



Terry Cherry

Officer/Recruiter

Charleston Police Department, South Carolina

Age: 39



During her eight and a half years with the Charleston Police Department, **Officer Terry Cherry** has taken the lead in fostering partnerships and building trusting relationships between the police and diverse communities. Among other initiatives, she launched the first Safe Place Program in South Carolina, an initiative originally developed in Seattle, Washington, to identify local businesses that would serve as safe spaces for LGBTQ victims of crime to protect them and call the police. She organized a Hate Crime Forum involving the police department and the Anti-Defamation League and coordinated listening sessions on traffic law information and the difference between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement with the

city's Latinx community as part of the Charleston Illumination Project (gaining recognition in the National Police Museum).

Officer Cherry has also strived to improve awareness and understanding in her agency by developing a comprehensive policy for addressing the LGBTQ community's issues, establishing the state's first gender identity and orientation training for recruits, and supporting the agency's participation in annual LGBTQ Pride events. She has worked to integrate hate crime law into the agency's reporting system and trained officers on proper hate crime reporting.

Motivated by her desire to constantly improve and her passion for continual learning, Officer Cherry entered law enforcement to make a positive social impact and leave a meaningful professional legacy. Her diligent efforts fulfill her drive to change the injustices she sees in the world and to serve others.

"I want to leave the world better than I found it and fight the inequities, victimization, and ills that plague our society."