



MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY
BRIDGES TO SUCCESS

EQUITY SUMMIT PRESENTATION

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD STAFF
ST. LOUIS, MO

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The Role of Education in Civil Rights Enforcement:

Civilian Oversight in the Aftermath of Michael
Brown, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **6 Degrees Of Separation (Or Less) Between Link Between Law Enforcement And Civil Rights**
- **How Law Enforcement Oversight Is Born**
- **Relationship Between Education and Ensuring Community Safety**



LINK BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS

HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED?

THE LINK

- The 'Watch' system-designed to warn of impending danger. in many cities, the civil constables were given responsibility for supervising 'night watch' of the sleeping/drinking security officers that were paying their debt to society.
- Centralized Formal Police agencies-created in the 1830's, 40's & 50's in Boston, New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Newark and Baltimore so that the purchase of private security by the affluent could cease.

THE LINK

- By the 1880's, all major cities had municipal police forces in place
- See The History Of Policing In The United States, Part I, By Dr. Gary Potter
 - [HERE](#)

- Modern police organizations shared some features:
 - publicly supported and bureaucratic
 - full time employees, not volunteers
 - continuous employment with permanent fixed rules
 - accountable to central government authority.
 - See Potter

THE LINK

- In Southern states the development of policing differed significantly due to the prominence of slavery.
- The 'slave patrol' armed with whips, ropes and guns chased down, apprehended and returned slaves to owners, deterred slave revolts, and maintained discipline for slave captives.
- Post Civil War, these organizations evolved into Southern police departments as a means to control freed slaves working in agriculture and enforcing 'Jim Crow' segregation laws eventually becoming the Ku Klux Klan.
 - See [HERE](#)

THE LINK

**SO, WHY IS
POLICING IN THE
NORTHERN U.S.
NO DIFFERENT
THAN THE
SOUTH NOW?**

- Immigration/Migration-First Europeans from Germany and Ireland then Blacks moving from the south to the north all in search of a better life. The established residents saw the immigrants/migrants as a source of disruption, public nuisance and crime.
- Police were necessary to quell this disturbance.

OPPRESSION IS A UNIFORM FUNCTION

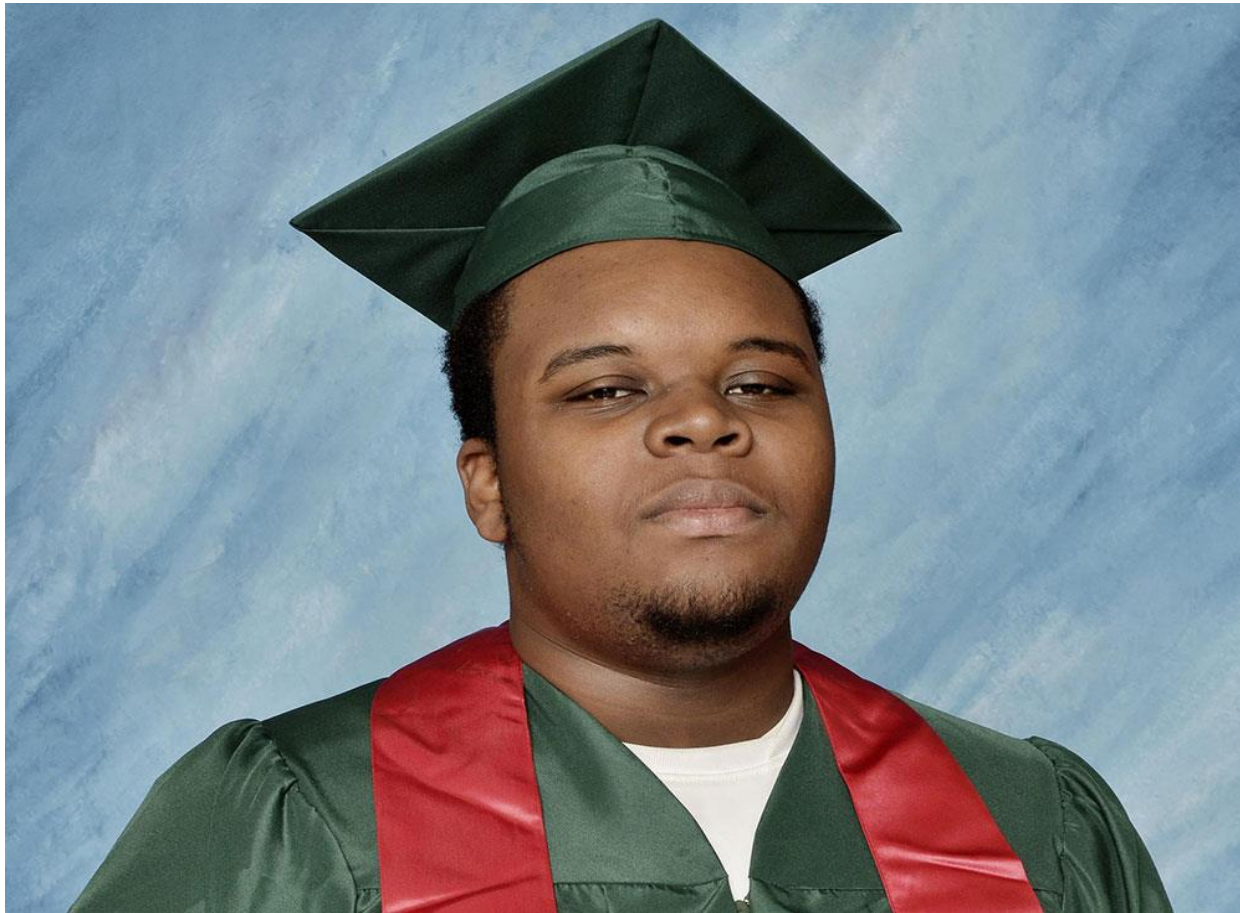
- In the South, it was triggered by the freedom given to Blacks.
- In the North, it was triggered by the influx of new and different immigrants arriving at the ports of New York and Boston moving into the area.
- So, the link is oppression as it leads to the violation of civil rights.



