

## The 54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project Steering Committee Overview

### What is the 54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project?

In the summer of 2020, three police leaders, Chief Shon Barnes, Assistant Chief Tarrick McGuire, and Dr. Obed Magny, walked from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, retracing the steps of the historic 54-mile civil rights march. Documenting their experience in a powerful 17-minute film, these men used their journey to reflect on what it means to be Black men and law enforcement leaders in the United States. Titled the *54th Mile Policing Project*, this film provides a call for collective action to enhance police interactions and relationships with communities of color in the United States.

Building upon the powerful message from the documentary, the National Policing Institute (the Institute), with support from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is launching a national initiative to strengthen connections between the police and communities of color. In collaboration with the co-creators of the *54th Mile Policing Project* documentary, the Institute is developing and evaluating an innovative training program to assist police executives in facilitating difficult conversations on race and policing, enhancing community relationships, supporting their officers, and promoting diversity in the policing profession. A national outreach campaign and website will also be established to create a space to engage the policing field and share resources to support agencies' connections with their communities. Moving forward, this initiative aims to provide opportunities for police officers and executives to reflect on what it means to be law enforcement professionals in the current socio-political context of the United States and develop the tools necessary to complement efforts for police reform.



### What will be the focus of the 54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project Steering Committee?

Integrating diverse voices and perspectives to shape the direction and priorities of the *54th Mile Policing Project* is vital to the success of this effort. The Steering Committee will inform the national initiative's mission, vision, and core principles and guide the activities and content of training, tools, and other resources developed through this project. The Steering Committee will comprise a small group of professionals (approximately 12 to 15 members) selected for their experience and expertise in race and policing, law, civil rights, and community engagement. You will be asked to lend your knowledge to inform the work of the Institute on this initiative and provide feedback on critical content for the policing field.

## What will be my time commitment to the Steering Committee?

Participation as a Steering Committee member will not require a significant amount of time on a regular basis. Steering Committee members will participate in quarterly meetings between August 2023 and December 2024. An **in-person** kick-off meeting will be hosted the weekend of August 25-27, 2023 (details below) in Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. The remaining Steering Committee meetings will be **virtual**, conducted over a video conference platform. The virtual meetings will be between 1.5 and 2 hours long and provide an opportunity for group discussion and feedback on the ongoing and future work of the *54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project*. Outside of the quarterly meetings, Steering Committee members may be asked to review and comment on content prepared as part of the initiative (e.g., training materials, written resources, etc.) and be an engaged member in virtual discussions with fellow Steering Committee members, the co-creators of the *54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project* documentary, and Institute staff.

## When will the first Steering Committee meeting be held?

The first Steering Committee meeting will be held in person on the weekend of August 25-27, 2023, in Montgomery and Selma, AL. Attendance at this meeting as a Steering Committee member is not required but strongly encouraged. This meeting will allow Steering Committee members to meet the co-creators of the *54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project* documentary, visit significant sites for the civil rights movement, learn about the plans for the national initiative, and participate in conversations about the directions and priorities of this effort. As a Steering Committee member, your airfare and lodging to attend this meeting will be paid for directly. Additional costs will be reimbursed, including local travel (e.g., mileage, parking, public transportation) and per diem.

Upon confirmation of your participation as a Steering Committee member, additional information about travel arrangements and the meeting agenda will be shared. In the meantime, please save the dates of August 25-27, 2023.

**Please contact Dominique Burton at [dburton@policinginstitute.org](mailto:dburton@policinginstitute.org) with any additional questions about the *54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project* and your participation as a Steering Committee member.**

*The 54<sup>th</sup> Mile Policing Project is supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-23-GK-00057-MUMU awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions or policies of the US Department of Justice.*