WHAT ABOUT BODY CAMERAS? WHAT ABOUT CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS? IMPLICIT BIASES TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES?

Video footage (whether from body cameras or other sources) wasn’t enough to get justice for Philando Castile, Samuel DuBose, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice, and far too many other victims of police violence. A single implicit bias training session can’t overcome decades of conditioning and department culture. Other reforms, while often noble in intention, simply do not do enough to get to the root of the issue.

History is a useful guide here: community groups in the 1960s also demanded civilian review boards, better training, and community policing initiatives. Some of these demands were even met. But universally, they were either ineffective, or dismantled by the police department over time. It’s time to try something new.

WHY ISN’T ENOUGH?
FIND ALL THESE ALTERNATIVES TO IT’S just work within that most social service

THIS ALL SOUNDS GOOD IN THEORY, BUT WOULDN’T IT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO?

Throughout US history, everyday people have regularly accomplished “impossible” things, from the abolition of slavery, to voting rights, to the 40-hour workweek, and more.

What’s really impossible is the idea that police departments can be reformed against their will to protect and serve communities whom they have always attacked.

The police, as an institution around the world, have existed for less than 200 years—less time than chattel slavery existed in the Americas. Abolishing the police doesn’t need to be difficult—we can do it in our own cities, one dollar at a time, through redirecting budgets to common-sense alternative programs.

Let’s get to work!

A FEW RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING AND ACTION

Find the full MPD150 report, as well as extended interview excerpts, ways to get involved, and more at MPD150.com.

A Reading List:
- The End of Policing (Alex Vitale)
- The New Jim Crow (Michelle Alexander)
- Are Prisons Obsolete? (Angela Y. Davis)
- Abolition Now! Ten Years of Strategy and Struggle Against the Prison Industrial Complex (Anthology)
- Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America (Kristian Williams)
- 13th & When They See Us (films by Ava DuVernay)
- The study guide at aworldwithoutpolice.org
- A big list of accessible, online articles and essays in the “resources” tab at MPD150.com

BUILDING A POLICE-FREE FUTURE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

presented by MPD150

MPD150 is an independent, community-based initiative challenging the narrative that police exist to protect and serve. In 2017, on the 150th anniversary of the Minneapolis Police Department, the group produced a performance evaluation of the MPD based on historical research and interviews with community members. Read the full report at www.MPD150.com.

We believe in the power, possibility, and necessity of a police-free future. We also understand, however, that this is a new idea for many people. What follows are some frequently-asked questions, and our responses.

ONE TOP QUESTION FOR OUR MIND: …IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS…”
...WHERE DO THE CITIZENS’ RIGHTS COME FROM?
... CAN PARENTS OF KIDS LOCKED DOWN IN TEXTBOOKS...