

In addition, PERF met with a high-ranking member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #7, the collective bargaining unit representing all sworn APD personnel. PERF also observed portions of the Akron Civilian Police Academy, and a member of the PERF team participated in ride-alongs to gain first-hand insight into APD operations.<sup>3</sup>

PERF also engaged with a broad array of non-APD stakeholders and community members, including the following:

- The mayor
- The mayor's chief of staff
- The City Public Safety Strategist
- The City Public Engagement Strategist
- The City Public Information Officer
- The Community Engagement Working Group<sup>4</sup>
- The Independent Police Auditor (IPA), Deputy IPA, and former Police Auditor
- Members of the NAACP
- Members of Akron City Council
- Members of the Greater Akron Fellowship of Clergy
- Members of the Akron Citizens' Police Oversight Board (CPOB)
- Members of Freedom Bloc
- Representatives from Summit County Black Elected Officials
- Members of the Akron Interfaith Council
- Representatives from Moms Demand Action
- Representatives from Akron's business community
- Representatives from Summit County Public Safety
- Representatives from Community Support Services
- Representatives from the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board
- Representatives from the Urban League
- Faculty and staff from the University of Akron (UA) Department of Criminal Justice Studies and School of Law<sup>5</sup>

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3. During one ride-along, the APD officer managed a mental health-related call, ultimately transporting the individual to a hospital for treatment. During transport, the individual urinated in the APD vehicle, which the officer dealt with calmly, adeptly, and compassionately. According to APD members, challenging incidents like this occur daily and are always handled professionally, reflecting the difficult realities officers navigate—realities the public is generally unaware of.
  4. This group, comprising various government, police, community, education, and faith leaders in Akron, was instrumental in suggesting meaningful methods of engagement.
  5. PERF intended and expected to collaborate closely with participants from UA, and representatives were invited to participate in weekly calls with the core stakeholder group throughout the project. However, most likely because of scheduling constraints, UA contributors could not participate as fully as PERF—and they themselves—had hoped.