

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS INITIATIVE
MONTHLY REPORT (August 23rd) Justice**

Submitted by:

Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement

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&

The Center for Male Engagement | Community College of Philadelphia

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Submitted on:

August 23, 2017

In fulfillment of the commitments made to the
City of Philadelphia's
My Brother's Keeper Initiative-Philadelphia (MBK Philly)



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forged by a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME) and the Community College of Philadelphia's Center for Male Engagement, the Community Conversations Initiative is a platform to engage Philadelphians and leaders who work for / with our communities. The initiative is a monthly forum where community members and leaders discuss challenges, opportunities, and solutions that address dismantling inequities that impact the lives of men and boys of color in the city.

The Structure:

- 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Networking with resources who are invited to disseminate materials and engage audience members.
- 6:00 pm – 6:50 pm Panel Discussion (usually 3-4 panelists with a moderator)
- 6:50pm – 7:00 pm Audience completes survey
- 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm/ 45pm Community talks about the theme of conversation (split in groups of 10 if crowd is large or use of all audience members if group is small).

In general, the Community Conversations Initiative focuses on discussions that include but are not limited to:

- Education
- **Justice**
- Health/Wellness
- Economic Development

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement is dedicated to closing the opportunity divide for men & boys of color.

The Community College of Philadelphia values community engagement and service as an important part of its mission. The institution addresses broad economic, cultural and political concerns in the city and beyond through a variety of community service initiatives.

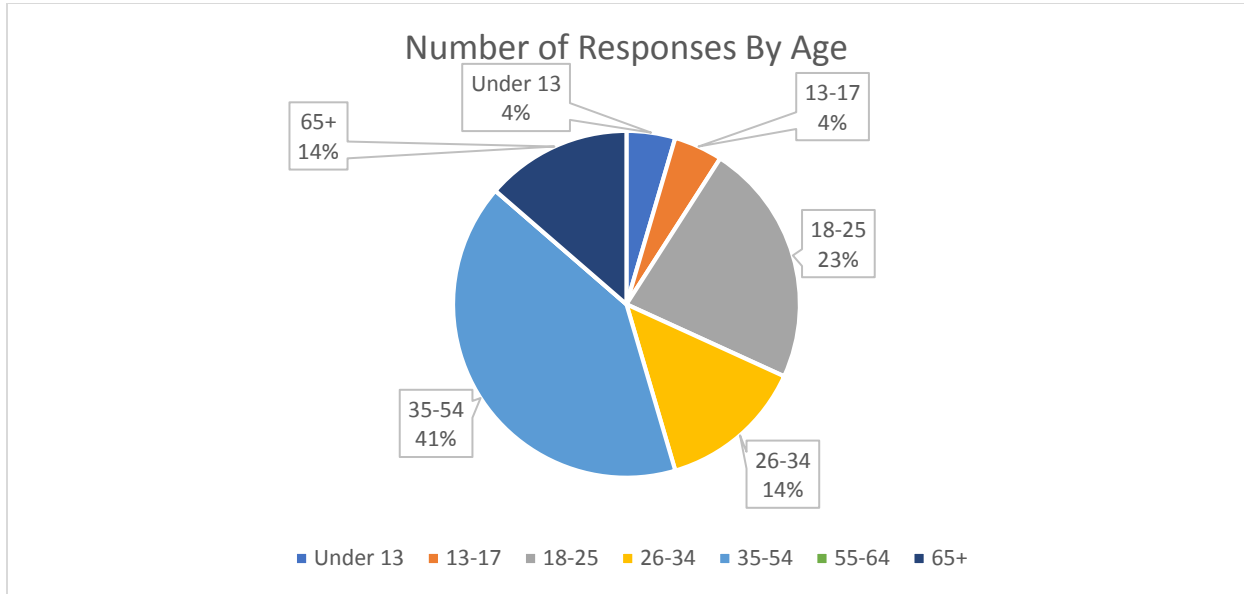
HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES (resource tables present at Conversation):

- West Philly Produce / A&W Solutions

PANELISTS : MODERATOR – DARIN TOLIVER (MCAAM Commissioner/ Officer, Mental Health Specialist – St. Christopher's Hospital), **Andrew Howell** (Founder of Race for Peace Org.), **Troy Wilson** (MCAAM Commissioner, Philadelphia Defense Attorney), **Ishmail Ebo** (Student, Community College of Philadelphia, Artist/ Activist).