HOW LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT IS BORN

VIOLATING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CAN
BRING GOOD THINGS TO LIFE

MICHAEL BROWN, AUGUST 9, 2014
SEE [HERE](#)



INDIA KAGER, SEPTEMBER 5, 2015
SEE [HERE](#)



ALTERIA WOODS, MARCH 19, 2017

SEE [HERE](#)



HOW COB WAS BORN

- On The Heels of Michael Brown's Death, The St. Louis COB Was Given Jurisdiction Over Specific Complaints Against The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department And Began Taking Cases In 2016.
- We Review Cases Alleging Bias Based Policing, Discourtesy, Excessive Use Of Force, Harassment, Abuse Of Authority, Sexual Harassment And Assault, Use Of Offensive Language.

COB'S MISSION

- Our Mission Is To Provide Transparency And Accountability Of The St. Louis City Metropolitan Police Department While Ensuring Community Confidence.
- We Produce An Annual Report Of Our Activities And This Year, Created A Quadrennial Report Reflecting What Has Been Done Since Our Inception.
- We Continue Our Efforts To Make Our Community Safer In Hopes Of Avoiding Another Needless Death.

WHAT COB DOES

- Review Of The Circumstances And Procedures Employed By Law Enforcement Creates An Avenue For Meaningful Change Alongside Closure For The Families.
- We Continue Outreach Efforts To Make The Public Aware That We Exist And To Work With Local Agencies To Effect Change.



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND ENSURING COMMUNITY SAFETY

WHY IS EDUCATION SO
IMPORTANT TO THE PROCESS?

**EDUCATION IS
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN *HAVING*
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
ENFORCING THEM**

- What Was The Greatest Strength Slavery Offered To Plantation Owners?
- How was this benefit retained?
- What was the greatest fear when 'freedom' was granted?
- Education is the difference between having civil rights and enforcing them. (JUNETEENTH)

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Education Makes The Public Aware.
 - Filing Complaints Makes *Us* Aware.
- Enforcement Creates The Method For Asserting Your Rights.
- COB And Similar Agencies Can Only Review Procedures And Recommend Meaningful Change If They Are Aware Of The Issues.
- Change Is Not An Option Without Notice That A Problem Exists.

- The Ability To Communicate In Writing And Orally Are The Biggest Obstacles Complainants Face.
- The Need To Relay Clearly The Circumstances Surrounding Your Complaint And What Gave Rise The Filing Is Paramount To Making Enforcement Possible.
- We Cannot Do Our Jobs Effectively Without You!

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Absent a powerful and competent educational system, there is no hope that civil rights enforcement can be successful.
- Working together, we can facilitate a better, safer, well-informed community.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

RESOURCES

- COB Is In St. Louis, But Other Similar Agencies Exist Throughout The State:
 - Citizens Police Review Board In Columbia
 - Office Of Community Complaints In Kansas City
 - Missouri Commission On Human Rights
 - Enforcing Housing, Employment And Public Accommodation Discrimination Laws Across The State.

THANK YOU!

- We Value Your Partnership And Hope To Forge A Working Relationship That Will Benefit Us All!
- Please Reach Out To Us Anytime:

Civilian Oversight Board

314.657.1600

Or visit our website:

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/civilian-oversight-board/index.cfm>