

NEWS RELEASE

CHARLES H. RAMSEY
Commissioner

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2015

**PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT BEGINS NEW TRAINING PROGRAM:
“POLICING IN A MORE PERFECT UNION,” FOR RECRUITS AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

WHEN: Monday, April 6, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (arrive early for introductory session mult box plug-in)

WHO: 80 new Philadelphia Police Department recruits will attend a unique training program at the National Constitution Center. Commissioner Charles Ramsey will kick off the launch of the program with comments at 8am.

WHAT: You are invited to cover the Philadelphia Police Department’s inaugural “Policing in a More Perfect Union” workshop. Policing in a More Perfect Union walks officers through exhibits at the Constitution Center while focusing on the power and responsibility of officers’ role as police in a democratic society to protect the constitutional rights of all people. Commissioner Ramsey saying, “The job of policing is getting more complex as time goes on. And we have to stay rooted in the fundamentals of policing, those democratic values and constitutional principles that guide us. And what better place to do this than at the National Constitution Center here in Philadelphia.”

WHERE: National Constitution Center

525 Arch Street
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DETAILS: This program is designed to show new recruits and remind seasoned officers about concepts of individual rights, fair and impartial treatment, the promises of the U.S. Constitution and provide a look at history and historic concepts as they are applied today. Officers will tour sections of the National Constitution Center, be confronted with times in history that police were not on what we now know is the right side of justice, how that has impacted police-community relationships, and participants will come face to face with high schoolers sharing their experiences with and perceptions of police as part of an engagement exercise to encourage active listening and connection to the community they serve.



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“Policing in a More Perfect Union” has been developed jointly by Commissioner Charles Ramsey and the National Constitution Center, which is hosting the program. The Philadelphia Police Foundation is funding this innovative and progressive training as it continues for recruits and expands to include in-service training throughout the Philadelphia Police Department.

Program Timeline

Program Introductions and Expectation Setting (Kirby Auditorium) 8:00 a.m.

Part I – Constituting Liberty Tour and Fundamentals (Signers’ Hall and George H.W. Bush Gallery) 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

The workshop begins with a simple game to gauge the recruits’ understanding of the Bill of Rights and how it is applied in society today.

Part II – Fairness and Justice Dialogue (Kirby Auditorium) 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

The second part of the program will ask the recruits to discuss the ideas of justice and fairness and how these ideas have played out in the new recruits’ lives.

Part III Case Study Review (Main Exhibition) 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The recruits will break into smaller groups to collectively examine three case studies—*Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, and the “Bloody Sunday” events at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965.





Part IV Conversation with Community (John C. Bogle Chairman’s Room) 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

In this section of the program, the new recruits engage directly with community members from Constitution High School.

Program Finale (Kimmel Theater), *Freedom Rising* 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The experience will conclude with the National Constitution Center’s signature attraction, *Freedom Rising*. The program closes with the culminating line “What will we do with freedom?” added for the recruits will be “How will you protect our freedoms?”

***Media FYI Alert:**

-  Please check in when you arrive.
-  There will be a mult box available for the introductory session held in the auditorium.
-  Most of the program involves following recruits through tight spaces as they tour exhibits
-  Cameras welcome in virtually all of the spaces. Restrictions will be made clear when you arrive.

