

What Is Safer Together?



VALOR Voices Podcast Implementation Guide

Description

Chief David Perry (retired), a Senior Research Associate with the VALOR Program, and Associate Deputy Director Vince Davenport, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, discuss a new national strategy that supports positive community and law enforcement interaction and provides officers with strategies and skills to enhance safety and wellness.

Suggested activity for supervisory command staff members for the use of this podcast:

1. Listen to this podcast.
2. Visit the VALOR Program's website at www.valorforblue.org to learn more about the Safer Together initiative.
3. Distribute this podcast to formal and informal leaders within your agency.
4. Discuss the tenets of Safer Together and ways to introduce these tenets into everyday interactions within the community.
5. Identify best approaches to interacting with members of the community.
6. Conduct scenario-based training to explore positive behavior models that encourage neutral interaction with citizens.

Takeaways

1. Safer Together is a strategy designed for agencies and individual officers that supports interaction with all segments of society and helps officers ensure that they are working to create a healthy community climate where they serve.
2. Building trust between law enforcement and the community is crucial for promoting public confidence. This includes listening to the community's concerns, responding to community members' needs, and working together to find solutions.
3. Transparency about department policies and procedures and holding officers accountable for their actions are vital to promoting public confidence in law enforcement.
4. Building partnerships with local organizations can effectively reduce crime. Consider working with local schools, religious organizations, and other community groups to create programs and initiatives that address crime-related issues and support at-risk individuals and families.
5. Every citizen contact is an opportunity to build trust. Officers' daily, individual interactions are potentially more powerful than anything else, and they directly

impact the community climate. Improving the overall climate within our communities can enhance the safety and wellness of officers and community members.

6. An estimated 240 million calls for service are made to 9-1-1 in the United States each year. Consider the impact if we improve each of these interactions.
7. Officers must remember why they joined this profession and revisit their initial inspiration and motivation to reinvigorate themselves in their careers.
8. Leaders should create a culture focused on building relationships to promote connectedness.

Resources

VALOR Program: www.valorforblue.org

Speaker Biographies

Mr. Vince Davenport is Associate Deputy Director within the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance. He oversees the Law Enforcement Operations Division. He previously served as a Supervisory Senior Policy Analyst within DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, where he managed the Program Development Section. In 2018, Mr. Davenport received the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety for leading the nationwide implementation of the National Blue Alert Network. He is also a former police commander who served for 26 years with the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department. Mr. Davenport holds master's degrees in public administration and international studies from the University of Kansas.

Chief David L. Perry (retired) is a Senior Research Associate, lead instructor, and facilitator for the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. He is a program advisor for the VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Program and the National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers Program. Chief Perry retired as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Safety and Chief of Police for the University of North Carolina and previously served as the Assistant Vice President for Safety and Chief of Police at Florida State University. In those roles, he provided oversight for all law enforcement operations. He earned his master's degree in public administration from Albany State University and his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Albany State College. Chief Perry has extensive expertise in campus public safety and the private sector in relation to leadership, management, and best practices for safety and security.

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