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MPD Gets High Marks on National Policing Assessment

June 26, 2024 (WASHINGTON) An innovative new tool designed to measure the characteristics of a “sound, accountable, just, and effective” police agency, has given the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) a score of 81.66%, according to a new report from the Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA).

The Policing Project at the New York University School of Law worked with police leaders, researchers, community advocates, and others to develop approximately 100 individual metrics reflecting policing best practices. MPD is just the third department assessed and received the highest score to date.

ODCA Deputy Auditor for Public Safety Chris Magnus notes that MPD’s assessment is consistent with the Policing Project team’s expectations for a well-performing department. “While the metrics do not directly measure the thoroughness of specific policies and practices, they nevertheless serve as a valuable tool to gauge the Department’s strengths and areas for further improvement,” Magnus said.

ODCA partnered with The Policing Project, which undertook a detailed and comprehensive process starting in December 2023. MPD addressed each metric with a yes or no response, providing evidence—including General Orders, training documents, recruiting materials, and other documents—to support the answers.

An independent social science researcher, Dr. Aili Malm, worked with the Department through this process, ensuring its thoroughness and validity, and after confirming the results, Dr. Malm provided a score associated with each category. The report outlines each category criteria and MPD scores as follows:

Sound policing. Measures how efficiently and effectively the agency operates, with a focus on recruitment and hiring, workforce development and administration, and resource management. **MPD score: 86.63%.**

Accountable policing. Measures agency transparency and the extent to which communities have a meaningful say in the police services they receive. **MPD score: 83.16%.**

Just policing. Measures whether an agency operates fairly, equitably, and constitutionally. **MPD score: 67.56%.**

Effective policing. Measures how well an agency prevents and addresses crime, and whether the strategies used are likely to improve community outcomes. **MPD score: 92.16%.**

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