

## PROFILES OF COMMUNITIES ADDRESSING POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY:** Roughly 35% of Hopkinsville residents are people of color, yet nearly half of the prison inmates in the region are people of color. City residents became increasingly concerned with the amount of contact police have with people of color and possible racial profiling.

To address growing racial tensions, community leaders in Hopkinsville realized they needed to look for innovative solutions.



In 2009, the third round of the “Hoptown-Our Town” community dialogues focused on police-community relations to pave the way for change. Recent successes include:

- The chief of police and sheriff signed a joint proclamation supporting the recommendations from dialogue participants.
- Networks were established between the police department and six neighborhoods to increase communication.
- The Hopkinsville Police Department implemented diversity training.



**NEW YORK CITY:** In 2006, a series of tragic shootings involving the NYPD sparked anger and protests among New York City residents. For Derrick Boykin, Associate Minister at Walker Memorial Baptist Church, he knew something different needed to be done.

Boykin formed a partnership with New York Faith & Health that ultimately led to implementing the Conversations for Change in the South Bronx.

Community members and police officers came together to strengthen relationships, promote greater representation of Latinos and African Americans on the South Bronx police force, and develop solutions to racial profiling and violence. The success of the dialogues has led to other efforts to address public health, public safety, police-community relations, and food security in the area.

**STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT:** In 2006, racial tensions rose to a tipping point in Stratford following the arrest of two African Americans – a teenager and a town councilman. To take action and ease tensions among residents, the city launched community-wide dialogues on racism.

Dialogue participants identified three action teams on racial equity in policing, education, and town leadership. Here are some of their accomplishments:



- A Juvenile Review Board was established to divert young, first-time, non-violent offenders from the Juvenile Justice System.
- Planning is in place to launch a Citizen's Police Academy.
- The Board of Education renewed its Affirmative Action Policy and Minority Teacher Recruitment Plan.
- More people of color are being hired to fill leadership positions, including the first black deputy chief and new members of Stratford Town Hall.

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### About Everyday Democracy

A national leader in the field of civic participation and community change, Everyday Democracy helps people of different backgrounds and views talk and work together to create communities that work for everyone.

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