

COMMUNITY REPORT: VOL. 1, WINTER 2019 SUMMARY

BUILDING

CARE:

Portland Communities Respond to the Violence of Policing

This 2019 report, the first volume in an on-going series, compiles eleven organizations' experiences with policing in Portland and some of their ideas for building genuine care and safety for their community members. Care Not Cops Portland (CNC) surveyed a diverse range of organizations in Portland that are made up of and work with impacted communities – from people who are houseless, immigrants, and people of color, to those who have lost loved ones to police violence, workers and day laborers, environmental advocates, youth, and tenant organizers.

KEY FINDINGS

In surveying these organizations, we found **virtually all respondents described policing as having a negative impact with their members and constituents**, and contributing to increased violence and criminalization of community members. The relationship between the police and the community was described as distrustful, uneasy, oppressive, intimidating, or causing fear, with many community members seeking avoidance of police. Additionally, **police are seen as enforcing the exclusion of houseless people** or those stereotyped as houseless from certain areas.

Nearly all of the organizations surveyed by CNC spoke about the direct and disparate targeting of communities of color and houseless communities, even specifically speaking to the intersection of this targeting. Further, **every**

organization offered visions for what brings safety and stability to their communities, which are overwhelmingly characterized by investments in community resources such as affordable and stable housing, access to health care and mental health programs, replacing police in schools with transformative justice and school counselors, youth programming, education investments, and decriminalization measures. Visions of community safety also included building up grassroots community-led initiatives to care for and protect communities from violence.

The organizational responses note **a desperate need for Portland police to immediately scale back their interactions with community** which are causing both direct and acute instances of violence as well as daily ongoing fear and trauma. Care Not Cops understands these responses to directly critique the very nature of policing

and lead towards the need for first reducing the scale and scope of policing while creating alternative models rather than trying to reform policing.

ABOUT CARE NOT COPS

Care Not Cops Portland (CNC) was founded in 2017 to reduce the violence of policing and build up community care. CNC has worked to reduce the Portland Police Bureau budget and advocate for redirecting public resources to community alternatives and programs that address harm and build strong and healthy communities. The campaign is rooted in the belief that policing endangers the health and well-being of communities. CNC understands the role of policing in enforcing forms of social control which fuel gentrification, displacement, repression, and disempowerment of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

ONLINE AT: WWW.CARENOTCOPS.ORG

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to stop the violence of policing in Portland, action must be taken on both community and City levels. As we work towards divestment from, and reduction of, policing in Portland we must also build up the structures of response to and accountability for harm that can be implemented in place of a law enforcement based model. Community work is already happening on an ongoing basis and using creative ways to address safety and basic needs without policing, which we have seen multiple examples of throughout this report. Care Not Cops supports these ongoing community-led and self-determined projects.

We believe that the communities most impacted by policing, lack of access to public resources, and systemic violence and marginalization should be at the forefront of efforts and conversations about the most appropriate solutions.

**TO READ THE FULL REPORT ONLINE, VISIT:
WWW.CARENOTCOPS.ORG/2019REPORT**

THE CITY OF PORTLAND MUST:

- ▶ immediately scale back police presence in historically Black neighborhoods, communities of color, areas with high houseless populations in order to reduce the fear, ongoing trauma, violence, and oppressive conditions which impede on people's daily survival;
- ▶ develop and implement a plan to dismantle the gang policing unit of the PPB;
- ▶ move away from police responders to health or mental health calls and implement alternative first responses, as means to meet needs or address harm and accountability, that are not led by the police;
- ▶ invest in life-sustaining and dignified resources that ultimately reduce people's vulnerability to or targeting by policing;
- ▶ implement genuine strategies for dignified temporary and permanent housing, and halt sweeps of houseless encampments and other villages;
- ▶ and include impacted and targeted communities at the forefront of determining City investments in life-sustaining resources and related policy objectives.

MOVING FORWARD

Join us this year — turn out for the **Community Budget Forums at 6pm on April 2 and April 9, 2019 (location TBA)**, and help us make an even bigger impact.

In 2018, CNC reduced the proposed Portland Police Bureau Budget by half! Going into 2019, Care Not Cops' work will focus on several key areas:

- ▶ **DISMANTLING THE PORTLAND GANG UNIT,**
- ▶ **ADVOCATING FOR POLICE BUDGET REDUCTIONS WITH SIMULTANEOUS COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS,**
- ▶ **AND WORKING WITH ORGANIZATIONS BUILDING COMMUNITY-LED CARE WITHOUT POLICING.**



Organizational respondents include Community Alliance of Tenants, Critical Resistance Portland, Don't Shoot Portland, Movement of Mother's and others Standing up together (M.O.M.S), Portland Parent Union, Portland State University Student Union, Right 2 Survive, Sisters of the Road, Street Roots, Youth Environmental Justice Alliance (YEJA), Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, and VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project.