

# Community Engagement: A Tool for Officer Safety

From Beat Officer, to District Commander it is important that the community sees the officers as a person and not just an enforcer. Ms. Smoot and Officer Laney will explore community engagement as a tool for officer safety, community safety and reducing "fear of crime". Participants will receive tools for engaging the community and learn how to use community problem oriented policing and problem solving to promote community police partnerships for preventing crime.

**Dorothy Smoot**  
**Executive Director**  
**Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio**

Dorothy P. Smoot currently serves as Executive Director of the Community Police Partnering Center. She and a staff of Community Engagement Specialists facilitate problem solving teams and provide technical support to community members interested in collaborating with police to address issues of crime, disorder and quality of life in their neighborhoods. Ms. Smoot has been certified as a Crime Prevention Specialist by OCPA.

Officer LaDon Laney has been a City of Cincinnati Police officer since 1992. He has served in various assignments throughout his tenure. Assignments includes Undercover Vice Officer, District level investigator and Neighborhood Liaison Officer. Currently Assigned to District 4 neighborhood Unit, he serves as the Avondale Community Liaison Officer Bureau.