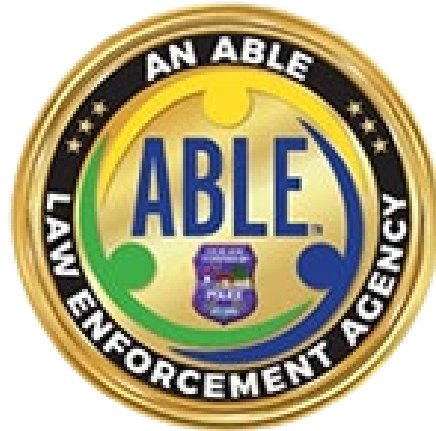


ABLE Certified Law Enforcement Agency

Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement



The Ocean Township Police Department has been accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project, Georgetown University Law Center's national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.

By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, the Ocean Township Police Department joins a select group of other law enforcement agencies and statewide and regional training academies from across the country.

Backed by prominent civil rights and law enforcement leaders, the evidence-based, field-tested ABLE Project was developed by Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program in collaboration with global law firm Sheppard Mullin LLP to provide practical active bystandership strategies and tactics to law enforcement officers to prevent misconduct, reduce mistakes, and promote health and wellness.

ABLE gives officers the tools they need to overcome the innate and powerful inhibitors all individuals face when called upon to intervene in actions taken by their peers.

The ABLE Project is guided by a Board of Advisors comprised of civil rights, social justice, and law enforcement leaders, including Vanita Gupta, the president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Commissioner Michael Harrison of the Baltimore Police Department; Commissioner Danielle Outlaw of the Philadelphia Police Department; Dr. Ervin Staub, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the founder of the Psychology of Peace and Justice Program; and an impressive collection of other police leaders, rank and file officers, and social justice leaders.

The 10 Standards of ABLE

To make ABLE holistic and a catalyst for change, its Board of Advisors developed 10 standards for agency participation:

1. **Community Support**, demonstrated through four letters: two from community organizations, one from the agency leader, and another from the mayor or other government leader
2. **ABLE Training** for all officers, from recruits to command staff, plus annual refresher courses
3. **Dedicated Coordination** by a designated program coordinator who will roll out, promote, and reinforce the program
4. **Program Awareness** through regular internal and external communications promoting the principles and benefits of peer intervention
5. **Accountability** based on a strong, written anti-retaliation policy ensuring that interveners are not punished or ostracized—or if they are, that the agency will fully investigate
6. **Officer Wellness** supported through a program that includes access to counselors or social workers for guidance and support
7. **Reporting** obligations that don't change from pre-ABLE participation
8. **Measuring Officer Perceptions** through pre-implementation and post-implementation surveys of personnel who receive ABLE training
9. **Follow-Through** to ensure department-wide implementation, with the full support of agency leadership
10. **Paying It Forward** by making the agency's ABLE-certified instructors available to help train other agencies accepted into the program

Benefits of ABLE Intervention

Reduces:

Citizen complaints
Disciplinary action and officer job loss

Risk of lawsuits
Unnecessary harm to civilians and officers

Improves:

Citizen support of law enforcement
Community/police relations
Job satisfaction
Officer health and wellness