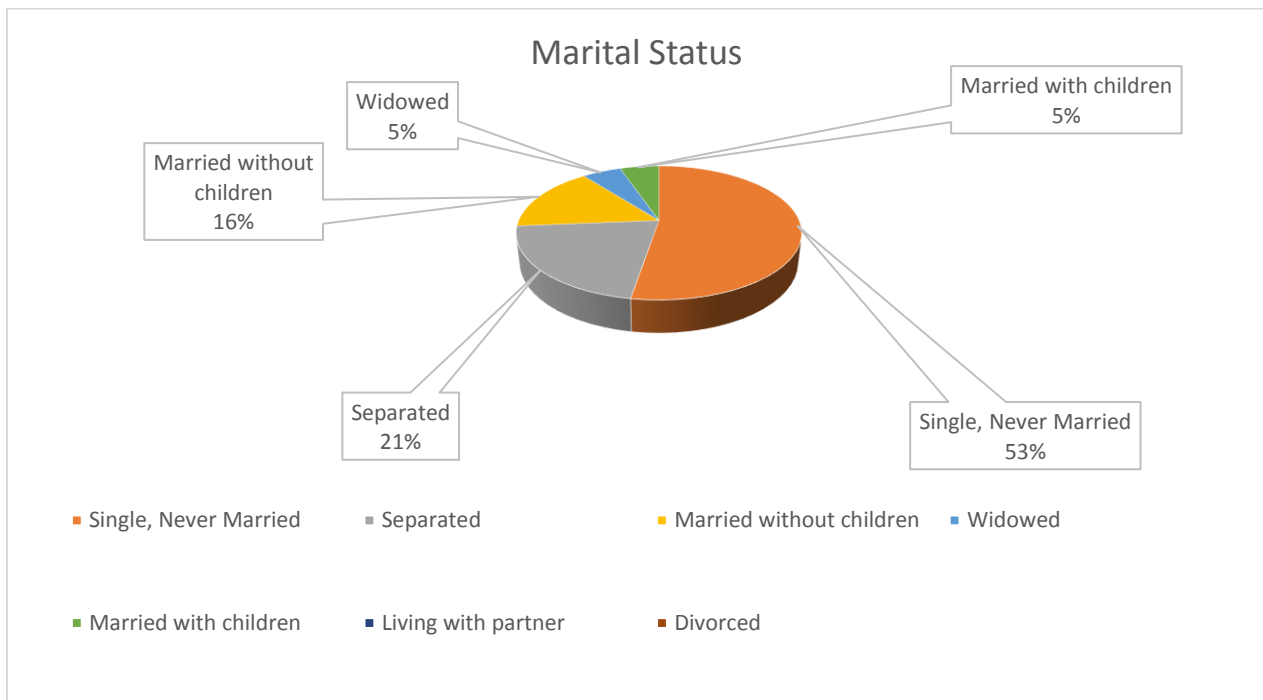
SURVEY RESULTS (FROM PARTICIPANTS):

AGE RANGE: (SEE CHART)



