



The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Interfaith Coalition for  
Neighborhood-Police Partnerships  
January 2004

# Update

## Calendar

12 January – Steering committee meeting, Noon, NYCLU, 125 Broad St., 17<sup>th</sup> floor (for security reasons, you must RSVP in order to attend this meeting.)

15 January – Harlem community forum, 6 – 9 pm, Convent Avenue Baptist Church, 420 West 145<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY

## Ongoing Projects

### Harlem Community Forum

The coalition is holding a forum, in coordination with the Justice Coalition for Spruill and Zongo, on Thursday 15 January from 6 to 9 pm. The forum, entitled “Advancing a Community Agenda for Police Accountability: A Response to the Alberta Spruill and Ousmane Zongo Deaths,” will be held at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, located at 420 West 145<sup>th</sup> Street.

The forum will consist of a plenary session, at which members of the Spruill and Zongo families will speak, and a breakout session that will seek to develop plans of action for the nine demands made by the Justice Coalition this past spring. The nine demands are:

- Elimination of the use of stun grenades
- Criminal charges for the officers involved in the deaths
- City council investigation of the deaths
- Improved process for securing no-knock warrants
- Independent body to analyze police policies and procedures
- Race should not be a factor for stop and frisks
- Establish an office of minority recruitment and hiring
- Create a community advisory committee on policing
- Release all data regarding no-knock warrants

If you are able to assist in setting up or conducting the forum, volunteers are still welcome.

## Recent Developments and Key Issues

The coalition has finally received a copy of the report on the raid that led to Ms. Spruill’s death. Our initial review shows the report wanting in several areas, for instance, the report:

- Fails to note that the investigating officer knew the subject of the warrant was already in custody and yet did not take this into account in executing the warrant
- Does not discuss at all the investigating officer’s failure to verify the information provided by the informant
- Does not discuss at all the failure of the commanding officer to ensure that an investigation was done properly
- Does not acknowledge that a tactical plan for executing the warrant was not discussed by anyone
- Fails to note that no one was actually authorized to use the stun grenade and that no system was in place to ensure that unauthorized use could not take place

A complete review of the report will be available next month.

## In the News

Community councils -  
"Crackhouse blues," New  
York Press, 16 December  
2003, p. 16

Police handling of  
demonstrations - "Miami  
clash a lesson for city,  
GOP," Daily News, 27  
November 2003, p. 14

"NYPD asks city to restrict  
event permits," New York  
Sun, 1 December 2003,  
p.4

"Jury awards protesters  
\$81M," Newsday, 21  
November 2003, p. \_\_\_

## Working Group Report

### **Training**

The training group recently observed the TACCOM training given to officers who have two or more civilian complaints. The group was able to follow up on this session by exploring means the department has to ensure that officers are held accountable for the training they receive.

### **Neighborhood-police relations**

The neighborhood-police relations group met to finalize the details of the community forum and to develop the breakout sessions that will be held during the forum.

## Steering Committee Report

The steering committee discussed potential follow up to the training group report, namely the issue of accountability for officer behavior in response to the training. The committee also discussed follow-up to the membership mailing, developing systems for coalition outreach and membership orientation, and a future strategy for implementing the coalition's agenda.