

## The History of ACPRTF

The Minority Community Police Relations Task Force was created after an unfortunate incident on January 14, 1981. Casseel Williams, a young black man, fired several bullets from his apartment window and the Anchorage Police Department was called to intervene. The responding officers believed it was necessary to use deadly force and Mr. Williams was shot and killed. Considerable concern was raised that other crisis intervention alternatives were either not used or not available. Following extensive discussions, an agreement was reached between the U.S. Department of Justice, APD and the minority community to establish the MCPRTF.

In 2007, the Task Force voted to change its name to the Anchorage Community Police Relation Task Force (ACPRTF) to demonstrate that it serves as a liaison between all Anchorage citizens and law enforcement.

Since its establishment in 1981, the Task Force has operated successfully in its role as a liaison and continues to provide a forum for input and constructive dialogue between the community and Anchorage law enforcement.



## Membership

All citizen groups may be represented on the Task Force as outlined in the current bylaws. Membership from the community shall represent the broadest possible view. No more than 25 percent of the Task Force shall be employees of the Municipality of Anchorage.



If your community group would like to join the ACPRTF, complete a New Member Form on the ACPRTF website at [www.muni.org/aerc](http://www.muni.org/aerc) and bring the completed application to the next ACPRTF meeting.

## Community Efforts of the Task Force

In 2012, an APD officer fatally shot a Samoan male citizen. This incident raised a lot of concern within the Anchorage community. For several days local newspapers and TV stations ran stories about this incident. The common theme from the community was, "Why was the male shot?" and "Why wasn't some other form of less lethal force used?" Shortly thereafter, in early July 2012, APD officers shot and killed a mentally distraught male citizen. Similar questions arose from this incident as those regarding the use of deadly force by APD in June 2012.

In response to both incidents, the Task Force co-sponsored a Community Town Hall Meeting where the public could bring forward concerns and ask questions regarding APD's Use of Force policy. The Task Force also co-sponsored a second community forum that was facilitated by the U.S. Department of Justice and featured APD presenting on three topics: What to do when you're contacted by APD, Police 101, and APD's Response to Resistance policy.

Following the two public sessions, the Task Force was appointed to review APD's Use of Force policy and a subcommittee was formed. The ACPRTF published an extensive Use of Force Review Brief and Recommendations in December 2013, which can be found online at [www.muni.org/aerc](http://www.muni.org/aerc).