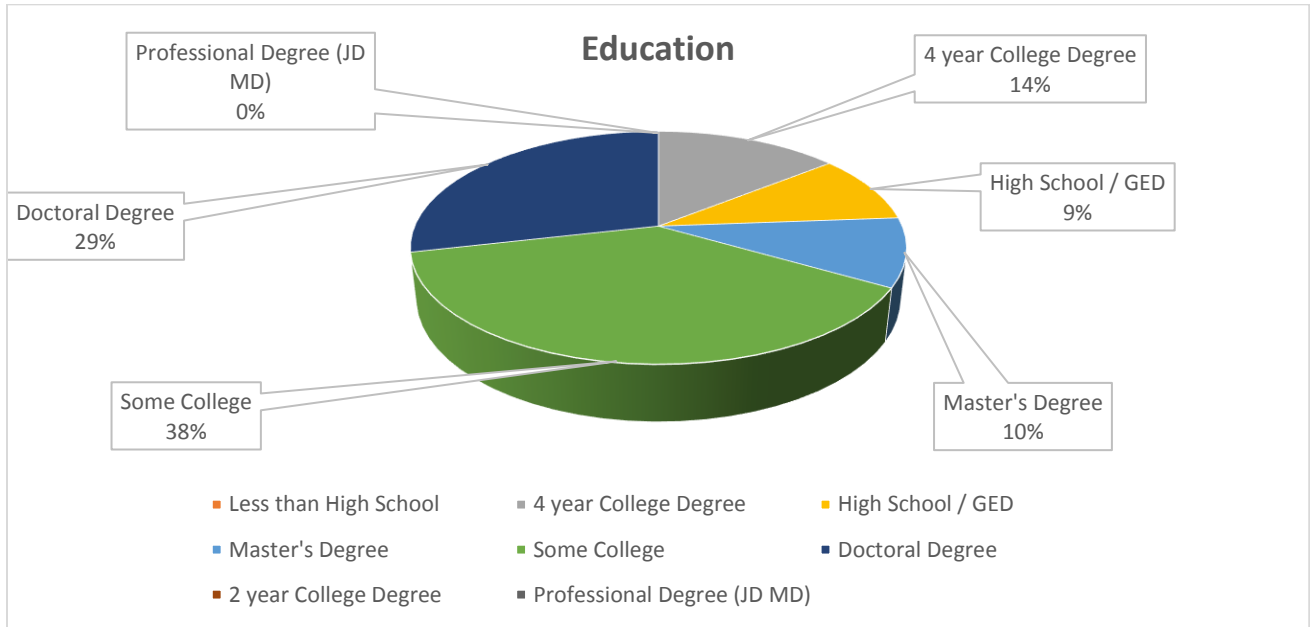
- *(Age Range chart - figure 1) The majority of people in attendance in July were 35-54 yrs. old.*

CURRENT MARITAL STATUS: (SEE CHART)



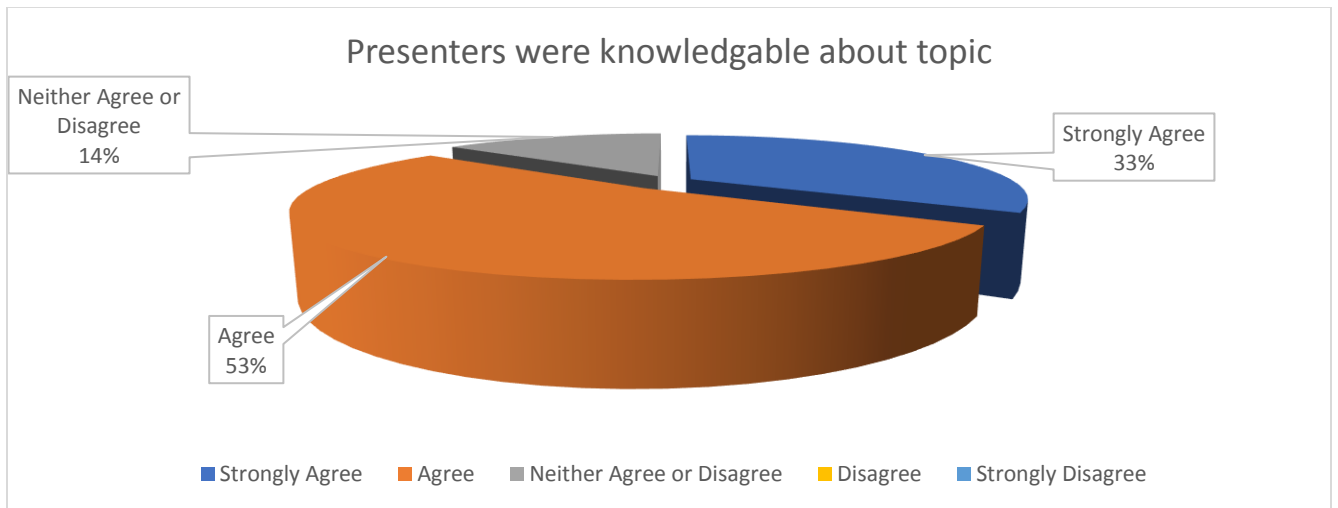
- *(Marital Status Chart – figure 2) The majority of people in attendance were Single (never married).*

