

2026 PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Conference Debrief

*Key Takeaways & Recommendations for the
Fire and Police Commission*

Presented by: Carlos | July 2, 2026

What We'll Cover Today

A focused look at the most relevant sessions from Dallas

01

The National Trust Landscape

What the data says & why it matters

02

Community Engagement Frameworks

Planning tools, partnerships, and the 5 P's

03

AI & Technology in Public Safety

Tools for engagement and the CCJ responsible AI framework

04

Funding & Sustainability

COPS Office FY26 opportunities and shifting funding models

05

Recommended Next Steps

Applying conference learnings to FPC's work

The National Trust Landscape

The framing that opened the conference, and why it's directly relevant to our work

Trust Is Declining Nationally

Public confidence in institutions is falling, including law enforcement and oversight bodies like the FPC.

Communities Expect More

Transparency, responsiveness, authenticity, and accessibility are now baseline expectations, not extras.

Amplified Information Environment

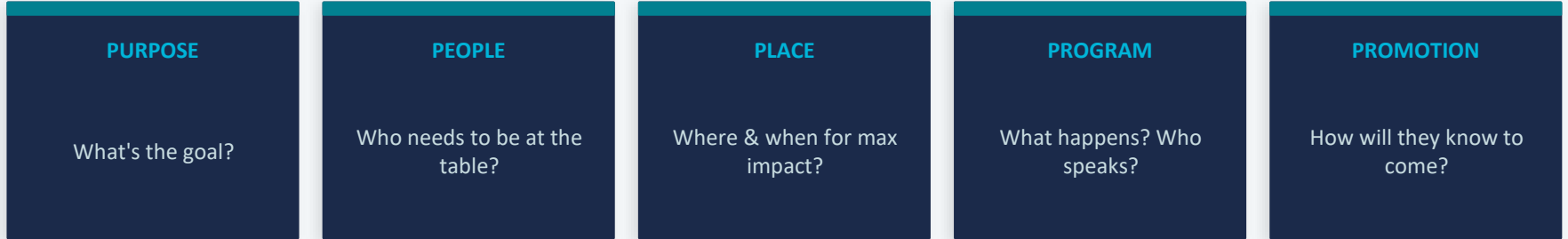
Every interaction happens in a media landscape shaped by social media, rapid information flow, and increased scrutiny.

Engagement = Relationship Building

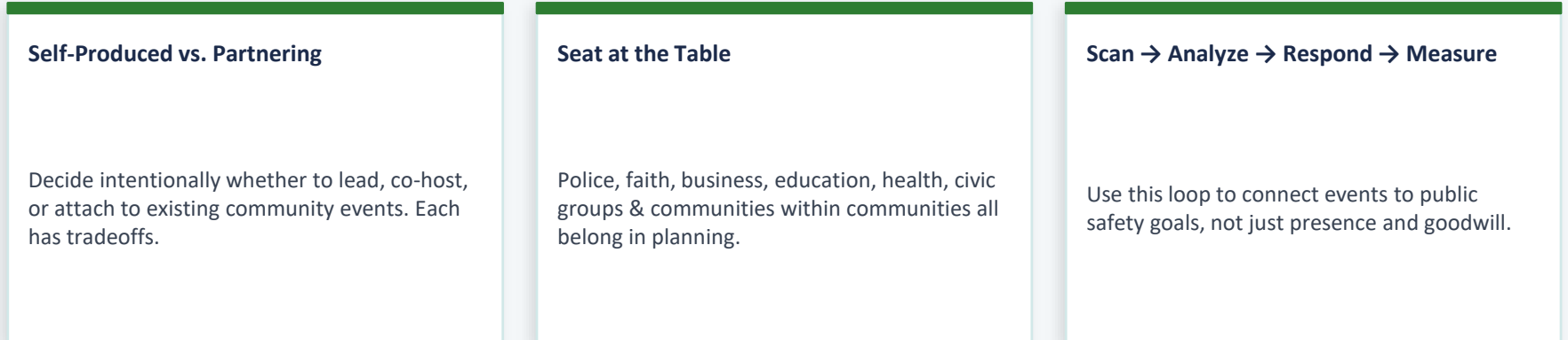
Per the Davenport Institute: trust is earned through listening, consistency, visibility, and responsiveness. Not announcements.

