

# IACP Leading by Legacy Webinar Series

## Maneuvering in the Political Environment



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*Serving the Leaders of Today, Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow*






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# Webinar Panelist

Dave Kurz

Chief of Police

Durham (NH) Police  
Department





# NAVIGATING SUCCESSFULLY IN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Politics is the art of making government work





- 1. Law enforcement agency (internal)**
- 2. The public you serve (external)**
- 3. Media**
- 4. Other agencies (community, state, or federal partners)**
- 5. Elected officials**



# MANEUVERING SUCCESSFULLY IN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

A failure to build effective relationships in three or more of these areas can result in:

- An inability to acquire resources needed for the agency
- An inability to rally support to achieve lasting positive change



# 1. YOUR AGENCY'S INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- Maneuvering successfully is related to the quality of relationships within the agency
- Treating one another with dignity and respect
- Creating a positive work environment
- Influencing everyone to commit to their role in achieving the mission and carrying out the desired culture





## 2. BUILDING SUPPORT WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Generally officers spend most of their time interacting with 8% of population who cause 80% of problems.





## 3. MAINTAINING A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESS

- Steps to facilitate a positive relationship:
  - Establish effective policies for interacting with the press with media input.





### 3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESS

Police misconduct and internal affairs can be a flashpoint with agency/media. The agency should communicate:

- Their concern about the allegations and intentions to conduct a very thorough investigation.
- Their desire for input from any citizen having information on the issue.



## 4. OTHER AGENCIES

### Local Government:

- Code officials
- Fire Department
- Human Resources office



## 4. OTHER AGENCIES

### State & Federal:

- Attorney General's Office
- State Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigation

### Community Resources:

- Child protective services
- Juvenile services
- Mental health
- Offender re-entry
- Prosecution/legal issues



## 5. ELECTED OFFICIALS

Practical tactics to consider:

- Attend board/council/ parish meetings even if YOU don't have anything on the agenda
- Contact your mayor, selectperson, manager “before” you call the press



## 5. ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Tactics (cont'd):

- Be willing to compromise
- Never let ego get in the way
- Never preach, always listen
- Lead with humility
- Lead ethically



## 5. ELECTED OFFICIALS

When things go bad – work it out face to face!

- What does that mean?
- How can you work it out face to face?







## 5. ELECTED OFFICIALS

If face to face doesn't work...

- Ask for clarification in writing
- Maintain a paper trail – document everything!
- Stay objective
- Could the other person be right?
- Understand the ramifications
- Decide if this dispute is worth it!



# QUESTIONS





# CONTACT INFORMATION

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