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: (SEE CHART)



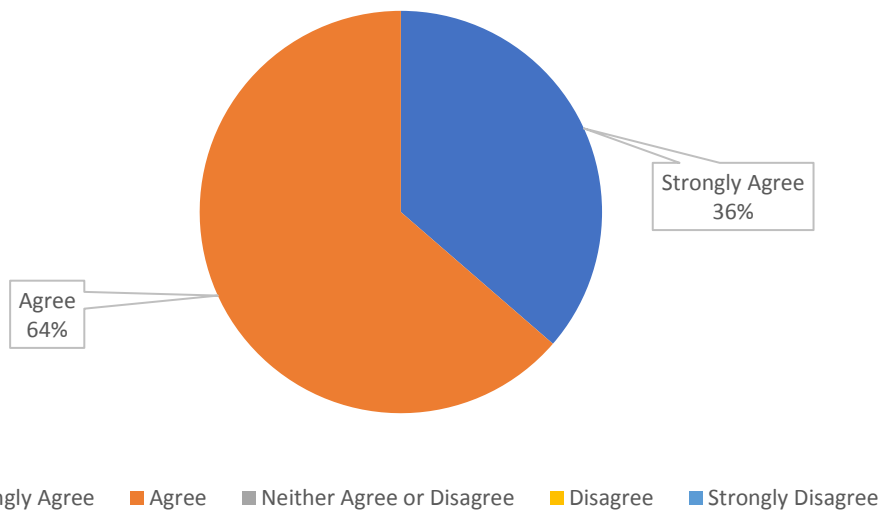
- (Education Chart – figure 3) Even split of people in attendance who earned a Doctoral degree or had some College

RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY



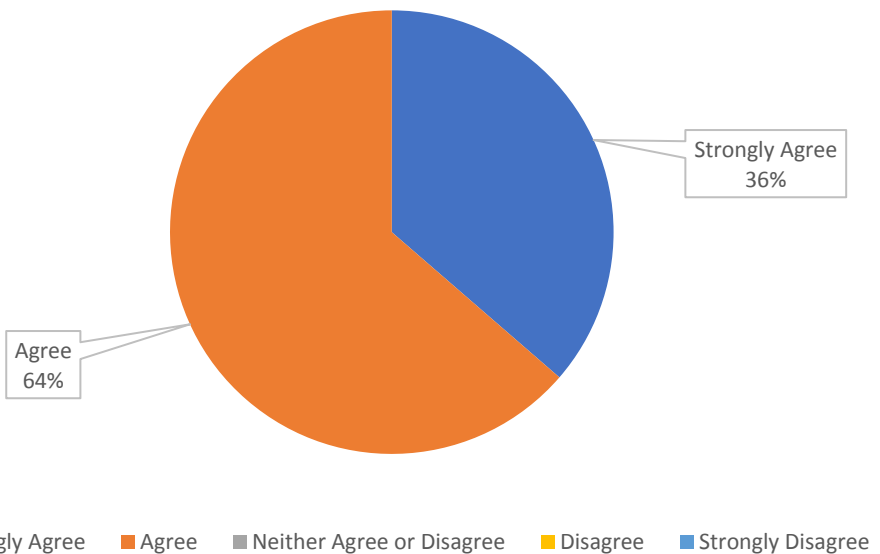
- (Presenters Knowledge chart – figure 4) The majority of people in attendance agreed and strongly agreed that the presenters were knowledgeable about the topic

