



MEDIA RELEASE

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Nonprofits create “Partnership for Community Safety and Economic Development” to Elevate the Conversation Surrounding Smart, Safe and Vibrant Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), Enterprise Community Partners, The IJIS Institute (IJIS), and the Public Technology Institute (PTI), have joined forces to create the “Partnership for Community Safety and Economic Development.”

In recent months, American urban areas have experienced a rise in tension pertaining to a particular form of civic interaction – police community relations. As members of the public assert their rights to freedom from potentially unwarranted enforcement actions, police, in turn, seek to fulfill their mission of fostering and maintaining safe neighborhoods. Both the public and policing agencies want the same thing: safe, civil and thriving communities. Yet, conflict – in both its outright and veiled forms – have been driving factors of late, and this ongoing tension deserves critical, engaged examination in order to ensure America’s urban environments are vibrant areas of economic, creative and educational opportunity, with public safety as an undergirding principle.

“The goal of this new partnership is to elevate the conversation surrounding safe cities and counties while making positive, constructive contributions to community development,” said George Rice, Executive Director, The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT).

“Our partnership works toward healthy and thriving communities built upon the footing of safe neighborhoods fostering positive social and economic outcomes for citizens, residents and visitors,” said Dr. Tiffany Manuel, Vice President, Knowledge, Impact and Strategy, Enterprise Community Partners.

Dr. Alan Shark, Executive Director, Public Technology Institute adds, “One of the major initiatives of this partnership will be to discover innovative and supportive public safety technologies and proven community development practices as core elements for success.”

Ashwini Jarral, Executive Director, IJIS Institute stated, “Safety in all of its forms, is at the core of robust, thriving communities and the events and initiatives undertaken by this partnership will help foster the success and vibrancy of communities nationwide.”

To address these pressing issues of urban transformation and community safety, the **Partnership for Community Safety and Economic Development (PCSED)** plans a series of events, webinars, media notices, white papers, and surveys. PCSED will also convene key leaders from the public and private sectors to discuss and examine burgeoning indicators of successful practices, essential elements of thriving and safe neighborhoods, and innovative uses of technologies as features of building safe and successful communities.

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iCERT plays an important role as the voice of companies on issues impacting the emergency response system. Through advocacy, research, and in coordination with the public sector, iCERT plays a vital role in the development and deployment of emergency response technologies. More information at www.theindustrycouncil.org.

Enterprise Community Partners improves communities and people’s lives by making well-designed homes affordable. We bring together nationwide know-how, partners, policy leadership and investment to multiply the impact of local affordable housing development. More information at www.enertprisecommunity.org.

Public Technology Institute supports local government executives and elected officials through research, education, executive-level consulting services and national recognition programs. More information at www.pti.org.

The IJIS Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, represents industry's leading companies who provide solutions and services to local, state, tribal, and federal agencies for justice, public safety and homeland security information exchange and technology initiatives. More information at www.ijis.org.