Protests are a reaction to nonaction. Five years ago, when citizens protested about the killings of unarmed blacks that were occurring in 2014-2016, many of the same points raised then are raised today. In 2015, President Obama released the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report, and some police departments started implementing various forms of the task force’s recommendations to achieve better policing and improve relationships with the communities they serve. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done.

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) was created in 2007 after the killing of 92-year-old Kathryn Johnston by Atlanta police officers in 2006. The Atlanta City Council created the Board to provide a fair forum for independent investigations of citizen complaints against Atlanta police and corrections officers. The ACRB is comprised of a citizen board representing the diversity of Atlanta and city staff that handles the day-to-day operations of the agency. Its primary goal is to improve relationships between citizens and officers through investigations, mediations, and community outreach and education. The agency provides the transparency of the officer accountability system that is needed for citizens to gauge how well officers are held accountable for their actions.

As the call for officer accountability continues to grow across the nation and citizens ask what they can do to have a positive impact on officer accountability, we recommend ten ways that every citizen can make a difference. When the protests are over, work will still need to be done to make the changes demanded a reality. Your voice will still matter and must be heard. If you want to engage with like-minded people working for systemic changes in policing, these ten ways are for you.

Read the ACRB 10 Ways You Can Make a Difference in Officer Accountability on the ACRB website at www.acrbgov.org. Join our email list. Call us @ 404-865-8622 and connect with us on social media. Get involved. Stay involved.