



National District Attorneys Association
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Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson
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Dear Attorney Smith-Lawson,

NDAA is pleased to announce and invite your agency attend the inaugural **“Professionalizing Law Enforcement-Community Engagement Training” (PLECET) Conference** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, May 3-6, 2023. Convened by our partners at the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and MovementForward, Inc. (MFI), parent organization of National Faith & Blue Weekend (Faith & Blue), the purpose of the PLECET Conference is *“To professionalize the emerging community engagement sector of policing by establishing an annual specialized training, networking, and professional development conference for sworn and non-sworn personnel assigned to community engagement roles in law enforcement agencies across the nation.”*

Designed for law enforcement professionals with community engagement and outreach responsibilities, the PLECET Conference will feature a premier group of instructors, speakers, presenters, community leaders, scholars, researchers, and subject-matter experts with proven successes. This is a timely training opportunity that we hope your team will take advantage of. The conference organizers are working closely with the Int’l Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training (IADLEST) to ensure that sworn officers who attend will receive training credit hours in their respective states.

As crime rates persist, community partnerships are essential to public safety. Yet, there is a deficit of training, professional development, and networking opportunities for community engagement roles within the law enforcement profession. While many agencies host outreach events, there are few formal training opportunities. This stands apart from how law enforcement officers assigned to forensics, narcotics, fleet maintenance, investigations, hostage negotiation, public information, and other specialized functions all have targeted, unique training and networking opportunities through which they have access to best practices, peer support, industry expertise, and current research.

Every year that MFI has organized Faith & Blue, frequent inquiries have been received from agency leaders who are enthusiastic, but often lack the expertise to best engage with and involve community members or promote their outreach programs and activities. During the PLECET Conference, instructors, speakers, subject-matter experts, and scholars from across the country will utilize an instructional-designed curriculum to share best and promising practices and resources that will equip community engagement practitioners with best-in-class competencies to maximize their potential impact in local communities. Participants will also have an opportunity to formally and informally network with others working in similar roles across the nation. During the conference, a new **Law Enforcement Community Engagement Network (LECEN)** will be formed to provide ongoing training, access to critical information, and networking.

Lunch will be provided on-site daily and is included with the conference registration. **Space is limited. A block of registrations are allocated for NDAA members and other prosecutors on a first-come-first-served basis with one registrant per office allowable.** The registration fee is \$300.00. The following link is provided to register: www.plecetconference2023.org/prosecutors. A discounted room rate of \$163.00 has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta and can be booked using the promo code “Law Enforcement Conference” by calling (404) 577-1234 or online at www.plecetconference2023.org/hyatt.

We encourage you to take advantage of this training opportunity.

Sincerely,

John J. Flynn

District Attorney, Erie County, New York, and President, National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)