



The Reality Check Community Policing Program

The “**Us Against Them**” mentality that the citizens in certain communities and the police have, can be fixed. Here is how.....The Reality Check Video Card.

While the majority of data shows that community policing works, it is how it is implemented that is so important.

When the community sees the police are willing to work with an ex-con and the #1 program in the country to help their child, the police gain true partners. Most families have a member who made some serious mistakes and has a record. That person might be an addict, or at least they know of a relative or friend who made mistakes, and when the citizens see the police are willing to work with those people, the police gain trust.

*“The first reaction people have is, **SHOCK!** When I’m standing with the chief of police or the cops”, said Larry Lawton. “That is what makes the community understand that the cops are good people and not just out to get them. They see a man who is out there trying to help the community and is willing to work with the police. It is a powerful statement”, said Lawton.*

The police accept Larry Lawton, the first ex-con ever sworn in as an honorary police officer and the first ex-con ever recognized on the floor of the United States Congress. Getting police to buy into a program is important and Larry Lawton has that institutional credibility with both parts of the equation, the community and the police. When the police help a young person, they gain the whole families respect and trust. You might save a young man from making some very bad choices and you give the police another tool to help the citizens, an increase in officer moral has been a great benefit as well.

98% of all cops join the force to **HELP** people, we believe that. In law enforcement, it is the leadership that sets the tone. Young officers will follow the lead of the Chief. A community minded Chief uses the Reality Check Video Gift Card as a tool to help families, raise the moral of his officers, show the community they care and give the media something positive to report.

The Reality Check Video Card opens up a dialogue between the police and the community.

The definition of community policing by the **Department of Justice COPS** (Community Oriented Policing Services) program is: *Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.*

Community Partnerships - *Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police is one of the main goals of the COPS.*