

## PCCEP Recommendation

**Title of Recommendation:** A youth-informed approach to city-wide *restorative justice*

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### **Summary of Recommendation:**

The PCCEP Youth Sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Multnomah Youth Commission and additional community partners, is hereby recommending that the City of Portland evaluate all current restorative justice practices within the PPB and other related city departments and update said practices to promote additional restorative outcomes and alternatives means of public safety. Over the past few years, the PCCEP, MYC, Word is Bond and other youth groups have conducted extensive community engagement in the perceptions and experiences when interacting with police officers in the Portland Metro Area. This data, coupled with the input from community organizations with youth leadership, listed below, have informed the following realizations and concrete recommendations. **PPB, the City of Portland, and other local system players have a duty to engage in practice and policy that mitigate harm from the initial point of contact through to any additional legal and criminal implications, promoting healing for the victim, offender, and the community at large. For a bureau and a city that purports to be at the forefront of 21st century policing, we, the enclosed recipients, demand solutions that utilize restorative justice and community-based approaches to policing. This should serve as just one step in the larger mission of divesting and diverting resources from punitive punishment to community responses informed by restorative justice.** The direction or path towards Restorative Justice has been proven (see sources) to decrease and remove harm heavily present in black and brown communities, youth populations, and individuals experiencing or living with behavioral health conditions. This is done by employing alternatives to the perpetuation of carceral punishment as of means of mitigating public safety and public harm. In this way, restorative justice is also a necessary step towards disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and providing opportunities for youth development rather than enforcing cycles of inequity with additional adjudication. With the School Resource Program program now ended, it's critical to ensure all officers, school employees, juvenile court counselors and more are equipped to respond with restorative practices, no matter where they are interacting with youth.

**Details of recommendation:**

1. The PPB Training Division should implement youth-centered Restorative Justice training bureau-wide to ensure all officers are engaging with a harm-reduction lens.
  - a. All officers shall be required to receive *yearly* training
    - i. The initial training, with the implementation of 6-months, should include but not be limited to a review of basic knowledge, philosophy, practices and standards for Restorative Justice. This training should build on the existing training provided to School Resource Officers and should connect to the restorative justice work of the PPB Equity Office. This initial training must also include an overview of and practice with the RJ platform described in Section 2.A.i, below.
    - ii. Subsequent training should occur at least once every year after the original training period. These training sessions should cover some of the same principles as the initial training but should also feature engagement and dialogue out in the community where these organizations do their work. This shall include intentional partnership with, but not limited to, the community organizations listed on this recommendation. The sessions should focus on what the restorative process actually means to community members and how it leads to greater community vitality for all.
  - b. PCCEP and its community partners are providing PPB a 6-month implementation window to design and release this training to officers, with the understanding that the initial phase of training should be underway by the end of January 2021.
  - c. Each year there should be recognition of progress on the implementation of this recommendation in the yearly report from the Training Division.
  - d. The PPB and City of Portland must coordinate with PCCEP and listed organizations immediately during design and throughout the entire implementation process.
  2. The City of Portland should create and disseminate a platform which allows youth to request restorative dialogue with PPB officers, school personnel, and in otherwise confrontational relationships and situations. This platform will account for both criminal and noncriminal acts situations — or in reference to youth system violations — and shall be made widely available to youth in and out of Portland Public Schools.
    - a. The City of Portland shall offer a platform, with both an online and a text or phone hotline. This platform would allow youth to request a restorative justice dialogue for resolving an incident in their school or community.
      - i. In congruence with Section 3, said platform will not be limited to those cases or circumstances where PPB responds or is directly involved, but should also include self-reported concerns by youth that fall within the geographic jurisdiction of the City of Portland. This may include peer-to-peer conflicts, circumstances with school personnel, or community member conflicts.
    - b. The City of Portland — working with, but not limited to, the community partners listed in this recommendation — should design and release this platform in the subsequent 3 months after this recommendation is signed.
      - i. Before the platform is officially released, the City must present a comprehensive outreach plan that ensures all youth within PPS and those outside of PPS are made aware of and taught to use the new program. With recognition of the current COVID-19 situation, this task force shall prepare a plan to disseminate this to schools in the fall regardless of in-person learning.
    - c. The City of Portland should create capacity within the Independent Police Review or the Office of Youth Violence Prevention to respond to and handle all submissions

which should include a new RJ coordinator or RJ staff to lead this work.

