

## **Governor's Task Force on Independent Investigations of Police Use of Force**

### **Guiding Principles of Independent Investigations**

Task Force members feel that the following principles should guide our work moving forward:

1. Dismantling anti-Blackness and Mass Incarceration
2. Racial Equity (3)
  - a. The investigation and any prosecution must be conducted by the investigators and prosecutors [who are trained and know how to use] a racial equity/anti-racist/anti-oppressive lens.
3. Transparency (10)
  - a. Community and government entities with a role in the investigation should be transparent.
4. Trustworthy (8)
5. Strong Communication (7)
6. High Quality and Professional (7)
  - a. Investigations should be completed by people who are highly trained and qualified to conduct the work. They should have all the resources needed to conduct thorough investigations.
  - b. The results from investigations should be useable and if appropriate, lead to prosecution. Evidence from the investigation should be collected in a way that allows it to be admissible in court.
  - c. Due process should be provided to ALL involved (including the victim), with no rush to judgement.
  - d. Victim should also receive the benefit of the doubt.
7. We will examine and investigate all opportunities for bias to exist within the process and that it be mitigated or removed entirely at all junctures.
  - a. Example: Community members should be fair, open-minded, and unbiased when chosen to serve on independent investigations.
    - i. Who determines what unbiased looks like? Is objective a better word?
8. Respectful (6)
  - a. Allow emotion to have its place while ensuring they make decisions responsibly without creating unintended consequences.
9. Independent (5) – need to define what independence is.
  - a. Investigations should be completely independent as it lends credibility to the process.
10. Credible (5)
  - a. The investigators, and the process should have credibility.

11. Timeliness (4)
  - a. Investigations should be conducted in a timely manner
  - b. Investigators should be able to get to the scene immediately so they can collect evidence, talk to witnesses, etc.
12. Unity (4)
  - a. Team work: Community and government entities should be involved in investigations.
13. Be accountable (4)
14. Fair (3)
15. Mindful (2)
  - a. Investigations should be mindful of the experiences of all parties involved.
16. Flexible (2)
  - a. Every jurisdiction and case is different; investigations should accommodate this.
17. Thorough investigations in the interest of Justice
18. Consequences for Non-Compliance
  - a. Those who do not comply with the policies (such as 940) should be held accountable.
19. Media Involvement
20. Recommendations should be retroactive to investigations by police.
21. Investigations should be trauma-informed, with an understanding of mental health.