

DOJ CFBNP Hosts Webinar on Partnership between Faith-Based Groups & Law Enforcement in Violence Prevention—Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Prof. David Kennedy, and Baltimore Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld Present

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Recently, the DOJ Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships [hosted a webinar](#) on the role of collaboration between police and faith-based groups in addressing violence. The three presenters included: [Reverend Jeffrey Brown, Executive Director of Boston TenPoint Coalition](#); [Frederick Bealefeld, III, Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department](#); and [Dr. David Kennedy, Professor and Director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#).

The three presenters focused on faith-based approaches to reducing gang violence, the law enforcement perspective of addressing violence, and findings through research and practice concerning the effect of law enforcement strategy and faith-based involvement in prevention and intervention efforts. Some highlights from the webinar include:

- Homicide is the leading cause of death for African-Americans between the ages of 15 to 24 years and is the second leading cause of death for Hispanic youth;
- A change in law enforcement strategy from a focus on combating violence with a high number of arrests (referred to as “fishing with a net”) to a focus on partnering with the community to target violent offenders (referred to as “fishing with a spear”) correlated with fewer homicides and fewer shootings in Baltimore; and
- The current prison population is 1100% higher than the prison population in 1970. More than one in a hundred American adults are locked up; this translates into one in three black men born in America who will go to prison.

This is one of many webinars that DOJ’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships has provided for free to the public. Find the webinar [here](#). Learn more about the Center [here](#). Learn about future webinars by signing up for our mailing list [here](#).

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