

# Police-Community Relations in Addis Ababa city administration

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**Abstract:** *Notwithstanding their social, political, or cultural background, the vast majority of people desire to live in a prosperous, peaceful community. Everybody finds it difficult to thrive and develop into their best selves if they don't have a basic need for safety and belonging. To foster that sense of security and tranquility, police enforcement must interact with the community in which they both live and work.*

**Keywords:** - Addis Ababa, administration, Police, Community, Relation.

## 1.1. Police-Community Relations

Relations between the police and the community can mean a variety of things, from more concrete contacts between the public and the police to more ethereal feelings of respect and trust. The term "police-community relations" refers to interactions between the police and the communities they serve. Happy police-community relations are a sign of a thriving community. When both groups are pursuing the same goal, everyone wins. Police regularly remind the general population to file reports of crimes, cooperate with them as witnesses, and even keep a watch out for them and other officers. Police operations are far more successful when the public believes in them and supports them. As a result, crime rates decline, police investigations are more successful, and society as a whole is safer. Yet, if there is mistrust, The perception that the neighborhood and the police have different goals starts to spread, and the neighborhood as a whole starts to degrade. Police may also be more likely to use pressure than de-escalation measures if they believe that every citizen poses a threat to them. The community will feel frightened and be more likely to rebel against the police if policing becomes oppressive and violent. As a result, a dangerous negative feedback cycle is established, which is bad for both the police and the community they serve. Strong police-community ties are necessary for a safe and prosperous society and are advantageous to both groups. Given the foregoing, some people would wonder: "Why are police needed in the community?" Even while present law enforcement has numerous flaws, completely abolishing it would probably result in unanticipated problems. Dismantling local law enforcement is not the solution to these problems and would instead have the opposite impact, according to the majority of lawmakers from both sides of the political spectrum, sociological and criminological experts, as well as the majority of Americans.

A public judicial system and an enforcement apparatus that are open to the public and responsive to the communities they serve are the most efficient ways to ensure public safety, equal justice, and protection under the law. Without them, criminal activity would become more overt and people might start enforcing the law on their own, both of which might have terrible repercussions.

## 1.2. Strengthening Relations between Police and Communities

To avoid potential community upheaval, the focus should be on strengthening relationships between police and the general people, not trying to stop financing for police or abolishing departments totally. Police and civilians should share the same moral values and aspirations because when they work together to accomplish these objectives, the whole community benefits. The following suggestions for strengthening ties between the police and the community are available.

## 1.3. Transparency

By far, being transparent is the best approach to build trust. When police activity is open to the public and transparent, the public can feel confident knowing that their needs are being given priority. The more transparent a society is, the more probable it is that people will see the police as neighbors rather than as a separate entity. One way to encourage openness is to make police records freely accessible to the general public. Of course, there would need to be a balance struck between this and the right to privacy of specific private individuals and sensitive material from ongoing investigations, but police departments must make every attempt to make as much of their work as possible available to the public. Maintaining your visible presence would be another tactic to promote openness. Instead than relying on unmarked vehicles or those with paint jobs meant to hide their identification, police vehicles should be easily visible and present on major thoroughfares. Also, police could attend other community gatherings like festivals and other civic activities, making sure to interact informally and amicably with the public.

#### 1.4. Accountability

Communities regularly criticize law enforcement groups for operating in a way that appears they are above the law and have forgotten that their duty is to safeguard the public. Police agencies need to put a lot of work into changing this mindset. The community's expectations of the police must be upheld. If a certain activity is unlawful when carried out by a citizen, it should be unlawful when carried out by a representative who has been charged with upholding the law, if not more so. One method of upholding accountability is for police personnel to wear body cameras, and for the sake of transparency, the public should have easy access to the recordings.

On the other hand, police officers must never stop people from filming their interactions with one another. Ultimately, videotaping is an excellent way to make sure that the law is upheld by both citizens and law enforcement. Accountability shouldn't simply be about catching offenders and punishing them; it should also reward good behaviors in addition to punishing bad ones. Police departments should reward outstanding officers more frequently, and these celebrations should be open to the public. Similar to how a citizen who goes above and beyond to accomplish something good should be recognized by their local police department.

#### 1.5. Focusing on the Right Mission

As was already mentioned, ticketing and arrest quotas invite perverse incentives and a dim view of law enforcement from the general people. Police agencies need to reevaluate their objectives and develop guiding principles that will steer their work away from profit-making and toward the greater good. One strategy for doing this would be to concentrate on property and violent crime. In other words, law enforcement should give offenses with obvious victims top priority. Rape kits and cold case murder cases are backed up far too much, especially in large cities (unanalyzed sexual assault evidence). It is no longer acceptable to blame overworked organizations for this. If police forces changed the way they approached their business

#### 1.6. Collaboration

Finally, collaboration is one of the few successful tactics involving all stakeholders. If people think the police are essential to ensuring public safety, they will feel more committed to the mission and have more faith in them. The general public should not only feel like passive witnesses to public safety but also like active participants in it. In order to conduct effective investigations, authorities must actively solicit and value public cooperation. On the other hand, the general population shouldn't be frightened to ask the police for help out of concern that they'll be investigated by the law.

#### 1.7. Conclusion

In a perfect world, police would uphold the law and maintain public safety. They are intended to serve as fair and impartial judges of the law and to defend every person on an equal basis, regardless of social characteristics like money, race, or culture. Both parties must sincerely strive to improve ties between the police and the community. Increased police accountability, a focus on the offenses that the public cares about most, and cooperation between the two groups can all help. The community's expectations of police service can also be helpful.

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Resource library. Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, Department of Criminology, Law, and Society, George Mason University: [http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/what-works-in-policing/ resource-library/](http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/what-works-in-policing/resource-library/)

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