

May 15, 2019

## To Whom It May Concern:

April, 2018 marked our annual Royce West Forum and Lecture Series, which is named in honor of Texas State Senator Royce West. The theme chosen for the forum was *Race, Trust and Police Legitimacy: Strengthening Communities*. The target population for this forum was a cross-section of citizens from Waller County and its contiguous counties along with school personnel, social service and mental health providers, law enforcement officers, parents as well as students, faculty and staff at Prairie View A&M University.

Retired LAPD Sgt. Cheryl Dorsey was chosen as our keynote speaker for this forum because of her professional expertise in policing in addition to her being a social advocate and CNN commentator regarding police matters. As a result of her talk, a robust discussion of the public's perceptions about the lawfulness and legitimacy of law enforcement transpired. More importantly, she effectively explained the steps necessary in building good police relations with the community and the impact it has on the quality of life. Her talk and feedback throughout the "Q&A" session solidified the old theme of "policing with consent" in the democratic police tradition which is the purpose police departments were created; to safeguard life and property. Needless to say, her content was "spot on"! Her interaction with the target audience was engaging and she readily connected with this extremely diverse group of individuals. Sgt. Dorsey is a dynamic and very well informed speaker with terrific insight.

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Grady M. Raris, J.D. Associate Director

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