

Capstone

21st Century Knowledge & Skills: Reflections

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The last 18-months have challenged policing around the nation. The Los Angeles Police Department has been negatively impacted with the anti-police narrative, defunding of police, and its relationships with a fractured community. In my paper, *Neglected Territory*, I discuss these critical issues and provide a window of opportunity to embrace these circumstances and develop stronger community relationships. Commander Emade Tingirides explained this new method of engagement. “It was a partnership...rather than law enforcement telling the community what we're going to do for them, the community told us their expectations and told us what they wanted us to do for them” (Denkmann, 2020). The method of communicating with this community was to remove the barriers to interaction.

In my position as a Senior Lead Officer, my focus is on transparency and education with the members of our community. Issues of homelessness and encampments have become a major focal point in our communities. I've assisted in establishing community groups and city entities to collaborate on these concerns. Moreover, the use of social media and virtual meetings have become a common-place communicative tool. The Covid-pandemic initially placed roadblocks in our attempts to engage with our community. The use of these new medium has opened new avenues for increased productive engagement.

My second paper, *Crisis Communication-Case Study* examines the instance after the George Floyd incident where protests and civil unrest was ravaging Los Angeles. This was a critical time for leadership to rise and communicate directly with its confused, angered, and frustrated community.

Public trust in law enforcement may be fleeting if police executives do not continually reinforce sound, ethical policies and procedures to agency personnel and to the public. As a leader in policing, I was able to meet with many of our community groups and discuss these social problems that had ignited the nation. Due to our long-term collaborative efforts, these groups had placed trust in our messaging. “Trust is built over time. Your community absolutely needs to be able to trust you in a crisis, but they won't trust you in a crisis if they don't trust you today. We need to start focusing every single day, small little steps every single day, to build trust within our community” (Agnes, 2016). This program has reinforced the instance of collaborative relationships in our communities. If we are too consumed in trying to explain our message, we fail to hear the messaging and concerns from the other side. This leads to communication breakdowns and misunderstandings.

Lastly, I discussed the removal of the police baton in my paper, Use of Force Reform Memo. I examined the statistical data of force used in conjunction with the tools that officers utilize when a use of force occurs. The data illustrated the dramatic decrease in the use of this outdated tool. Moreover, with the advent of technology and improved policing methods, the baton has lost its relevance and usefulness in 21st century policing methods. The removal of the baton from the officers belt will help provide a bridge for further trust, and will dissolve the stigma that it infamously burdens from just a few decades earlier.

The USD program has provided me with the ability to critically examine issues affecting law enforcement today. The use of technology had changed many aspects of policing. Our communication efforts have been increased with the use of social media,

but the ability to engage and build trust is timeless. Moreover, the equipment we use will continue to transition in our arena. As conscientious leaders, we must be cognizant and respectful of the relevancy of these changes to our community.

Work Cited:

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Denkman, L. (2020, July 28). *The LAPD Is Doubling Down On A Community Policing Program. Why Some Activists Are Opposed.* Retrieved December 12, 2020, from <https://laist.com/2020/07/28/lapd-communication-safety-partnership-expands-reaction.php>