

Engaging in law enforcement and public safety institutional assessment
and change:

Exemplary Works & Reflection

Lisa Citta

University of San Diego

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"Teamwork makes the dream work." I often say this quote by John C. Maxwell, which stuck out to me during this module's reflection. When I think about building skills to look outward on social and criminal justice issues, learning and practicing research methodologies for data-driven decision-making must be done uniformly across the profession. At times, to accomplish the greater goal of addressing a specific crime, we must work with other agencies on specialized task forces and teams. Policies and procedures are created for agencies to work together. Within my agency, to use that information to strengthen and present the information gathered to the community.

I have selected three papers that I think show exemplary work in collecting data, explaining crime manipulation, presenting that information to the community in an annual report, and working with other agencies on specialized teams or a task force.

In my first paper, *Data Fluency- Crime Data Manipulation*, I examine a sexual assault case study from Philadelphia PD and how crime stats were manipulated. Crime stats are manipulated for a variety of reasons. This misrepresentation of stats affects the entire profession and how we accurately and effectively police and make necessary changes. My second paper, *North Platte PD Annual Report*, was a great project to work on to put together a report for our community, something my agency does not currently do. My third paper, *Memorandum of Understanding-Task Force Model*, was my portion of a group project to research crimes in the South Bay area to implement a gang task force.

My first paper looked at a case study from Philadelphia after it came to light that many sexual assault cases were being clear as "unfounded" even when suspect information was provided. It was determined this was happening due to staffing issues within the sex crimes

unit. Philadelphia PD is not the only agency to manipulate crime statistics. This occurs nationwide for many reasons, including underreporting to make a city look safer or overreporting to try and secure more state and federal dollars. Accurately reporting numbers is crucial for agencies to address criminal justice and social issues.

My second paper was an annual report I produced for my agency. North Platte PD does not now and, as far as I'm aware, has never presented an annual report to the community. As discussed in last week's exemplary works, our city is growing, and soon we will ask the community to give even more to the police department for things such as more officers and a big-ticket item of a much-needed new public safety building.

My third paper, I feel, most importantly stresses the importance and power of teamwork in our profession. Implementing a task force is necessary to work together to combat crime in our society. My portion of this memorandum of understanding was to create the Task Force Model. My team focused on gangs and gang prevention in the South Bay area. I completed research into the violent gang-related crime in the area to determine gang crimes, and violence was an issue that could be addressed with a newly formed task force.

The nation and our profession as transitioned into an analytical, numbers-driven profession. Sound data-driven decision-making allows agencies to focus their efforts on the places it's needed most. Agencies across the country must work together to collect and analyze data similarly. Teamwork will help our profession serve the entire country better.