



2017 Guide for Activists

www.apdforward.org

(Updated: May 7, 2017)

We are at a critical juncture in the decades-long quest for constitutional policing in Albuquerque. Three years ago, the Department of Justice investigated and found that the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) has a pattern and practice of unconstitutional policing. It indicated that APD is characterized by a culture of aggression that undervalues the lives and safety of the most vulnerable residents of the city, especially people living with mental illness. The City of Albuquerque and the APD entered into a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice to reform the department. This was a major step in the right direction. Unfortunately, we find ourselves faced with a new Department of Justice in Washington that seems oblivious, and perhaps even hostile, to the movement to reform policing in our country. We must press our elected officials in Albuquerque to finish the job we started: APD must fundamentally change its culture and incorporate constitutional, professional policing into the fabric of the department.

Our Objectives

APD Forward seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promote community involvement in the reform process.
2. Hold APD accountable for taking real, concrete steps to comply with the settlement agreement.
3. Press all parties to the agreement to actively advance reforms in a collaborative and constructive manner.
4. Institutionalize the mandates of the agreement to ensure that the reforms are permanent.
5. Ensure that the City of Albuquerque dedicates adequate resources to fully fund the necessary reforms.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Mayoral Forum

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Bring people to the APD Forward mayoral forum on September 6.

Under the guidance of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, APD Forward is hosting a mayoral forum September 6th on safe communities and policing. Let's pack the house! We will need advocates to organize their networks to attend the forum and ask thoughtful questions of the candidates for Mayor of Albuquerque. We would like each APD Forward activist to commit to bringing 4 people with them to attend the forum. Throughout the election cycle, we also will need advocates to question candidates, through the press and at candidate forums, on their views on policing generally as well as their specific plans for getting APD to come into compliance with the settlement agreement.

Community Policing Councils (CPCs)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Regularly participate in CPC meetings for your area command. Consider becoming a voting member of your CPC.

We need activists to attend CPC meetings to make public statements and ask questions about the status of APD's compliance with the settlement agreement. CPCs have been set up in each of the APD's six area commands in the city. See <https://www.cabq.gov/police/community-policing-council>. Created by the settlement agreement, they are meant to be a forum for authentic and constructive dialog between communities throughout Albuquerque and APD. For this reason, they are one of the best platforms for advocates to engage on this issue. These meetings provide opportunities to show that our city cares about constitutional policing and civil rights. We are also seeking advocates to become voting members of CPCs so they can have an even bigger impact on fostering reform of APD.

City Council Meetings

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Set up a meeting with you city councilor to discuss the importance of APD reform. Regularly attend city council meetings to discuss the need for reform.

The Albuquerque City Council has not played a direct supervisory role in the APD reform process. However, the City of Albuquerque is a party to the lawsuit and has paid out millions of dollars in settlements related to police misconduct and officer involved shootings. Our City Councilors need to hear from their constituents that Albuquerque residents want a professional, constitutional police department for our city. Find out more about the City Council, including contact information and meeting schedules, here: <https://www.cabq.gov/council>. City Council does have the power of the purse and the ability to confirm or deny the Mayor's pick for police chief. Whether it's speaking at a City

Council meeting on policing issues, or simply having a meeting at a councilor's office, we want City Council to hold the Mayor and Police Chief accountable for our police department.

APD Forward Activist Party

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Regularly attend APD Forward sessions with trained activists where we will collectively reach out to city officials and the media to urge APD reform.

It's incredibly important that our city councilors, mayor, other elected officials and the media consistently hear from their constituents how important police reform is to residents of our community. At least once per month, APD Forward will host an activist party for trained APD Forward activists where we will make phone calls, send emails, write letters and engage in other activities designed to keep APD reform front and center in public awareness. We'll provide activists with all the necessary information and some fun coaching exercises to easily plug in.

THANK YOU for everything you're doing to reform our police department and promote constitutional policing!

If you need more information or are interested in participating in any of the opportunities described above, please contact Ana Moran at (505) 266-5915 or at amoran@aclu-nm.org.