

Date: September 5, 2018

FOR YOUR INFORMATION MEMO

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Patrick A. Duhaney, Acting City Manager 
Subject: STAFFING UPDATE: Hiring of Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager

I am pleased to announce the hiring of Jason Cooper as the City of Cincinnati's Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager. Mr. Cooper's first day of City service is Monday, Sept. 10.

Filling this new position will make a huge difference for the City Administration as we continue work to bolster our commitment to the historic Collaborative Agreement and further strengthen local community-police relations.

Collaborative Agreement 'Refresh'

As you recall, the City of Cincinnati recently brought together the various community partners for a voluntary 'refresh' of the Collaborative Agreement process. This included contributions from independent contractor Saul Green, who played a vital role in the authorship of the Collaborative Agreement back in 2002.

During the refresh, the City and partners focused on four primary components:

- **Evaluation and Accountability.** Establishing and implementing a standardized, accountable evaluation process on the plan's provisions including community problem-oriented policing, biased-free policing, arrests, risk management, training, the Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA), and community input.
- **Community Engagement.** Enhancing the role of the CCA by utilizing them as a neutral party to ensure strong community engagement as an essential component in managing public safety and community problem-oriented policing.
- **Independent Review.** Mr. Green and his team conducted a CA review and provided the City with a progress report identifying areas for further scrutiny, recommendations and feedback.
- **Action Steps.** The City worked with Mr. Green, community and CA Refresh stakeholders to develop specific action steps and completion timetable to include a reporting template.

One of the key takeaways of the comprehensive, multi-month analysis was that the City needs more of a centralized office who can work with, but remain independent of, each of the involved parties in the Collaborative Agreement.

The Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager position gives the City, for the first time, a single point of contact for all things related to the Collaborative, including serving as the City Manager's liaison to the Manager's Advisory Group (MAG). This not only enhances opportunities for engagement, outreach and transparency, but it will also expand communication efforts, streamline recommendation implementation and improve overall accountability.

This Sustainability Manager will be crucial to us as we work to maintain the intended purpose and underlining principles of the Collaborative as we move forward.

About Jason Cooper

Jason Cooper brings to Cincinnati extensive experience in the fields of civic engagement, advocacy and community development. The majority of his 15-year professional career has been spent in New York City, where he has worked to develop place-based strategies for transforming the way public-private partnerships catalyze social, economic and physical change. However, his work has taken him across the country, including Cincinnati where he has supported the furthering of community-police partnerships in several neighborhoods (Walnut Hills, Price Hill and Avondale) as well as across the river in Covington, Kentucky.

Most recently Mr. Cooper oversaw various crime reduction initiatives as a Program Director for Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC). With his support, cross-sector partnerships in rural and urban areas successfully catalyzed social, economic and physical change in high crime environments to create healthier neighborhoods for youth, families and businesses. His work placed a focus on expanding organizational initiatives on ex-offender reentry, public health, housing, economic development and action research. He also oversaw LISC's training and technical assistance program to communities engaged in place-based efforts through the federal government's Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) Program, where he supported the development of the CBCR model since its inception.

Prior to joining LISC, Mr. Cooper spent more than a decade providing leadership to nonprofit organizations with a focus on building cross-sector partnerships, developing leaders and implementing data-driven strategies within diverse communities, organizations and individuals across the country. Areas of focus have ranged from criminal justice reform to tax and fiscal policy to social justice issues.

Mr. Cooper grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts and attended college Bentley University in the Greater Boston area. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Social Change.

Attached

CC: Kim Neal, Director, Citizen Complaint Authority
Eliot Isaac, Chief, Cincinnati Police Department

Jason Cooper

Summary of Qualifications

Effective leader and place-based strategist transforming the way public and private partnerships catalyze social, economic and physical change to create healthier communities for people to live, work and play. With 15 years of experience at civic engagement startups, advocacy organizations and a community development intermediary, brings a thoughtful perspective and infuses “big picture thinking” into daily work. Entrepreneur at heart and a team player recognized for impassioned approaches and colorful ideas.

