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# OVERVIEW OF THE POLICING PROJECT AT NYU LAW

## MISSION

We partner with communities and police to promote public safety through transparency, equity, and democratic engagement.

Our work is focused on **promoting police accountability**, but also on changing the way people think about accountability. When people call for more accountability in policing, they typically are focused on the back end—including investigations of officer misconduct, criminal prosecution, and judicial review. Back-end accountability is important, but it only kicks in after something has gone wrong.

Our work focuses on ensuring accountability **on the front end**. Front-end or “democratic” accountability involves promoting public voice in setting sound policing policies and practices before officials act. The goal is to achieve public safety in a manner that is equitable, nondiscriminatory, and respectful of public values.

## VISION

Our work is centered around two core principles:

First, we focus on **bringing all sides together**.

From police leadership to union officials, from community activists to think tanks, from elected officials to private industry, we strive to include voices from every side of the policing world. In so doing, we are constantly looking for common ground, but also for new levers and unique pressure points.

Second, we are focused on **real change**.

Our work is varied, from on-the-ground projects, to advising, to research, to holding convenings. But through all this, we are always focused on moving the needle in the world of policing, always motivated by a belief in democratic accountability.



# OUR STRATEGIC AREAS

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Since our founding in 2015, we have worked on a wide variety of projects across the country in pursuit of front-end accountability. Along the way, we have developed critical partnerships and moved the needle in important ways.

At present, we are focusing our efforts on three strategic areas where we believe we can have the greatest impact. Those areas are:

**Emphasizing Front-End Voice in Policing:** In a democratic society, the public must have an empowered voice in how it is policed. This is particularly so for communities of color, who historically have been underserved and over-policed. Our projects in this area include:

- Policing Agency "Health Checks"
- The Architecture of Police Regulation
- Litigation

**Responsible Regulation of Policing Technologies:** As law enforcement increasingly relies on technology—from social media monitoring to face recognition—it is essential to ensure that these technologies are used responsibly, and with minimal impact on civil rights and civil liberties. Our projects in this area include:

- Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Audits
- Industry Certification

**Re-imagining Public Safety:** It is past time for a national conversation about what public safety for everyone looks like and how it is best achieved. We are developing ways to help communities address social problems without a law enforcement response, and in so doing reallocate resources in ways that benefit everyone. Our projects include:

- Chicago Neighborhood Policing Initiative
- Improving Law Enforcement "Triage"
- Re-imagining Traffic Enforcement



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