

NACOLE CANDIDATE ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidates are encouraged to fill out the following questionnaire, to give NACOLE members relevant information when voting for Board members.

Name: **Nicolle Barton**

- 1) Position Sought: Board Member At-Large
- 2) Geographic Location: St. Louis, Missouri
- 3) Current Oversight Position and Organization: Executive Director, City of St. Louis, Civilian Oversight Board
- 4) Number of Years as a NACOLE Member: Since 2016
- 5) Please list Annual Conferences or training opportunities in which you have attended:

NACOLE Annual Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico 2016
NACOLE Regional Training, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2016
NACOLE Regional Training, St. Louis, Missouri 2016
NACOLE Annual Conference, Spokane, Washington 2017
NACOLE Webinar Series: Strategies for Successful Mediation 2017
NACOLE Webinar Series: Justice Based Policing 2017
NACOLE Regional Training, Indianapolis, Indiana 2017
NACOLE Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida 2018
NACOLE Webinar Series: Investigating Search & Seizure Allegations 2018
NACOLE Regional Training, Nashville, Tennessee, 2019

- 6) Are you currently a member of the NACOLE Board? No

If so, in what capacity:

- President
 Vice President
 Board Member At-Large

For the following questions, please respond in no more than 200 words.

- 1) Why do you want to serve on the NACOLE Board? I would like to serve on the NACOLE Board because I believe I have a passion to serve the NACOLE organization with the same passion and commitment that I serve my own

community. I have committed myself as an advocate for criminal justice and social justice reform efforts. In recent years there has been an increasing need to establish Oversight in both rural and urban areas. As the Executive Director in St. Louis since the inception of this Oversight Agency, I understand the importance of having support and mentors in this field to guide new Oversight agencies and staff. I believe I have the commitment needed to bring about change, transparency, support, and best practice standards to an ever changing field.

- 2) What skills/experience/qualities do you bring to the NACOLE Board? I have over 18 years of both law enforcement and community outreach experience. I worked in the Ferguson community during the Ferguson crisis and volunteered in my community to assist with reform efforts. As a new Oversight Agency in St. Louis I have written and developed policy and procedure for this Oversight Agency. I work collectively with our local activists, faith based community leaders, civic leaders, and legislators to bring about effective change in our Oversight Agency that has continued to build a bridge between law enforcement and the community. I have assisted in developing new and improved training to our police department. I am also an experienced investigator with strong leadership skills.

- 3) What challenges does NACOLE face as a rapidly growing membership organization? I believe that the NACOLE membership is growing at a rate faster than expected. Therefore, it is imperative that we hire additional staff that can dedicate time to membership issues and/or concerns, help in providing mentors to new organizations, and even advocate for reform efforts at the highest level in our Nation's Capital. I also think it is important for NACOLE to help increase its diversity in membership.

- 4) How have you contributed to NACOLE's work? Please include all committees you have served on or led, as well as any other NACOLE volunteer efforts.

I co-hosted a Regional Training with NACOLE entitled: Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement: A Road to Building Community Trust in 2016.

It was a pleasure and honor to be a panel speaker in 2017 at the 23rd Annual NACOLE Conference in Spokane, Washington. This lesson was "Building an Oversight Agency: Lessons Learned from Campaign to Launch".

In 2018, I served on the Member Support and Development Committee for NACOLE. This committee has the responsibility to support NACOLE's current members, increase membership, and receives and responds to inquiries regarding new memberships and oversees the mentoring program.

In 2019, I was a panel speaker at the Regional Training in Nashville, Tennessee after Nashville passed legislation to have Oversight in their city.

- 5) Please share highlights of your background/experience in law enforcement oversight.

I have over 18 years of both law enforcement and community outreach experience.

Prior to the shooting of Michael Brown and the subsequent protesting in Ferguson, the City of St. Louis did not have an Oversight Agency. The City of St. Louis passed legislation in 2015 to gain Oversight. I worked in Ferguson during the Ferguson crisis and was hired as the First Executive Director for the newly formed St. Louis City Civilian Oversight Board. I then hired all my staff, wrote policy and procedure, and develop standard operating procedures. There were a lot of obstacles including pushback from our local police officers union.

One of the first accomplishments we gained as a newly formed Board was winning a law suit against our local union after they filed an injunction against my office for requesting Garrity statements as part of the investigation process.

In 2017 the City of St. Louis had yet another setback with weeks of protesting after the acquittal of a former St. Louis police officer, Jason Stockley for the 2011 shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith. However, as a result of the protest the St. Louis City Civilian Oversight Board with support from our Mayors office and Board of Alderman gained another major hurdle with the Board Bill passing allowing the Civilian Oversight Board subpoena power.

- 6) If elected/re-elected, what would you most like to accomplish as a Board member? I would like to develop a peer support group that would enhance the relationships between NACOLE members across the country. I would like the Directors and upper management to be able to have a "sounding board" that we could bounce ideas off of, gain insight from each other, and work collectively when any city is experiencing a crisis event. I would also like to build a team of people that could fight for new legislation that would help the transparency and accountability of each agency whether it is in a specific state or the Nation's Capital.

- 7) Additional information for voters to consider:

Nicolle has obtained a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice and also possess a Master's Degree in Legal Studies as well as a Master's Degree in Paralegal.

Nicolle is a longtime advocate for both criminal justice and social justice reform efforts.

Nicolle is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Nicolle is also a Member of the IACA (International Association of Crime Analysts).

Nicolle has been recognized as a leader in “Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women”. Also volunteers for our “Helping Hands” program which is an organization that mentors underprivileged youth in our community.