

2023 NACOLE Candidate Questionnaire

Name *

Ferenc Karoly

Position Sought *

- ☐ President (2-year term)
- ☐ Vice-President (2-year term)
- ☒ Board Member-At-Large (3-year term)

Geographic Location *

Providence RI

Current Employment *

Executive Director - PERA

How long have you been involved with NACOLE and how did you initially become involved? *

2 years. I became involved when I got hired as the executive director of the Providence External Review Authority, which is a civilian oversight agency for the Providence Police Department.

Which NACOLE Committees have you served on? Have you had other involvement in NACOLE as a volunteer? *

I have not served on any committees yet.

Please share highlights of your background/experience in law enforcement oversight or jail and prison oversight. *

I was a police officer in Middletown RI for 15 years. During that time I had the opportunity to serve as the principal internal affairs investigator for over a year as the Administrative Lieutenant and then became the head of the Office of Professional Responsibility when I was promoted to Deputy Chief, where I oversaw investigations and made recommendations for discipline regarding police misconduct. I served in that capacity for 4 years until my retirement from policing to pursue the practice of law. In my work as a defense attorney I had the opportunity further explore the need for police oversight based on my experience with criminal defense cases. I was subsequently hired as the Executive Director of the Providence External Review Authority, which is the civilian oversight agency of the Providence Police Department. It is the only civilian oversight agency in the state. I have served in that capacity for 2 years and have worked with the Board to improve police oversight in Providence. We have been working to change the law that governs oversight in Providence to increase the Authority's ability to conduct meaningful oversight. We have established an office and hired staff as well as foster trust and collaboration with the police department to further improve our efforts of improving policing through accountability. We are working to improve our engagement with the community to get them involved and empower them with the knowledge to recognize and report police misconduct as well as work to improve relationships and trust through the implementation of a mediation program.

Why do you want to serve on the NACOLE Board? What makes NACOLE's mission important to you? *

I believe NACOLE serves as a valuable resource for both new and established oversight agencies to allow them to share experiences and resources to enhance their collective chance of successful oversight practice. I can serve as a resource to other agencies just starting out by helping them avoid some of the pitfalls of starting an oversight agency as well as provide the perspective of an oversight practitioner that has both a law enforcement and legal background. I think NACOLE can be more active in promoting the need for oversight and take a more active role in assisting new agencies in establishing their oversight agencies by connecting them to other agencies, providing sample policies, procedures and other helpful documentation and even providing subject matter experts to assist them in presenting arguments in support of their efforts to local governing bodies.

What skills/qualities do you have that you expect to contribute to the organization as a member *
of the NACOLE Board?

My experience as a former officer, current attorney, and current Executive Director of an oversight agency are skills that I will use to contribute to the overall mission of promoting and supporting effective police oversight to the NACOLE Board. I also have served as the president of a non-profit board for the past 5 years and have organizational and leadership experience that I think would be an asset to any organization. I intend to use my experience to augment the team at NACOLE and do my best to offer support and insight as well as new ideas to improve the level of service NACOLE provides to its members.

What goals do you have for your service on the NACOLE Board, and what would you most like to accomplish as a member of the Board?

I would like to help NACOLE establish a playbook of sorts to help agencies with issues that often face oversight agencies. I would also like to see NACOLE find ways they can take a more active role on the local level when solicited. I am also interested in seeing what NACOLE does on the national level in terms of lobbying for more stringent police oversight and would like to see how I can help that effort.

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