presented various topics. Classes included PowerPoint presentations, hands-on instruction, active shooter scenarios, traffic stops, and more.

Citizens Academy Participants dusting for fingerprints on Forensics Night



Every Wednesday for two hours, participants engaged with two speakers; each speaker teaching and interacting with participants for 45min to 1 hour. Course subjects included:

- ▶ FORENSICS
- ▶ CRIME SCENE
- ▶ TRAINING
- ▶ TRAFFIC
- ▶ EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
- ▶ PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
- ▶ CRIME PREVENTION
- ▶ IMPLICIT BIAS
- ▶ VIRTRA SIMULATOR



Rev. Demett Jenkins, Ethaine Smalls, and Jakki Deas in group activity

**Next Course in Spring 2019!**

To register for the next course, email Jessica Watkins, Community Outreach Coordinator, at [watkinsj@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:watkinsj@charleston-sc.gov). Applicants must be 18 yrs. or older to participate.

A course application, a copy of your SC driver's license, and a background check will be required. The application can be found at [www.charleston-sc.gov](http://www.charleston-sc.gov).



What's all the **BUZZ** about???

*"Thank you again for all your hard work keeping this program going. I believe this is a good program to bridging the gap of police and citizens. Looking forward to sending my wife to the next one." -Dan K.*

*"I truly enjoyed the Academy and I'm going to spread the word about others attending. You did an Awesome Job organizing everything and the presenters were top notch." -Min. Timothy G.*

*"Thank you for this opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting fine officers and learning the ins and outs of what they all face each and every day." -Joan K.*

*"Last night was great [and] I am really enjoying the class! The speakers are very engaging and passionate about their job." -Melissa B.*

*"This class was extremely informative. I have been sharing my info with family and friends." -Anonymous*

*"[I] am thankful for the greater depth of understanding I now have of the CPD. With Gratitude, Stay Safe." -Jane Hardy, Citizens Academy Participant*



Group of participants at Graduation Ceremony



Traffic Presentation with Sgt. Brad Wilson



Explosive Device Team Presentation with Senior Police Officer Robert Wilbanks



Citizens Academy Participants in session



## CHARLESTON ILLUMINATION PROJECT

### OVERALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH DECEMBER 17, 2018

» Ten (10) additional local community influencers who were identified and trained in how to facilitate Listening Sessions are now facilitating small group discussions.

» Maintaining and strengthening rapport with Chief of Police, Luther T. Reynolds, by supporting his vision for the department and community, as well as integrating the Illumination Project strategies as a priority to help further strengthen relationships.

» Coordinated "getting connected" meetings with community leaders to assist in Chief's strong leadership in the Charleston community.

» Organized Citizen/Police Advisory Council with Chief Reynolds in collaboration with the Command Staff, Mayor's Office, and City Council.

» Organized and created a "Caring Center" to support the work of emergency services personnel to include police officers and first responders during hurricane events. Personnel are sheltered in place for 24 hour shifts in collaboration with Mount Zion, Grace Cathedral, and Seacoast Churches.

» Participated in a ride-along with Lt. Charles Hawkins, examining and exploring the issues confronting the Eastside community.

» Planned, coordinated and facilitated the Joint Leadership Academy, a leadership development program strengthening relationships between citizens and police in James Island.

» Planned, organized, and facilitated Back-to-School event with Lt. Tony Cretella, Team 4, and management of Ashley Oaks to lift the community through back pack giveaways and a community carnival.

» Listening Session partners to date include: Churches from the City of Charleston's Faith Clergy Council, Latino Church and Community from John's Island, neighborhood groups, local historians, the Post and Courier, the College of Charleston, youth leadership groups and private and public high schools.

**Listening Session topics have included** police and faith community conversations on gun violence and the use of art as a bridge to unite and strengthen relationships among all members of the community. **Each listening session has included** officers from [various units of] the Charleston Police Department [such as] command staff, patrol teams, Community Action Teams, [and] new officers in training.

**A total of 1,421  
Citizens Have  
Participated to Date  
in 2018**

#### LISTENING SESSIONS:

##### October 17, 2018:

**Partner groups involved:** Trident Technical College, Early College High School, Classic Coffee and citizens on the peninsula and West Ashley.

##### **Topic covered:**

Connecting with members from the community while supporting the Mayor during his Coffee with the Mayor events.

**Number attended:** 172 citizens (including 39 youth from Early College High School)

##### **Questions discussed:**

What do you know about the Illumination Project and how can we get you involved to become an Illumination Citizen Partner?

##### **Action step forward:**

Build a coalition of more than 1000 Illuminated Citizens to strengthen police and citizen relationships in 2019.

