Checklist for Policing Reforms

Not all reforms are created equal. Communities can start with this simple checklist when measuring the impact of proposed solutions.

- **Does this reform reduce the harm we are concerned about?** Many reforms look good on paper but do not actually change how policing happens.

- **Does this reform increase community input around public safety, including the safety of people most often targeted by policing?** Does the proposed change give community members more power to shape public safety? Does it protect communities experiencing profiling and discriminatory or abusive policing practices?

- **Does this reform make the police department more accountable to the community?** Measures that allow greater community oversight or participation in informing policing policy can be effective in ensuring sustainable reforms.

- **Will the proposed reform impact communities in similar ways?** Be careful about reforms that give police officers greater flexibility or discretion in ways that could lead to some communities being disproportionately targeted.

- **Does this reform divert resources from efforts to address root problems? What are the root problems? Are there other strategies that can be taken to address root problems?** Consider alternatives to police, such as nonpolice responses to crises, eliminating police in schools, and investing in social programs and services.

- **Is the recommended policy change feasible?** Think about the cost of the policy change, the potential opposition to it, and the challenges associated with it.