10 Ways You Can Make A Difference in Officer Accountability

1. VOTE  Voting is the equalizer. Many of the things that affect officer accountability is driven by who is elected. And actions speak louder than words. Voting provides accountability for all. Know your candidates and ask for their positions on officer accountability during every election.

2. GET INVOLVED  Citizens should learn the challenges involved in creating change in officer accountability. Involvement cannot be limited to protests after a critical incident. Civilian oversight agencies provide information to encourage citizens to become and remain involved in police accountability. Participate in focus groups and surveys. Contact your civilian oversight agency.

3. SUPPORT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  These agencies provide useful information that can provide consistent pressure on the police and elected officials to make change. Stay involved to make sure that the agency has the power to make change. Subscribe to receive agency updates through email and social media.

4. CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS  Elected officials must know that you are informed and engaged in the issues involving your local law enforcement department. That is how you keep everyone accountable. Use the data and information from your civilian oversight agency to question your elected officials.

5. REPORT OFFICER MISCONDUCT  Citizens must file complaints to create records on officers who are violating citizens’ rights. These official records are evidence of the community’s concerns about officers’ actions. When you fail to file a complaint, it is harder to hold officers accountable. Complaints can validate officers who are doing their jobs correctly and uncover those who are behaving badly. The ACRB accepts complaints at acrb.gov.org, by phone @ 404-865-8622 or visit the office in city hall.

6. FOLLOW THROUGH  Citizens must follow through on their complaints and receiving answers to their questions from their law enforcement departments, civilian oversight agencies, and elected officials. You cannot be discouraged by the roadblocks that may delay your pursuit for justice.

7. ATTEND MEETINGS  Being active in your community by raising concerns and demanding answers from the police in your community sends the message that your community will not tolerate abuse in services or enforcement actions. ACRB meets the second Thursday of each month in Atlanta City Hall.

8. BE A WITNESS  Citizens who witness questionable officer behavior must report it. Support family, friends and strangers who have been subject to officer misconduct. It is important that officers are reminded that their actions are always being observed and the community will not tolerate misconduct. Your information may prevent a future tragedy.

9. ADVOCATE  Your voice must be heard. You must advocate for officer accountability and department policies that recognizes the safety of citizens and protects citizens’ rights. Regularly visit the ACRB website. Subscribe to the email list. Like us on social media.

10. STAY INVOLVED  Officer accountability is a long game. There are no quick fixes. Your involvement is a major key to achieving officer accountability. Connect with your neighbors, civilian oversight agencies, and law enforcement.