Experience

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) | New York, NY

November 2010 – Present

National social enterprise that invests more than \$1B a year to spur economic opportunity and revitalize communities

Director, LISC Safety (6/17-present)

- Develop project strategy, oversee implementation, manage reporting and funder stewardship of technical assistance and grant projects that promote data-driven and comprehensive approaches to crime reduction and criminal justice reform by strategically integrating community and economic development with evidence-based public safety strategies.
- Manage day-to-day operations of the national training and technical assistance program for the Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, comprised of \$54M in site based-grants to 74 urban, rural and tribal communities.
- Oversee a \$9.5M operational budget and a team comprised of a 5 direct reports, 5 consultants and 10 nationally regarded subject matter experts on a broad range of topics.
- Lead the development of an internal Data Collection and Analysis Framework to feed performance metrics and program strategy, which provides improved data for more effective strategic, tactical and financial planning.
- Collaborate with LISC’s federal policy team and other state and local partners on campaigns to preserve appropriations for CBCR.
- Strengthen existing partnerships while building new collaborations to increase our impact.
- Work collaboratively across U.S. Federal Agencies (i.e. HUD, DOJ, and USDA) to centralize support for communities engaged in cross-sector, place-based crime reduction and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Senior Program Officer, LISC Safety (4/16-5/17)

- Led knowledge-sharing initiative for the establishment and nurturing of communities of practice, including the production of 21 webinars, a peer-to-peer mentorship program, over 18 discussion papers and online collaborative tools to facilitate the seamless sharing of ideas and work among grantees and external partners of the CBCR program.

Program Officer, LISC Safety (11/10-3/16)

- Drove the strategy and implementation of a \$2M capacity building grant-making program to support the development of strategic cross sector alliances to mobilize corporate, government and philanthropic support to invest in housing, health, education, public safety, creative placemaking and economic development within 31 neighborhoods in 13 states.
- Provided training, technical assistance and strategic planning services to 15 communities engaged in cross-sector, place-based problem solving, crime reduction efforts through the federal government’s Innovation in Community Based Crime Reduction program.

Pushback Network (PBN) | New York, NY

May 2008 – July 2010

National civic engagement network that connects the infrastructures of well-established, high-performance community organizing groups from across the country to achieve a breakthrough in civic participation

Director of Program and Administration

- Built strategic alliances including outreach and development of new partner states and organizations resulting in the expansion of the network from 6 to 9 states.
- Managed the launch and implementation of 3 national Initiatives on issues including the 2009-2011 Census and Redistricting process, the Troubled Assets Relief Program, and Tax and Fiscal Policy Reform.
- Oversaw the distribution of over \$2M in neighborhood-based grants for civic engagement and technical assistance for capacity building work.
- Liaised with PBN steering committee members, executive directors and line staff of member groups to facilitate the planning implementation and evaluation of the annual PBN program plan in 9 states with over 55 affiliate organizations.
- Organized funder briefings and participated in funder collaboratives on a variety of issues ranging from immigration to housing to affirmative action.

People for the American Way Foundation | New York, NY

August 2007 – July 2008

Progressive advocacy organization founded to fight right-wing extremism and defend constitutional values under attack

Deputy Director, Young People For (YP4)

- Launched the “YP4 Leadership Academy” a multi-year fellowship program focusing on leadership development and personal ecology utilizing in-person meetings, online webinars, and 1-on-1 coaching and mentoring.
- Managed \$1.1M departmental budget and assisted development team with fundraising goals and priorities.

National LGBTQ Task Force | New York, NY

June 2003 – July 2007

Social justice advocacy organization

Senior Field Organizer

- Designed, planned, launched, and evaluated civic engagement and Leadership Development programs for state and local electoral and legislative campaigns.
- Provided mentorship, coaching and technical assistance to the field and fundraising staff of 13 ballot measure campaigns in 11 states.
- Oversaw the recruitment and training of thousands of volunteers to canvass door-to-door for ballot measure campaigns across the country.
- Co-created the Naming Our Destiny training academy, geared toward building the strength of LGBT organizations led by people of color.

Education

Bentley University

Waltham, MA

- Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Social Change