

# Planning in Advance of Potential Community Unrest

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## An example: **Mission/Focus Statement\***

The aim is to make the metropolitan region more resilient by advancing efforts to:

- Convene community stakeholders to understand deep community concerns
- Build trust among residents and between leaders and residents
- Identify/design processes to assess, implement plans, and institute accountability with respect to constituency group concerns
- Prepare the community to respond in resourceful and coordinated ways if an event occurs that challenges trust
- Develop shared plans for acting in the midst of community unrest.

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## **The Bridge Initiative is part of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law's Divided Community Project**

<https://go.osu.edu/dcpbridge>.

**To contact the Bridge Initiative, contact Thomas Battles,**  
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### **Other organizations that might offer assistance:**

- U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service, justice.gov/crs, askcrs@usdoj.gov, 202.305.2935
- Local community mediation Programs
- State or city civil rights commissions
- International City/County Management Association, icma.org



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
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\*Thanks to the Greater Columbus Community Trust, which drafted a similar statement and uses a similar organizational model.



# Steps for Organizing

## 1. Form a Convening Group

- Identify a small group of trusted leaders from across different communities.
- Convene these leaders as a community planning group.

## 2. Get Public Input

- Hold conversations with organizational representatives
- Interview additional community leaders and members of the public

## 3. Form a Group to Set the Agenda

- Conveners and additional representatives review community input
- Identify task forces, task force leaders, and timeline

## 4. Create and Engage Task Forces

### Deliverables

1. Ensuring community preparedness
2. Enhancing community resilience

## Examples of Task Forces and their Objectives

### Readiness

- Assess readiness for community unrest
- Prepare for community unrest
- Assign roles for community leaders
- Develop communication approaches & key protocols

### Future Concerns

- Identify potential future conflicts & address underlying concerns through assessment, implementation of plans, & accountability
- Improve and institutionalize methods for learning about residents' concerns

### Community Resilience

- Bridge community divisions
- Improve cross-community relationships
- Determine whether and how to improve current processes

### Youth & Education

- Ensure youth concerns are heard
- Involve young people, perhaps through social media

### Communications

- Engage residents through online communication tools
- Reach out to each part of the community

Public Input Through Community Engagement