

Chapter 10

Conclusion: AI and the Future of Policing and Public Trust

ABSTRACT

The authors acknowledge the necessity for police reform but emphasize the importance of gaining a deeper understanding of police culture and the challenges police officers face daily while serving and protecting. Rather than resorting to stereotypical opinions that degrade the character of police officers, there needs to be a recognition of the complexities of their work. Most police officers are dedicated public servants who take great pride in their professional roles, despite the negative and disparaging commentary they often face. Most police officers continue to do their best to ensure justice and uphold their duty to serve and protect. Most police officers are hardworking dedicated civil servants. They too are very critical of police officers who besmirch the good name of law enforcement as those who do so also disgrace the good police officers who dedicate their lives to serve and protect.

INTRODUCTION

At the same time, it is essential to understand the valid concerns of society regarding negative interactions between police officers and citizens. Criticism is easy, but offering support, listening to differing perspectives, and working together to develop solutions is more challenging. One key issue is the reluctance to hear the word “no”, a response that often triggers defensiveness rather than productive dia-

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logue. Simply saying “no” does not solve the problem. Both members of society and police department leaders must work toward mutual understanding and cooperation.

As Fisher and Ury (1981) implore the significance in not only understanding the thinking of society but respecting its perspectives. Police officers must be flexible and open to criticism to work in tandem with civic leaders to productively solve problems in the community and methods of appropriate and lawful policing. This collaboration is essential for developing a cooperative relationship. By striving to understand one another’s perspectives, both groups can come together to establish sustainable solutions that cultivate trust and collaboration.

Society and police departments must reach a “YES” agreement. An agreement where each side understands and values of the other’s perspective, rather than defaulting to a “NO.” Citizens and police officers rely on each other for society to function safely and effectively. For this to happen, both groups must work together, as a team, to address challenges and find solutions, rather than deepening the divide between them. Restoring mutual trust and respect is essential for a safe society. Both sides must set aside their hubris and be open to listening and learning from one another.

SECTION-1: PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

When society and law enforcement can engage in meaningful dialogue and understand each other’s needs, they can cultivate the respect and trust required for a functional relationship. Citizens rightly demand that police officers approach their work with empathy and humanistic perspectives. The authors of this book fully support that demand and present a set of solutions aimed at rebuilding and revitalizing the relationship between law enforcement and the community. These proposed solutions serve multiple purposes, and we recommend the following:

1. Require all law enforcement candidates to earn a bachelor’s degree with a liberal arts pedagogy prior to entering the police academy. This ensures that police officers are equipped with not only legal knowledge, but also the humanistic values necessary for community interactions.
2. Demilitarize police departments. This involves reducing the use of military-style equipment and tactics, fostering community-centered policing, and emphasizing de-escalation techniques.
3. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT): All police officers should undergo a forty-hour crisis intervention training to establish an active and well-supported CIT available 24/7, 365 days a year. This would provide officers with the necessary tools to confidently work with situations involving mental health crises to have a positive outcome, not another George Floyd incident.

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