

TMO Police Reform Action Agenda

Demilitarization and De-escalation: Too many times officers approach their work with a warrior mentality as opposed to a guardian mentality.

- TMO calls on Police Chief Art Acevedo and City Officials to demilitarize police training and to promote de-escalation from violence as a core tenant of police training and tactics.

Responding to Mental Health Crisis: Police officers are often called on to deal with individuals in crisis who are homeless or who need mental health care.

- TMO asks Chief Acevedo to work with City Officials to adopt [ACLU's Model #3 Ordinance](#) which funds civilian professionals with specialized training to be first responders for individuals in crisis with mental health and special needs.

Cite and Release for Class C Misdemeanors: Officers come into contact with residents over Class C misdemeanors which can escalate into jail time or violence. These are low level offenses like driving without a valid license, theft of less than \$100, and disorderly conduct.

- TMO calls on Chief Acevedo and City Officials to agree not to use Class C offenses as a pretext for looking for more serious offenses and to implement a “cite and release” policy for all Class C misdemeanors and eligible Class A and B misdemeanors.

Community Policing: Families want to feel safe in their homes and communities. TMO leaders want a positive relationship with officers who know their neighborhoods and are committed to community policing.

- TMO asks Chief Acevedo and HPD officers to make a greater commitment to community policing by participating in community-based house meetings and TMO civic academies to strengthen relationships between police and the communities they serve.

Recognizing Parish ID's: Many immigrants and elderly are not able to obtain a photo ID issued by the State of Texas. Simple traffic stops can escalate into arrests for people without a photo ID, and people are afraid to report crime. Police departments in Dallas, the Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere have agreed to accept a parish-based photo ID as identification during police stops.

- TMO asks City Officials and the Houston Police Department to recognize parish-based photo identification.

Police Oversight Board: Meaningful civilian oversight is necessary to assure accountability and transparency in policing and build community trust. Currently, Houston has a weak Police Oversight Board with limited independence and no power to investigate.

- TMO calls on City Officials and HPD Police Chief to support a professionally-staffed police review board with greater independence including the power to investigate, audit and monitor.