Topic was relevant and informative

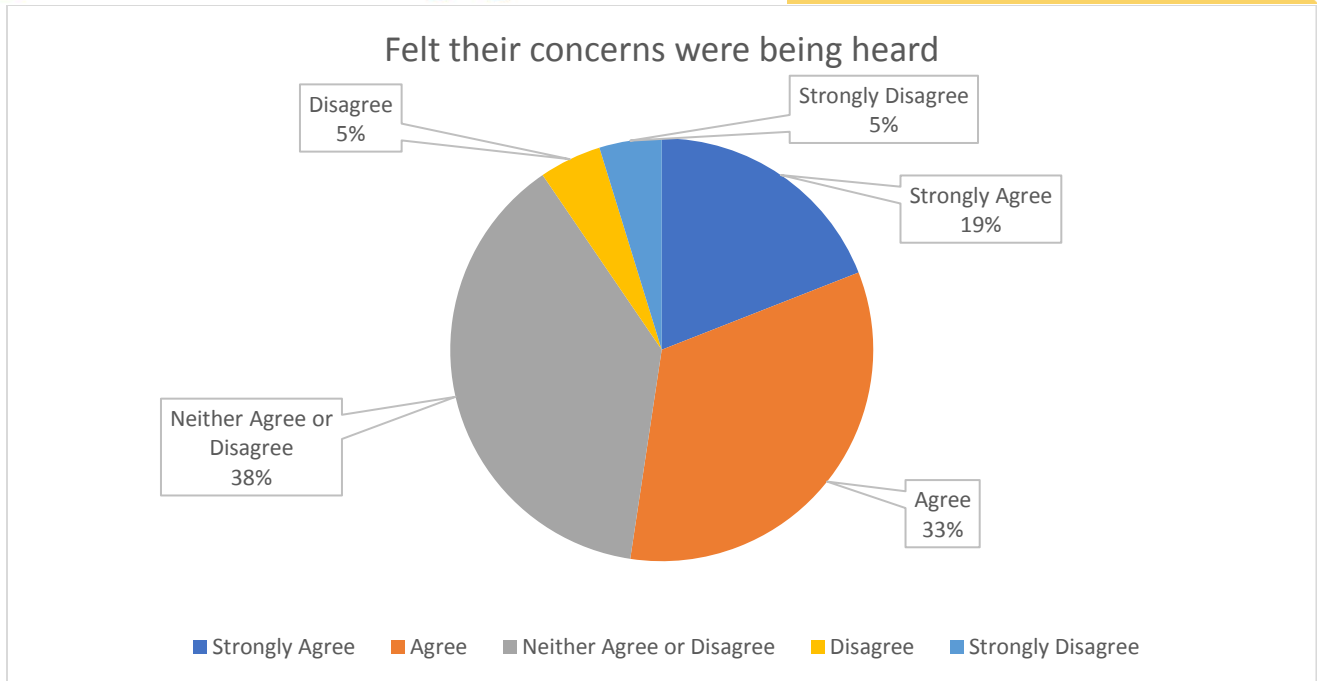


- (Topic relevance chart – figure 5) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that the topic was relevant and informative.

