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FERRER OUTLINES COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN

Borough President Fernando Ferrer today said New York needs a return to true community policing strategies. At a news conference with police officers and community advocates outside 1150 East 229th Street in the Bronx, Mr. Ferrer outlined a plan to implement Community Policing throughout the city. Mr. Ferrer's plan was developed in consultation with police professionals and criminal justice experts from academia.

"If elected mayor, it makes sense to implement the program, now piloted in The Bronx, citywide," said Ferrer. "It is something I am strongly committed to make happen. It would engage the resources of a concerned community in partnership with the NYPD to address crime and disorder, including quality of life problems."

The Ferrer plan also provides the NYPD, public officials, and the community with a foundation which to implement community policing in existing precincts throughout the City. This police-community collaboration would re-deploy police from central units, to precincts, and ensure a focus on deterrence rather than response.

Eli B. Silverman, Professor of Police Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and author of "NYPD Battles Crime: Innovative Strategies in Policing," said of the Ferrer plan, "The NYPD is learning that police action taken to reduce crime means little without constructive citizen contact and cooperation. Fernando Ferrer's significant plan builds upon the NYPD's innovations in crime fighting while promoting greater respect and trust between community and the police."

There has been an overall increase in Police staffing since 1995 – more than 4,000 new officers, and an increase of specialized units. However, Mr. Ferrer's plan looks to provide city neighborhoods with more cops on the beat.

Mr. Ferrer was joined by law enforcement officials who live in the city and work in various neighborhoods. Community groups participating in the news conference included the Edenwald-Gunhill Neighborhood Safety and Security Council and the EARS Program (Effective Alternatives and Reconciliation Services).