

# what TO DO if you are STOPPED:

You may be stopped by a police officer at some point.

Here are some things you can do to have a better interaction:

Be **POLITE** and try to **REMAIN** calm.

Remember that stops occur for **MANY REASONS**; you should not take the stop personally.

**CARRY I.D.** and show it if requested.

Learn **YOUR RIGHTS** and what to say.

If you think you've experienced **POLICE MISCONDUCT**, **CALL 311**

**THE YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD WORKS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC POLICES AFFECTING NEW YORK CITY TEENS.**



Members of the Youth Justice Board and retired police officers after a roundtable conversation.

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written by  
**YOUTH,**  
for youth!

# THE POLICE YOUTH ACTION PLAN.

A guide for NYC teens about  
improving **RELATIONSHIPS**  
with police

YOUTH  
JUSTICE  
BOARD

#### ABOUT THIS PAMPHLET:

The Youth Justice Board made this pamphlet as a tool to help teens improve relationships with the police.

## why **FOCUS** on police-youth relations?

Police are responsible for the safety of everyone in the city, including teens. Yet police and teens often do not trust each another. Building better relationships between police and teens will create a stronger, safer New York City.

## what do **YOUTHS** have to **SAY** about this issue?

A survey of over 425 14-18 year-olds from NYC showed:

**ALMOST HALF** of those surveyed have been stopped by a police officer.

Many youths cited **FEAR OF RETALIATION** as a reason they might not report a crime they witness.

Many youths said that the officer's **TONE OF VOICE**, a **PERCEIVED** lack of respect for teens, and a fear of getting arrested were reasons they felt uncomfortable when they were questioned by a police officer.

**STILL**, more than half of those surveyed said they feel comfortable interacting with police.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO **IMPROVE**

### **POLICE-YOUTH** RELATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Learn your community's concerns so that you can **ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES** affecting your neighborhood.

**GET TO KNOW POLICE OFFICERS** that serve your community. Start by introducing yourself to officers you see on patrol.

Organize a police-youth **DIALOGUE** because talking can help police and youth **UNDERSTAND** each other.

Attend activities and programs with police so that you can get to know police officers as people and interact in a **POSITIVE SETTING**.

Tell your friends about the **IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING** police-youth relationships in your community.

**WRITE A LETTER** to Community Affairs officers in your precinct about how you would like to see police-youth relations change.

Write a letter to the editor of your **LOCAL NEWSPAPER**, explaining the need for improved police-youth relations.

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Here's how:

Attend your local **COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS**.

Look at the Web Site of the **NYPD COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUREAU OF YOUTH SERVICES**, which lists opportunities to meet police.

**POST ADVICE AND INFORMATION** on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or other social media site.

**VISIT YOUR PRECINCT** to observe roll call where police officers get their daily assignments.

**FOR LINKS TO TAKE ACTION, VISIT THE YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD WEBSITE AT:**

[courttinnovation.org/yjb](http://courttinnovation.org/yjb)