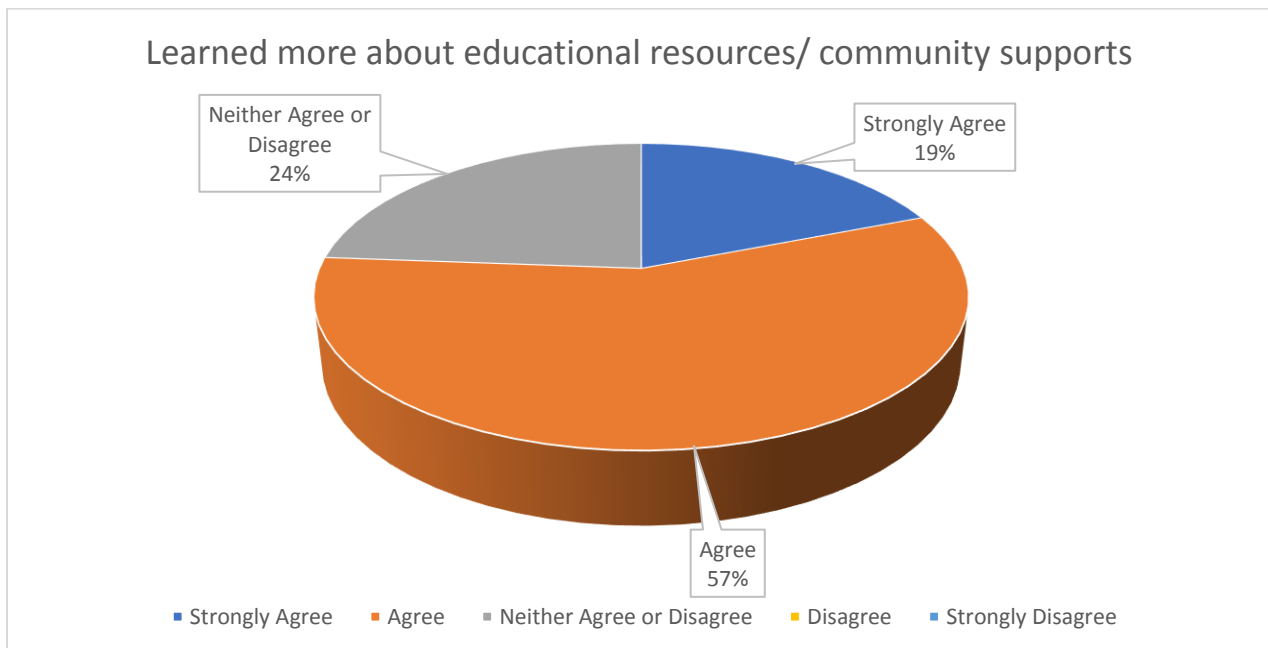
Encouraged to participate in discussion



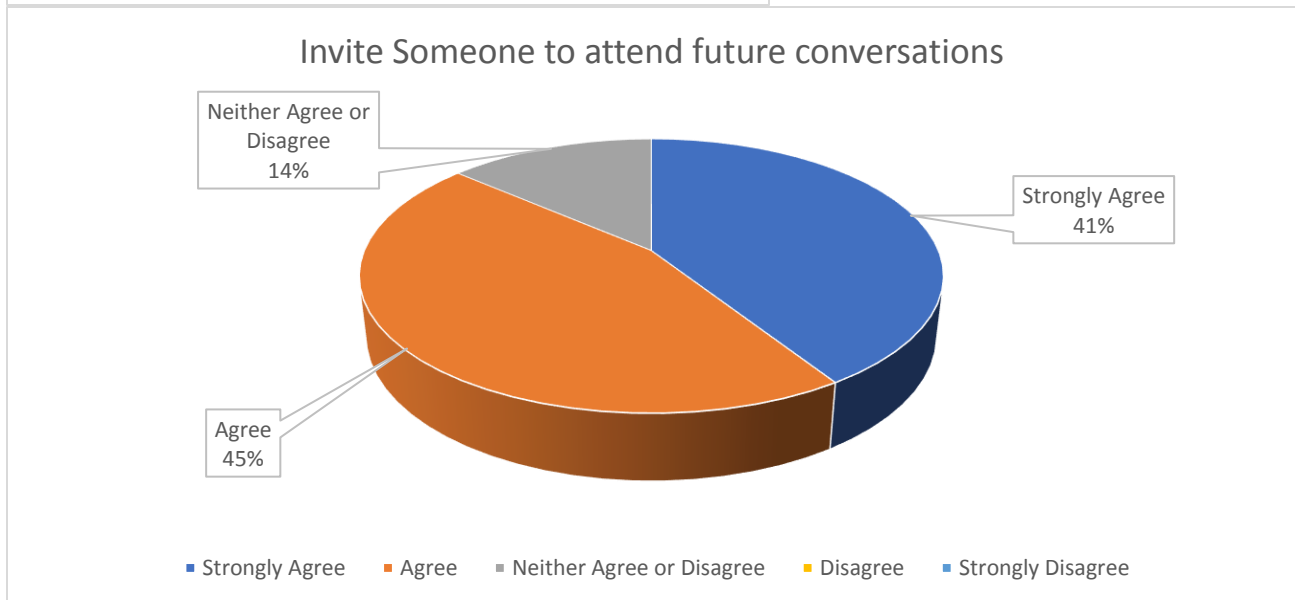
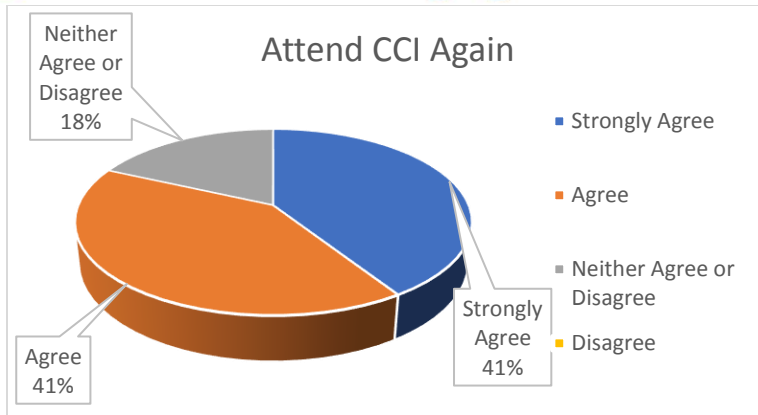
- (Encouraged to participate chart – figure 6) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they were encouraged to participate in the discussion.



