

The background features a dark blue field with a grid of thin, light blue lines. These lines curve and warp, creating a sense of depth and movement, similar to a tunnel or a stylized architectural structure. The overall effect is modern and dynamic.

Improving Relations Between The Disability Community & Law Enforcement

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What is my projects about?

My project was created to learn about things that can change. My project is the beginning steps of helping Self Advocates get along with Law Enforcement, and help Law Enforcement get along with Self Advocates.

- Communicate with self advocates to inspire meaningful conversation about building upon and repairing relations between the Disability Community and Law Enforcement Community.
- Communicate with Law Enforcement to help them understand how the disability community works, and also inspire conversation about how things can start to change.
- Continue building relations with both Self Advocates, their loved ones, and Law Enforcement in hopes of continuing conversation, and fostering the relation between both parties.

Self Advocates

1. How do you protect your basic human rights?

Answer-Talk to others, advocate.

2. How do you think relations between the disability community and law enforcement can be improved?

Answer-increase awareness and training, police K-9 units coming to speak

Attorney

1. How do you identify a person with a disability?

- Answer- *I'm not sure that you always do, or can. What's import is to not make assumptions as to what a persons level of understanding or abilities are, and that way not be caught unprepared when you come across someone who may require a higher level of need or care.*

2. How can an attorney advocate for a person with a disability?

- Answer- *This varies greatly depending on the type of representation. But attorney's should always keep their clients interests at the forefront of any negotiation, and certainly being aware of a client's disability is a big part of that*

Law Enforcement

1. Upon finding out that an individual has a disability is there a specific protocol on how to provide service to them?

- Answer- "the basic rule of thumb is to exercise more patience and communicate in a way that both sides understand the common objective. Often times putting in a little more time, leads to a better experience for civilians' and police."
- Answer #2- MPD has policy and procedure in providing assistance with each situation

2. How does an individual with a disability introduce and interact with an officer?

- Answer- "in a respectful and non-threatening manner. Any information the person is willing to provide the officer regarding their specific disability."
- Answer #2-"talk to officer and supervisor and ask what is expected of them during contact with police"

What Was Learned?

I learned a lot through this process. I learned that all people are treated as equals, regardless of their background. We are all to be treated with dignity and respect. Within this project I learned that Self Advocates and Law Enforcement alike both need more educational opportunities on how to work together to communicate better, learn about and develop better understandings of each other. I am looking forward to continuing to talk to law enforcement and self advocates in order to keep the conversation going!