Community Engagement Frameworks

The 5 P's Event Planning Framework



Additional Planning Principles



AI & Technology in Public Safety

Two tracks: practical tools for day-to-day engagement work, and a national framework for responsible AI adoption

ENGAGEMENT & WORKFLOW TOOLS

Research & Drafting

ChatGPT · Claude · Gemini · Perplexity

Meeting & Workflow

Otter.ai · Fireflies · Granola · WhisperFlow

Public Participation Platforms

GoVocal · PublicInput · Neighborland · EngagementHQ

Community Sentiment Monitoring

Zencity · Sprout Social · Brandwatch · Brand24

Key principle: human review always required.

Digital tools supplement, never replace, direct community contact.

CCJ AI DECISION FRAMEWORK

5 phases, 5 checkpoints for any AI adoption decision

1

Foundation & Readiness

Define the problem. Assess org capacity before any vendor enters the room.

2

Classification

Screen for prohibited uses. Classify by risk level and opportunity.

3

Procurement

Use contracts as your safety net, lock in performance and data rights.

4

Implementation

Apply safeguards. Pilot before scaling. Two-tier system for high-risk tools.

5

Ongoing Management

Monitor continuously. Reassess when system, context, or evidence changes.

Each phase ends in a documented checkpoint before advancing.

Funding & Sustainability

COPS Office FY26 opportunities and a shift in how funders expect agencies to operate

COPS OFFICE FY26 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

COPS Hiring Program (CHP)	\$157.5M
School Violence Prevention (SVPP)	\$53M + \$20M
Drug Task Force Programs	\$48M
Tribal Resources Grant (TRGP)	\$32M
Community Policing Development (CPD)	\$18M
De-Escalation Training Act	\$15M
Preparing for Active Shooter (PASS)	\$11.5M
Law Enforcement Mental Health (LEMHWA)	\$10M
Collaborative Reform	\$5.5M

OLD MODEL

- ✗ One-time grants
- ✗ Standalone programs
- ✗ Broad narratives
- ✗ Transactional asks

EMERGING MODEL

- ✓ Long-term partnerships
- ✓ Collaborative ecosystems
- ✓ Measurable outcomes
- ✓ Diversified support

"Become the kind of partner funders want to keep investing in, not just find the right grant."

What Peer Agencies Are Doing

Concrete examples from agencies presented at the conference — showing what's possible at different scales

Henderson, KY Police Dept.

Movie With a Cop

Partnered with a local business to rent out an entire movie theater for kids and families. Zero enforcement framing, pure connection. Became an annual event.

Low cost · High visibility · Replicable

Henderson Co. Sheriff + City PD

Camp Blue & Brown

Multi-day summer camp for 5th and 6th graders in partnership with local schools. Focused on teamwork, citizenship, and learning how law enforcement works.

Youth engagement · Partnership-built

911 Gives Hope

Charity Boxing + Toy Drive

First responders boxing match (law enforcement vs. firefighters) draws 8,000+ attendees and nets \$130K–\$180K annually. Toy drive fills a 53-foot trailer for local hospitals.

Long-running · Community investment · High impact

Evansville Police Dept.

Mickey's Kingdom Playground

Fundraising effort to build a \$300K community playground that later grew to a \$1M installation. Led by the police chief, anchored in legacy and community investment.

Capital investment · Multi-year · Legacy building

Recommended Next Steps

What the Fire and Police Commission can act on based on what was learned in Dallas

NEAR-TERM

- Adopt the 5 P's as the standard planning checklist for all FPC community engagement events
- Identify and formally recognize 2–3 Community Champions across key Milwaukee neighborhoods

MID-TERM

- Explore digital engagement platforms (GoVocal or PublicInput) to expand multilingual outreach capacity

LONGER-TERM

- Apply the CCJ AI Decision Framework before any technology procurement or pilot decisions
- Pursue long-term partnership-based funding through COPS Office CPD or Collaborative Reform grants

The core takeaway from Dallas:

***"Engagement is the work.
Not a side project,
how the real work gets done."***

The FPC's oversight role positions us to lead on these principles, not just observe them.

Questions & Discussion

Full conference materials available upon request