

# Congressional “Ask a Criminologist” Series

## Police and Community Relations in a time of Crisis and Unrest

Wednesday, October 21 at 3:00 PM EST

Conducted via Zoom: <https://vcu.zoom.us/j/92441488509>

To view live stream: <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/o2os1>

Please join the [Crime & Justice Research Alliance \(CJRA\)](#) and the [Consortium of Social Science Associations \(COSSA\)](#) for our fourth annual “Ask a Criminologist” Congressional briefing with leading criminology experts from around the country exploring the most important topics in crime, justice, policing and national security. These briefings provide an opportunity for Congressional staff and key stakeholders to engage directly with the experts conducting research on a range of public safety and justice system topics.

This briefing, held via Zoom, will explore the intersection between law enforcement and residents during an extremely complicated time. Highly publicized deaths of community members, primarily Black men, during encounters with police have generated national protests, unrest, and political action. Legislation mandating civilian review boards, task forces reviewing police use of force policies, and calls to “defund” the police are now common. Federal legislation addressing a variety of policing topics and reforms is pending in Congress. Redefining encounters between police and residents could dramatically influence perceptions and trust in the police. Discussions on police practices, community relations, policy implications, and evidence-based strategies for improving police-community relations will be followed by a Q&A session.

Panelists will include Dr. Jennifer Cobbina, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Michigan State; Dr. Rod Brunson, Thomas O’Neill Chair of Criminology at Northeastern University; and Dr. Everette Penn, Professor of Criminal Justice at University of Houston Clear Lake and founder of the Teen and Public Service Center. The panel will be moderated by Dr. William V. Pelfrey, Jr., Professor of Criminal Justice in the Wilder School at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**About CJRA:** *The Crime and Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) is a centralized resource of authoritative experts and scholarly studies created to provide policymakers, practitioners and the public direct access to relevant research on crime and criminal justice issues. Formed in 2015, CJRA is a collaborative partnership between the nation’s two leading criminal justice scholar associations, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC), which represent more than 5,000 criminal justice scholars and research experts. For more information, please visit [www.crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org](http://www.crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org) or @CJRAAlliance.*

**About COSSA:** *The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. For more information, please visit [www.cossa.org](http://www.cossa.org) and @COSSADC.*

**Host:** *L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University: The Wilder School is proud to support this event. For more information, please visit <https://wilder.vcu.edu/>*