- (Concerns were being heard chart – figure 7) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they “felt their concerns were being heard,” but some community members disagreed that they were being heard.*



- (Resources chart) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they learned more about educational resources, but some participants neither agreed or disagreed that they learned more about educational resources.*



- (Attendance & Recommendations to Community Conversations Charts – figures 9 & 10) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they would attend again and recommend folks to future community conversations.*

Based on the Needs, Resources, and Solutions brought forth by the attending Community members, it was determined that there is a gap in police/ community relations. The attendees felt that city departments and community members need to utilize a better social justice lens and educate each other about our overall safety in the city. We will continue to gather suggestions and recommendations to report out information to stakeholders in efforts to advance the academic, economic, health & wellbeing, and social/ criminal justice awareness towards a transformed narrative for men and boys of color in the city of Philadelphia. Please carefully read the suggestions as each are given by a fellow Philadelphian who support men and boys of color in the city and realize that we are better, together.

The Following is a list of results from the community regarding their Needs, Resources, and Solutions around the theme of the discussion (Education)

Needs	Resources/Supports	Solutions
	Family Ownership; Training parents; community togetherness ie service	After school programs, Outreach programs
Better and more interactions between the community and police	Speaking in the community, local churches, rec. centers, and libraries	Community day events, etc. Summits, protests, remove clearly hostile persons on both sides.
Unjust stops by police. Positive case studies on black people not widely publicized.	Making ourselves available to mentor our youth	Continue to have meetings. Have info sessions that normalize human behavior
Unjust police	Parenting classes; Conversation/action; Education	Change of law; More action; Mentorship
Education		Cultivation of safe spaces that are culturally relevant
Share how women in our community can support/teach their children (males) as they mature in their manhood		
Jobs; Food programs; Environmental programs	Community Outreach Services; Community Health Services	Job training Center; Teach Social Justice classes in our schools; Solutions to environment
The needs may be better met when more of our own are involved to aid in its support to our own. Working on supporting our own by getting involved, family, friends, neighbors.	Again, to help our people understand the resources and support must begin first with the individual seeing he/she is the resource and support	Help our people young/old male/female to have confidence to be involved

Mentorship	Community Centers	Community Meetings
Mental Health: Economics; Overall Health		Give contracts to small black and create small black businesses
The social justice need are many, My community needs partnership w/police informing them on how to protect, guide, and possible be a part of the justice system.	To my knowledge, there are only police departments, but the faith based community has seminars to educate young people and parishioners on how to interact w/police.	Affordable/or free legal assistant, that provide pro bono work to community of color change of policy that seeks rehabilitate rather than punish people especially communities of color more mentoring in the community
	No to very little resources in the community	Economic Empowerment (Need) Literacy Empowerment (Need)
Employment; Affordable Housing; Communication in Neighborhoods; Discussions of predicaments-pence, dependency	Very minimal in North Central Phila., PA	Re-distribution of wealth; Initiatives to provide much better services to the underprivileged; Make money work for money-create wealth
	Culture competency amongst educators, service providers	More solutions based and strengths based goals and outcomes "opinions" clarity on identifying what the "issues" are.
		Get involved in the system
Christopher J. Welsh (Deputy Defender) Lisa Cambell (Assistant Chief) Christiana Bradley (Director of Juvenile Social Service)		Invite public defenders to local community conversations and ask for participation in the new lawyer trainings

Abatement/Expungement of criminal records; Alternatives to incarceration		
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