Urban Peace Institute

**Audio Clip #1:**

Fernando Rejon: A lot of times systems don't know the impacts that they have. When you really take a look at the history of policing, the history of American policing. In the beginning, as the country was going through the industrialization process, it was used to suppress workers' rights, to suppress protests. Colonialism, with the Texas Rangers, killing of indigenous and Mexican people, in the name of Manifest Destiny. Slave catchers, a containment strategy to keep slaves, African slaves, on the plantation.

And when we look at that history and how American policing has evolved and where the current state of policing is now, American policing is at a crisis point. We understand the history of it, but also we understand that it can be reimagined. And we do understand that, there has been an over-reliance on law enforcement. A lot of pressure actually put on law enforcement to address the multiple issues that society has no answers for. For us, we're interested in building community-based infrastructures that actually can address a lot of the issues that law enforcement has had to deal with. And maybe they don't deal with it in the best way. But if we end our over-reliance on law enforcement, it actually leads to better health and safety outcomes

**Audio Clip #2:**

Fernando Rejon: Smart Justice is key as we are assessing and analyzing these systems and making sure that we redirect those dollars to create new systems of care. We've talked about having an ecology of capacity and an ecology of care at the community level, not an ecology of punitive incarceration and fines and things that just continue to exacerbate systemic racism and racial disparities that we've experienced.

And then the last piece is just the role of law enforcement. And we talk about relationship based policing. We talk about changing the mission of American policing. Changing the mission of American policing, to get the mission to be relationship-based, to be about public trust policing, partnership policing that partners with community and really ridding law enforcement of the “us versus them mentality.” Like Homeboy Industry says, "There's no us and them, it's just us.” Which may sound idealistic, but we're pushing to create new systems based on care, based on healing, based on justice, not based on punitive measures.