

Homicide Response Briefing Report Back



Presented by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
in partnership with the Martin Richard Foundation

December 19, 2016





"The Homicide Response Briefing for Law Enforcement featured many great community organizations that help individuals, families, and law enforcement cope and deal as best they can, with the effects of homicide. We must especially recognize the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute for their ongoing efforts in the field, creating new programs for our local police, health care providers, and more."

-- State Representative Harold Naughton

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On December 19, 2016 more than one hundred law enforcement officers and elected officials convened at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate for the first Homicide Response Briefing presented by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in partnership with the Martin Richard Foundation.

The purpose of this briefing was to provide officers with tools and resources needed to respond more equitably and effectively when a homicide happens.

The event was co-chaired by State Representative and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security Representative Harold Naughton and Boston Police Department Commissioner William Evans. "It was an honor and a privilege to help coordinate and participate in this amazing event," said Representative Naughton.

The event brought together public safety and community leaders to discuss the challenges of homicide response, best practices, and creating relationships with community organizations to better serve families of murder victims. Speakers included Chief William Brooks of the Norwood Police Department and the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, Boston Police Department Lieutenant Detective Darrin Greeley, Bill Richard of the Martin Richard Foundation, Director of the Division of Violence and Injury Prevention at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Leonard Lee, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Liam Lowney.

Chief Brooks believes the briefing was valuable for his colleagues. "I'm glad I attended the Homicide Response Briefing along with so many other police officers," he said.

"[The briefing] really opened my eyes and reminded me not only of the pain that victims' families suffer, but what we as police can do to better serve them."

-- Chief William Brooks of the Norwood Police Department





"After Louis was laid to rest, everyone went home. I didn't know what to do. I called the police department every Monday morning. I wasn't looking for information as much as I needed compassion. Every week, a cadet answered the phone, 'Boston Police Department, homicide unit.' He got to know me simply by my tears. And every time I told the cadet, 'I am just calling to say I am still here.'"

-- Chaplain Clementina Chéry, Peace Institute Founder and President

Peace Institute founder and President Chaplain Clementina Chéry shared her experience as the mother of fifteen year-old boy who was killed in the crossfire of a shoot-out in 1993. She shared survivor-centered, trauma informed methodology developed over more than twenty years serving families of murder victims.

Director of Programs Rachel Rodrigues presented on the tools that the Peace Institute has developed over the past twenty years of serving survivors of homicide victims, including ***The Survivors' Burial and Resource Guide*** which equips and empowers families to navigate the first week after their loved one's murder. ***The Burial Guide*** is an essential resource so families of murder victims are not left empty-handed after an unthinkable tragedy.

The Peace Institute made **Survivors Rights Cards** available to every department for officers to give to families of murder victims on the scene or during death notifications. Officers were also given the **Providers Tool Kit**, which includes recommendations from survivors themselves about how to serve this community.





Members of the **Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network** were there to share the services they offer to families in communities across the Commonwealth. A central message of the briefing was that equitable and effective homicide responses depend on a collaborative network of well-trained officers and providers.

In the weeks following the event, the Boston Police Department picked up even more **Survivors Rights Cards** from the Peace Institute so they have a resource on hand for families dealing with murder, grief, trauma, and loss. The partnership between the Boston Police Department Homicide Unit and the Peace Institute serves as a model for other cities and towns. The Peace Institute is currently working with the City of Boston to establish a formal homicide response protocol to codify the best practices presented at the Homicide Response Briefing.

"The Boston Police Homicide Unit and the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute work collaboratively to help and assist homicide survivors," Lieutenant Detective Darrin Greeley reports. The Peace Institute is grateful for the participation of departments and officials from across the state who showed their commitment to serving families impacted by murder with dignity and compassion.

The Peace Institute's main priority is to provide services and support to families impacted by murder. In addition, we offer training and technical assistance to our partners and we're available as a resource for your department or agency.



"The Boston Police Homicide Unit greatly appreciates the Peace Institute's continued support and help in providing families the services they need in the most difficult times. The work they do is invaluable to the City of Boston and to all impacted by violence."

-- Lieutenant Detective Darrin Greeley



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