The Department Of Justice Releases New Report On The Attorney General’s Twelve-City Community Policing Tour And Regional Justice Forums

As part of the Department’s commitment to working with communities and law enforcement to build stronger relationships and mutual trust, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch today announced the release of the “Attorney General’s Community Policing Report,” a summary of the Attorney General’s twelve-city Community Policing Tour and the Department of Justice’s four Regional Justice Forums. The Attorney General’s Community Policing Tour Report builds on President Obama’s priorities to engage with law enforcement and other members of the community to implement key recommendations from the Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

“This document is not meant to be a comprehensive, step-by-step guide, but, rather, a useful blueprint—a window into what citizens across the nation are doing to build stronger bonds between police and the people they serve,” said Attorney General Lynch. “I hope that this report will help inspire ideas and foster cooperation in communities from coast to coast—so that, together, we can continue our work toward a stronger, a safer, and a more united nation.”

During the Community Policing Tour, Attorney General Lynch visited 12 jurisdictions in two phases. Phase I focused on jurisdictions that had addressed difficult histories of mistrust between communities and law enforcement through strong collaboration and innovation. During this phase, the Attorney General traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio; Birmingham, Alabama; East Haven, Connecticut; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Seattle, Washington; and Richmond, California. Phase II highlighted cities that had made outstanding progress implementing the six key pillars identified in the Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. During this phase, the Attorney General visited Miami/Doral, Florida; Portland, Oregon; Indianapolis, Indiana; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Phoenix, Arizona; and Los Angeles, California, with each site focusing on one of the report’s pillars.

In the wake of the horrific tragedies of the summer of 2016 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dallas, Texas; and St. Paul, Minnesota, the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates convened a series of Regional Justice Forums with members of the local law enforcement, youth, faith, non-profit and civil rights communities. These meetings were designed to help local stakeholders critically examine community policing issues in their respective cities and regions and to seek concrete solutions together. The Attorney General convened Justice Forums in Detroit, Michigan and Newark, New Jersey. The Deputy Attorney General hosted forums in Denver, Colorado, and Atlanta, Georgia.

This report chronicling the community policing work of the Department of Justice highlights innovative local approaches to policing that help foster stronger ties between officers and the people they are sworn to serve and protect. The document is meant to serve as a tool for communities and law enforcement agencies seeking to deepen their own commitment to community policing principles and practices.