**BPD Best Practices List 2017**

*Under the leadership of Mayor Walsh and Commissioner Evans the BPD continues to build on a strong foundation of community policing, prioritizing relationships with youth and the community as the key to solidifying trust in our neighborhoods. This starts with positive interactions on the streets and in school classrooms; includes proactive prevention and diversion for at-risk youth and their families; and provides pathways away from violence for those who are ready to make a change.*

*The BPD has strong partnerships and collaborations with many other agencies, non-profits, and community based programs. From the vast array of year-round district activities with youth to the support for families of homicide victims and victims of domestic violence; from the home visits and referrals of at-risk youth to social workers to the youth dialogues with community partners; from Coffee with a Cop to flashlight walks with residents; from Shop with a Cop to the Academy training officers to better interact with youth; and from reentry programs for returning offenders to school safety days with special needs populations; the BPD is working every day to build and strengthen relationships with the community.*

* The BPD has **strong partnerships and collaborations** with many other agencies, non-profits, clergy, and community based programs. Key city partners:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + Mayor’s Office of Public Safety   + Boston Centers for Youth and Families | * + Health Commission   + Youth Options Unlimited   + Boston Public Schools |

**Outreach and Intervention:**

* **YouthConnect:** Partnership between the BPD and the Boys & Girls Clubs formed in 1996 that places social workers in police stations with front-line officers. Currently the program covers A7, B2, B3, C11, D4 and E13; with additional citywide coverage through YVSF, School Police Unit, and DVU.
* **EPIC – Enhancing Potential Inspiring Change** – new program run by *YouthConnect* andfunded by*John Hancock*, to serve approximately 50 at-risk 11-14 year olds (and their families) per year. The focus of the program will be to reduce risky behaviors to increase positive decision-making skills, while creating opportunities to increase self-awareness and confidence through the acquisition of leadership and work-readiness skills.  School Police Unit officers identified the schools for participation.
* **Operation Homefront**: This is a collaboration between the BPD School Police Unit, MBTA Police, School Safety, Social Service Agencies and Faith Based organizations that addresses the belief that the family is the first line of defense against gang activity, truancy, etc. Police/clergy home visits are performed for youth at-risk of gang involvement. They are initiated on a school-by-school basis when a serious or concerning incident occurs or there is an escalating level of issues that may adversely affect school safety. This initiative provides a crucial link to parents, with various resources for parents, students and teachers to leverage in preventing problems for students.
* **Increased impact of BPD School Police Unit:** The Boston Police Department increased the number of officers in the School Police Unit in order to expand presence into elementary schools to engage in positive relationships and dialogues between students and police starting in first grade. Increase has led to dramatic reductions in arrest and significant increase and prevention opportunities.
* **Operation Stopwatch:** “real time” deployment strategy and collaboration between Transit Police, BPD and BPS school administrators to deploy to most active transit stations based on trends and information received. Collaboration has dramatically reduced arrests and incidents.
* **Operation Exit** **Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program** is designed as an intensive training program to prepare participants for entry into an apprenticeship in the building trades. Through Career Readiness and Occupational Skills Training, encompassing classroom, peer to peer mentorship and hands-on learning experiences, Operation Exit will provide the knowledge and skills required for participants to apply for and enter into a state-registered Building Trades apprenticeship program. In addition, coordinated case management and placement services will be provided to assist participants in achieving their career goals. Partnership with Mayor’s Public Safety Initiative and YOU Boston.
* **Homicide Outreach Program:** The BPD Homicide Unit has provided outreach and support to the families of homicide victims. This includes assistance with funerals, explanations of trial proceedings and referrals to available services.
* **Family Justice Center:** co-locating police investigative units with agencies that offer victim and survivors a full array of support and services in one location.
* **BEST clinicians:** partnership with BMC’s Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST); placing BEST clinicians in district stations to improve response to emotionally disturbed persons (EDPs).

**Youth Programs:**

* **Boston Police Teen Academy** Celebrating its fifth year, the Police Teen Academy is directed and operated by the Boston Police Academy during the summer. The Police Teen Academy helps the students connect with the police officers in their community, while also building character and learning life skills. Conflict resolution is a major focus. All students are in need of a summer job, and benefit from the minimum wages earned for their program attendance each week. The students receive gift cards provided by local businesses such as Target and Staples that help with the purchase of back- to-school clothes and supplies. During the six week program, approximately 60 students participate in regular exercise regimens, public speaking experiences, and community service efforts.
* **P.A.L. to PALS** is a monthly visit by Boston Police Department personnel to local Boys and Girls Clubs in Boston. The monthly visits will be two dimensional: one part learning and interactive, the other part physical exercise. Each month, a different unit from the Boston Police Department will visit a different Boys and Girls Club site. The unit will speak on a topic related to their unit of assignment (Drug Unit – drugs, Gang Unit – gangs, etc.). Each visit will be scheduled for 90 minutes: Part lecture/dialogue and the other part physical (Officers playing basketball or other sport with the kids).
* **Youth dialogues:** facilitated sessions to break down walls between youth and police. BPD partners with a variety of programs that use different techniques and formats, all to achieve the same result – increased trust. Current partners in these efforts include The Medicine Wheel, North American Family Institute’s Youth & Police Initiative, Teen Empowerment, the YWCA and Roxbury Youthworks.
* **Boston Police Explorers Program:** a career exploration program partnership between the BPD and the Boy Scouts of America.  The program is open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of Law Enforcement.  The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities.
* **Boston Police Tennis Program/Volley Against Violence:** a comprehensive program   
  of free tennis for youth and adults of all ages, together with leadership workshops and conflict resolution training for boys and girls ranging in age from 4 to 17, held at  Sportsmen’s Tennis & Enrichment Center, on Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester.
* **“Bigs in Blue” Boston:** BPD is teaming up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay to launch a mentoring program that will pair officers with young people. Our goal is 25 officer volunteers.
* The BPD partnered with **English High School in their Protective Services Program**. This program creates a pathway for students from high school into a career in public safety and public service.
* Police referrals to the **Mayor's Summer Jobs Program** – which seeks to provide 10,000 youth per summer with meaningful employment, partnering with the private sector.
* Police referrals of kids to free or reduced price **summer camps**at partner agencies, i.e. YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, BCYF.