##### October 18, 2018:

##### **Partner groups involved:**

Grace Church Cathedral and Episcopal Church Council of Bishops

##### **Topic covered:**

Update, educate, and gain support from members of the Grace Church Cathedral and the Episcopal Council of Bishops on the ongoing work of the city's Illumination Project.

**Number attended:** 78

##### **Questions for reflection:**

What are your ideas about ways clergy can support the work of the Illumination Project to aid in city-wide healing and reconciliation efforts? Specifically, what could Clergy be doing differently or start doing?

**Action step forward:** Plan and organize two Interfaith Illumination Summits and Action by Clergy to lift our community.

##### October 23, 2018:

**Partner groups involved:** Grace Church Cathedral, Mt. Zion AME, and CPD – Okra Soup: Unite! The Charleston Illumination Project

**Topic covered:** OKRA Soup Supper and facilitated the table discussion featuring Mary Burkett and her new collection *Beloved: Legacy of Slavery*.

**Number attended:** 60

##### **Questions for reflection:**

» What two words describe your feelings and emotions on viewing the *Beloved: Legacy of Slavery*?

» None of us are either slaves or slave owners, so in what ways do we live with the legacy of slavery?

» Specifically, what could we be doing differently or start doing?

**Action step forward:** Plan and organize two Interfaith Illumination Summits and Action by Clergy to lift our community.

### **November 14, 2018:**

**Partner groups involved:** St. James Presbyterian Church, James Island Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of James Island, Bethel AME Church, Mayors of the City of Charleston and Town of James Island, city and county council members, community members, local CPD and Sheriff's Office Chiefs, tri-county law enforcement agencies, officers, and personnel.

**Topic covered:** Gun violence and public safety on James Island.

### **Questions discussed:**

» Do you feel safe where you live? Why or Why not?

» What can you do as a member of your community to make it a safer place to live?

**Number attended:** limited number of seats 108

**Action step forward:** Meet at least quarterly to check on progress on this issue and facilitate two or three Listening Sessions in 2019.

### **November 22, 2018:**

**Partner groups involved:** Second Presbyterian Church, Mount Zion AME Church, Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church, Old Bethel United Methodist Church, Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, community members, and law enforcement officers

**Topic covered:** Community unity, hope, reconciliation and uplift

**Number attended:** 250

**Action step forward:** Support Illuminated Houses of Worship Reconciliation events

### **December 11, 2018:**

**Partner groups involved:** Grace Church Cathedral, Mt. Zion AME, Post and Courier and CPD – *Okra Soup: Unite!*, the *Charleston Illumination Project*

**Topic covered:** Presentation by Adam Parker, journalist at the Post and Courier and author of Outside Agitator: The Civil Rights Struggles of Cleveland Sellers, Jr. Mr. Parker engaged the crowd by sharing resources on the Orangeburg Massacre, portraits of officer involved shootings, and how his work can further the city's hope for healing and reconciliation. Mr. Parker noted how trainings in de-escalation can empower officers to build bridges with citizens involved in police interactions.

### **Questions discussed:**

» Based on what you heard in Adam Parker's presentation regarding the language we use and how we talk about social justice, what sort of language should we start using/stop using/keep using. What are the implications/ramifications of using certain words?

» Cleveland Sellers's life work was shaped by the events of the Orangeburg Massacre. 50 years later, since that horrific event, there has been no indictment, blue ribbon panel investigation, or reparation given to resolve this cold case. Based on what you feel after hearing Adam Parker's presentation, what, if anything, do you think should happen in Orangeburg?

**Number attended:** limited number of seats 113

**Action step forward:** Meet quarterly, serve Okra Soup dinner, then cover topics including small group discussion; determine how to include youth in such discussions

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*Illumination Project listening sessions data reported by Reverend Dr. Kylon Middleton & Reverend Adam Shoemaker*

### **Goal #3: Develop and implement a training curriculum to enhance citizens and police understanding of each other's roles, rights, and responsibilities**

During a recent briefing, Chief Reynolds addressed concerns regarding the department's Traffic Initiatives and explained how the initiatives are being implemented.

The following were discussed:

» *Combating traffic fatalities related to impaired driving*

» *Educating Motorists and Pedestrians about Traffic Safety*

» *High Visibility Enforcement*

» *Traffic Safety for the Holidays*

» *Expansion of the Traffic Unit*

» *Saturation Patrols*

» *Integrated Enforcement*

» *Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement*

A press briefing was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> for Chief Reynolds to share these initiatives with the public...

