

# Advisory Board Spotlight

## Michael Walker



### **Tell us about the Partnership for a Safer Cleveland and its work in the community.**

For more than 35 years, The Partnership for a Safer Cleveland has provided an array of services to the City of Cleveland, and its departments - connecting city and county agencies, assisting in conference planning, facilitating groups, training, educating and evaluating. We serve as consultants and resources to public and private groups, working to prevent and lessen violence in their communities and to promote youth development opportunities. We use our broad experience, training and community relationships to bring leaders together.

The Partnership's neutral position makes it an unparalleled means for quickly identifying the real crime and violence issues, finding the community service gaps which allow them to exist, and fast-tracking collaborative solutions before it's too late.

I think our role as convener is bigger than just one notable project. Over the past few decades we have been able to achieve what we have because we have built trust with our partners. We are "low key" in pretty much everything we do. We never try to take credit for our work and don't seek media attention.

If you ask any of our partners or allies to use one word to describe the Partnership, most of them would say that we are: reliable, trustworthy and dedicated.

### **Share with us an interesting project or accomplishment of the PSC.**

One project I have been really excited about is de-escalating conflict. Drs. Mark Singer, Dan Flannery, and I have been working with police to try to promote best practices and teach officers how they can more effectively engage with young people.

### **What's something you want people to know about reducing violence and crime?**

One thing people forget is that it is not just "one thing" that will solve crime and violence. People try to oversimplify it. But crime and violence are complex: so the solutions may be complex too. There are no quick fixes!

### **Tell us something about serving on the National Advisory Board of the Begun Center.**

For me, it's about accountability—knowing what works and what does not. We have to marry science with practice, which the Begun Center does. Our relationship with the Begun Center continues to evolve. We partner with them on almost every project that requires evaluation because we know they provide honest assessments. They are involved in the community which is important to me too.

### **What do you like to do when you're not working?**

I enjoy spending time with my friends and their families.

### **If you were given \$1,000 and had to spend it on something fun for yourself, what would you buy?**

I would host a large group of friends to go to an Ohio State football game! I bleed scarlet and gray!