**Community Engagement:**

* **Peace Walks** with clergy and other community partners in neighborhoods most impacted by violence. Began in 2015. Multiple walks per week summer and fall.
* Commissioner Evans created a **Social Justice Task Force,**comprised of community leaders and advocates to advise him on ways to improve the department and strengthen community trust. Advised on Body Worn Cameras pilot.
* Each of the eleven police districts run community outreach and youth activities through their **Community Service Offices**. These include various annual events such as Halloween and Christmas parties, thousand of Christmas gifts, Senior Citizens Ball, and Thanksgiving turkey give-aways; as well as sports leagues, arts programs, youth/police dialogues, community service projects and block parties. Each district also runs a Jr. Police Academy during the summer, and participates in neighborhood walks, safety briefings, neighborhood watch, and collaborations with their local non-profit and faith-based partners.
  + *Jr. Police Academy*
  + *Neighborhood movie nights and cookouts*
  + *Flashlight walks*
  + *“Coffee with a Cop”*
  + *Youth / police dialogues*
  + *National Night Out*
  + *Neighborhood Watches*
  + *Family Appreciation Day*
  + *Father’s Day Walk*
  + *Bicycle for Peace Ride*
* The YVSF, School Police Unit, Bike Unit, and other **specialized units** also participate in many of these activities with youth, i.e. basketball games.
* **Operation Hoodsie Cup:** The BPD utilizes an ice cream truck to deliver free “hoodsie cups” to children and community residents in city neighborhoods, many times in conjunction with other ongoing activities and events.
* **Strong Social Media presence** per Office of Media Relations/ BPDNEWS (blog, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

**Training:**

* **Training of recruit officers** includes interaction with a ***community partners panel, community service projects, community policing case studies*, *trauma training* and *procedural justice*.** An extra week of training has been added in order to expand the one day community service work to a full week.
* **Bias-Free Policing** Elearning course is mandated for veteran officers’ in-service training.
* The Boston Police Department has developed **a culture of restraint.** Officers receive extensive training in de-escalation techniques. This training has resulted in a low rate of use of force, and a low number of use of force complaints.

**Other Collaborations:**

* BPD is the lead agency in the state-funded **Shannon Community Safety Initiative** – a multi-agency initiative that provides targeted services and interventions for at-risk/ gang involved youth from 5 hotspot locations.
* BPD is the lead agency, with the Boston Public Health Commission, in the state funded **Safe and Successful Youth Initiative** – a multi-agency initiative that intervenes with those most likely to use firearms.
* **CEASE Boston** formed to lessen the harm inherent in the illegal sex industry by reducing the demand for paid sex. Through initiatives targeting sex buyers the CEASE Network aims to cut the illegal sex trade by 20%, in every city it operates in, within two years.
* The BPD has extensive partnerships with area **colleges and universities***.* Information is shared and problems are addressed for the large number of college students living in the City. In addition, they are strong partners in a variety of research projects and service provision in our neighborhoods.

**Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC):**

* BRIC is an **award winning** Fusion Center and an invaluable tool for the Boston Police Department and the Metro region. BRIC serves as the central point for the collection, synthesis, analysis and dissemination of **strategic and tactical intelligence** to law enforcement, intelligence, first responder and private sector partners; and to assist the federal government as a partner for **national security.**
* In addition, BRIC houses the **Real Time Crime Center, ShotSpotter** (acoustic gun detection technology), and links to the Probation Department’s **GPS monitoring system**.
* BRIC supports the **Safe City Coop Meeting**. Mayor Walsh established safe city coop meeting that includes 25+ city, state and non-profit agencies convening on last Friday of each month. Run and moderated by his office, there is a review of prior 30 days and response and deployment of City and partner resources and sharing of information with short and long strategy implementation. Entire street worker program present, as well as others that work with gang-involved individuals. BPD participates – gang unit, etc.

**Other Tools and Tactics:**

* Formation of **Citywide Bike Unit** has been very successful.
* Police presence in **parks and other open spaces***,* and proactively monitored **house parties and night clubs** due to the violence that is associated with them.
* Creation of **city ordinances** to address emerging issues, i.e. off road vehicles and replica firearms.
* **CrimeStoppers:** anonymous tip line – text or call.