- i. The PPB should also coordinate with the Independent Police Review to ensure that any complaints or concerns involving police specifically are handled by IPR and not PPB or other law enforcement employees.
3. The City of Portland shall coordinate with the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, the District Attorney's office, Portland Public Schools, community organizations and any other relevant stakeholders to grow the overall number of restorative dialogue programs for youth both in custody and for non-criminal or violation incidents. When possible, these and other restorative justice practices should be used to resolve an incident or repair a harm and should be given initial consideration before other justice involved responses. In brief, restorative outcomes should be expanded for youth in schools, in the justice system and in our community.
  - a. The City of Portland should audit current restorative justice practices and programs and determine where staffing and resources would be best directed so as to increase the number of these programs available to young people aged 12-24.
    - i. The City should specifically review and examine restorative dialogue programs, hereby defined as follows: "A voluntary process that provides victims of crime, the person that harmed them, and any other impacted stakeholders and community members an opportunity to meet face to face, in a facilitated dialogue."
  - b. After the aforementioned audit, the City shall present, by the end of 2020, an action plan to increase the use of restorative responses with all relevant stakeholders, including in the both criminal (and/or institutional) and non-criminal domains (see 3c and 3d).
  - c. The City shall use their direct power to arrest fewer youth and should in-directly push county partners to prosecute and penalize fewer youth for low level offenses that could otherwise and more meaningfully be addressed through restorative justice.
    - i. The City of Portland and PPB must review standards of arrest and identify which actions might instead warrant a citation and diversion program or restorative dialogue circle.
    - ii. The City of Portland should work with the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and specifically the Juvenile Services Division, to ensure restorative concepts and theories can be introduced to youth-in-custody and dialogue programs can be provided for a wider variety of crimes.
    - iii. The City of Portland shall coordinate with and push for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office to recommend full or partial restorative justice programming and other similar diversions as alternatives to incarceration or even financial restitution.
  - d. The City of Portland shall work with Portland Public Schools to mitigate harm within school boundaries and reduce the necessity of calling for police as a first-order response. Portland Police Bureau officers are four times more likely to arrest a student if they are a non-SRO officer. This is partly because of training (see section 1) but also because of the relationship with students. Schools must increase their capacity for internal responses and restorative justice and dialogue must be expanded in tandem.
    - i. PPB and existing PPS RJ staff should provide training for all PPS administrators that covers restorative justice theories and provides tips for how to resolve situations with restoration not elimination in mind. Currently there is an initial training provided to a certain subset of schools but this training should be expanded and scope and to all remaining schools.
    - ii. PPS should implement additional strategies for dealing with students that

doesn't require police arresting powers. This should include de-escalation techniques applicable to school settings, contacts to call that can provide community based and/or health services, and other best practices like hiring more school counselors.

- e. The City of Portland should make space for community requests to mitigate harm through restorative justice when there is no formal criminal or judicial process (or such a process has been resolved) but one or both parties still feel an aggravating relationship remains. One key focus is addressing grievances with officers but this can also apply to youth and community member conflicts.
  - i. Now more than ever, it's critical to listen to and resolve conflicts and grievances community members hold with officers. Often, young people feel they are not listened to and their needs are not fully met after interacting with officers. This can apply when they are a victim, perpetrator or even witness or other third party. The City should allow youth to request mediation through dialogue with officers using the platform described in section 2. These dialogue programs should include any other adults or persons who were involved in the incident and caused sentiments of harm and hurt.

**How does this recommendation redress barriers to racial equity?**

This recommendation redresses barriers to racial equity by providing equal access to restorative justice opportunities and creating an environment for intentional partnership with community organizations that center BIPOC. All PPB officers are required to participate in restorative justice training on a yearly basis. This will be created to broker new ways of looking at policing and the way in which overpoliced communities, specifically black communities interact with police moving forward. As well as the access to training for law enforcement, any young person within Portland, through an RJ-campaign to local systems, including not limited to PPS, the DA's office, and more, to create hotline/online platform that enables a space for dialogue on instance that occurs between two community members (that an officer would initiate) or an officer and another community members. This would specifically help reconcile trauma that may occur between a disenfranchised community member and an officer.

**How were marginalized and underrepresented communities, including those who will be affected by this recommendation, engaged to shape, write, and otherwise develop this recommendation?**

We reached out to the following community organizations and their youth to engage in meaningful drafting and editing of our recommendation. We ensured that their voices were centered and they had the final say in the details we had.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Youth Educating Police (YEP)</b></li> <li><b>2. Multnomah Youth Commission</b></li> <li><b>3. Next Up</b></li> <li>4. Latino Network —&gt; Youth Leadership Council</li> <li><b>5. Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) —&gt; Youth/Elders Council</b></li> <li>6. Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)</li> <li>7. Momentum Alliance</li> <li>8. Native American Rehabilitation Association NW (NARA)</li> <li>9. Immigrant and Refugee Community Center Africa House (IRCO)</li> <li>10. Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)—&gt; CHI</li> <li>11. Office of Youth Violence Prevention</li> <li>12. Future Generation Collaborative</li> <li>13. World Oregon —&gt; Youth Leaders in Action</li> <li><b>14. Lutheran Community Service</b></li> <li>15. Resolutions NW</li> <li>16. Hacienda CDC</li> <li>17. Portland United Against Hate</li> <li><b>18. Independent Police Review</b></li> <li><b>19. Former YSD Captain James Quakenbush</b></li> <li>20. Sun School</li> </ol> <p>The bolded groups responded and engaged in a collective effort to provide insights and changes we could make to our recommendation. Furthermore, most organizations shared with youth who participated a digital review and comment session with our team to then present the recommendation to the Mayor and PPB's Chief.</p>
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## Resources

Please list all relevant resources to this recommendation.

1. MYC Survey (Summary) Document
2. [Current PPB Directive on Procedural Justice](#)
3. [RJ in Practice \(Colorado\)](#)

4. [RJ in Practice \(Oakland\)](#)
5. [Training Advisory Council Recommendation on Procedural Justice \(2018\)](#)
6. [JSD Restorative Dialogue Program](#)
7. [Interview Video w/ Deidra Gibson-Cairns](#) (Restorative Practices Coordinator, DCJ, Multnomah County)