*"When we attend community meetings, traffic issues are the number one concern."  
-Chief Luther Reynolds*

### **The 3 E's:**

**-ENFORCEMENT** - 10 additional officers have been transferred to the Traffic Unit. The focus has been on reducing collisions and fatalities with an emphasis on high crash areas, neighborhood complaints, and DUI enforcement.

**-EDUCATION** - Every officer in the Traffic Unit is SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Test) certified. The department is also working with other jurisdictions, including Charleston County, Mt. Pleasant, and North Charleston for Multi-Jurisdictional enforcement.

**-ENGINEERING** - Chief Reynolds created a city Traffic Commission with

other city leaders including Traffic and Transportation City Councilman, Mike Seekings and various city agencies to discuss resolutions to traffic issues within the city.

**FACT: When traffic fatalities occur in Charleston, about 70% involve an impaired person. The statewide average is only about 30%.**

**Goal #4: Develop and use best practices to improve citizen and police relationships through policies and procedures**

**CITIZEN-POLICE ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

The council met once in September and again in November. The council has decided to meet every two months to receive accurate and up-to-date information and address community issues or concerns. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2019, followed by another meeting on March 7, 2019.

The November 14, 2018 Gun Violence Listening Session developed out of this council. Mayor Tecklenburg encouraged the session as a means to discovering ways to educate the public and address the concerns of the community.

**Professional Standards Unit Audit:**

In an effort to ensure that all the department’s Internal Affairs processes were handled efficiently, a full audit of policy review was recently conducted. Joining CPD to assist with this process was SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement Division), Mt. Pleasant Police Department, and Mt. Pleasant Police Department’s Sergeant of Accreditation. The group was tasked with reviewing and grouping all cases from July 2017 – July 2018. In all, 73 cases were reviewed.

**Recommendations:**

The audit lasted about two (2) months and twelve (12) recommendations were established to improve professional standards. Most of the recommendations were administrative and all recommendations would be adopted immediately. Some of the recommendations included:

- » The Professional Standards Commander now reports directly to the Chief of Police to provide updates on cases reported to PSO
- » Additional personnel have been added to the Professional Standards Office
- » PSO Investigator will make recommendation in regards to findings
- » All investigations must be completed within 30 days unless an extension request is granted

**Goal #5: Expand the concept of community-oriented policing in all segments of our community**

Charleston Police Department will become the newest member of:



**Nextdoor**

As early as January 2019, CPD will be the newest law enforcement agency to join the Nextdoor platform. Nextdoor is a private social network used specifically for neighborhoods.

Presently, over 3,000 public agencies use Nextdoor. CPD will incorporate the network as an additional means to help continually create stronger and safer communities. Using mapping and targeting features will also help the department communicate more effectively with residents.

The public can look to receive more information such as the official launch date, how to sign up, how to get connected with officers who will be on the network, and so much more shortly after the holidays.

**Positive Neighborhood Stats Increase**

Neighbors who know each other, look out for each other.

**93%** say it's important for neighbors to look out for one another.

**Over 67%** of homeowners feel safer when they know their neighbors.

**35%** of people who know their neighbors reported that they've shared information with them about crime & safety.

**79%** of people that use an online neighborhood forum talk with their neighbors in-person at least once a month.

**Easy to use App**

Fraternal Order of Police  
(Charleston Metro Lodge #5)  
COPS and KIDS



The FOP's Annual "COPS and KIDS" event took place on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Target in West Ashley. The FOP took 15 children, each with a budget of \$150 on a shopping spree at Target! With the help of some officers, each child got to pick out the toys, clothes, electronics, or anything else they wanted for Christmas! 30 officers attended and each child was paired with 1 to 2 officers to help them select their Christmas gifts!



Senior Police Officer Cory Broadwater helping his little friend try on a new winter coat

#Cops&Kids

NO-SHAVE NOVEMBER

This year our officers participated in NO-SHAVE November! As a fun fundraiser, officers who donated \$30 for the month were allowed to grow and sport a beard for the entire month of November! All proceeds were donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities - Charleston.



Just a few of the officers who participated!



186 officers participated and the total amount raised for the fundraiser was \$5,945!!! Staff at the Ronald McDonald House judged the best and worst beard.

And The Winner Was:



Officer, Jeffery Schneider

We're grateful to all who participated and to citizens who also jumped on board and donated to help raise money for such a wonderful cause!

Cocoa with Cops at Mitchell Elementary - Special Edition

The annual Cocoa with Cops at Mitchell Elem. was even more special this year! We had several more officers volunteer AND Mrs. Claus stopped by as our special guest to chat with 3 & 4 yr. olds!

