IMPACT OF POLICE CYNICISM ON CRIME REPORTING: INSIGHTS FROM ANGELES CITY, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

This research delves into the intricate relationship between police cynicism and crime reporting behavior in Angeles City, Philippines. It takes a comprehensive approach, aiming to identify both the factors that encourage and discourage crime reporting while examining the influence of police cynicism. The research utilizes a mixed-methods design, encompassing a descriptive survey and correlation research. The survey includes questions regarding individuals' attitudes towards the police, their willingness to report crimes, and their perceptions of the police's effectiveness in combating crime. The correlation research specifically delves into the connection between police cynicism and crime-reporting behavior, hypothesizing that higher levels of police cynicism correlate with lower levels of crime reporting and vice versa. The findings of this study carry significant implications for improving crime reporting behavior, ultimately contributing to enhanced safety in Angeles City. The research underscores the existence of generally positive attitudes toward crime reporting, driven by an awareness of the seriousness of offenses, a sense of empowerment, and a shared responsibility for community well-being. This positive disposition emphasizes the need for law enforcement agencies and policymakers to consider community engagement strategies and initiatives that encourage reporting. The research also reveals that discouraging factors do exist, particularly concerning non-traditional crimes, where fears and distrust in the justice system play a significant role. While there is a prevailing trust in the local police's effectiveness, the weak correlation between positive police perceptions and actual reporting behavior highlights the need for a holistic approach in policy development. Furthermore, the positive correlation between discouragement and encouragement factors in reporting suggests potential policy implications, calling for in-depth research to further comprehend the intricate dynamics influencing reporting behavior. The findings collectively emphasize the multifaceted nature of public perceptions and reporting motivations, underlining the interconnectedness of these elements. Policymakers are encouraged to adopt comprehensive approaches that foster community trust and enhance reporting behavior, while researchers are urged to delve deeper into these nuanced relationships to inform evidence-based policies for public safety and more effective law enforcement in Angeles City.

KEYWORDS: *crime reporting, crime reporting behavior, police cynicism, encouraging and discouraging factors of crime reporting*

I. INTRODUCTION

Reporting crimes worldwide has seen an upward trend in recent years, playing a pivotal role in crime more likely when the victims perceive the crime as severe or a public concern. Awareness of available legal remedies and support services can also encourage reporting [1]. Conversely, several factors can discourage crime victims from reporting, as highlighted by [2]. These include fear of retaliation or further violence, distrust in the justice system, and the belief that their complaints won't be treated seriously. Victims may also experience shame or embarrassment, which may deter reporting if they expect blame or criticism from others.

The decision to report a crime is complex and influenced by a multitude of factors. Victims of criminal activities should be informed about available support resources and encouraged to report incidents. This study aimed to investigate the factors that encouraged or discouraged individuals from reporting offenses to the Angeles City Pampanga police service precinct. The research focused on understanding people's motivations when deciding to report a crime, especially in times of rising crime rate reduction and policy formulation. Several factors impact the decision to report a crime, including victims' perceptions of the criminal justice system, concerns for personal safety, and the availability of resources [2].

[2] have identified various motivators for crime victims to report incidents, such as access to support services, empowerment to speak out, and trust in the criminal justice system.Through surveys and the analysis of community attitudes and behaviors, this research shed light on the influences behind reporting decisions. Additionally, it provided insights into how local

communities can collaborate more effectively with their police services to report and prevent crime.

Considerable discussion about crime reporting in the United States has involved the media, academia, and politics. Varying levels of precision in crime reporting have raised concerns about the reliability and adequacy of the nation's crime statistics. All levels of government need to address this issue. For instance, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs) were urged to improve accuracy as there was no consistent nationwide reporting standard [3]. Furthermore, some data indicated that crime was often not reported accurately in many areas [4]. This was likely due to various factors, including the fear of retaliation, the cost and difficulty of reporting crimes, and public perceptions of crime [4].

The lack of reliable crime statistics had significant consequences. As stated by Ruback et al. 2018 [3], it hindered law enforcement's ability to allocate resources effectively and resulted in inaccurate crime portrayals in the media. Furthermore, it complicated the task of accurately gauging crime levels in different areas and understanding the root causes of crime [4].

To address this issue, it was crucial for all levels of government to collect dependable data and rectify the problem of inaccurate crime reporting. This could be achieved by establishing consistent nationwide reporting standards and adopting more efficient data collection methods [3]. Additionally, there was a need for better public education and awareness about the importance of reporting crimes accurately [4].

Statistics indicated that a significant portion of crimes in the UK went unreported to authorities, which was becoming an increasing concern. According to the British Crime Survey (BCS) from March 2019, only 41% of violent crimes, 57% of domestic abuse incidents, and 70% of sexual offenses were reported to the police. Notably, 70% of sexual offenses were reported.

The fear of punishment deterred people from reporting crimes, especially victims of domestic violence who worried about further abuse or retaliation. A lack of trust in the police and doubts about their seriousness also discouraged reporting. Underreporting of crime had serious consequences for victims and their communities, distorting crime rates and resource allocation. To address this, law enforcement and agencies must build trust, provide support, and keep victims informed about their cases, which is vital for the criminal justice system (Sullivan [5]; Ratcliffe [6]; Flatley [7]; Negrine & Stanyer [8]).

Harrendorf et al. 2010 argued that European crime reporting often provided inaccurate and sensationalized information due to inconsistent data collection and media exaggeration. This discrepancy among European nations in recording crimes could mislead the public about the true crime levels. To address this issue, it was crucial for governments, media, and stakeholders to ensure that crime reporting was factual and unbiased. This could be achieved through transparent data sources and reliable information, such as government statistics. Additionally, the media should avoid sensationalizing crime reports and prioritize fair and truthful coverage to foster a better understanding of the actual state of crime in Europe.

High levels of lawlessness and insecurity in Asia hindered individual well-being and the region's progress. Prioritizing crime control was crucial for any administration. To address this, the criminal justice system needed to be aware of crimes. Undetected crime had various negative consequences for victims and society [10]. Worldwide, there was growing interest in reporting crime rates, as unreported crimes could also harm victims and society significantly. It was essential for victims or witnesses to contact the police to report victimization incidents. Without reporting specific crimes, many offenders could not be found and punished, as a significant number of criminal acts went unreported [9]. Bourne 2016 [11] found that in many industrialized countries, only half of all crimes were reported to authorities, and this might be worse in less developed countries like the Philippines, with less effective criminal justice systems. In the United States, Loftin, 2017 [4] noted that crimes with the highest percentages of going unreported included domestic larceny (67%) and rape and sexual assault (65%).

China's authoritarian government and the lack of transparency in its media and law enforcement had hindered accurate reporting of crimes. A United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report stated that there were 8,000 to 10,000 homicides in China annually, making it the second highest globally. However, the actual number of killings was likely much higher because the Chinese government either didn't record many cases or categorized them incorrectly [12].

The Chinese government tightly controlled the media, especially concerning politically sensitive issues like human rights, journalism, and religious minorities. This lack of media freedom led to a lack of accurate reporting on criminal activity. Additionally, the Chinese criminal justice system lacked transparency, making it hard to access information about criminal cases and trial outcomes. Zhang et al. 2017 [13] also argued for increased independent oversight of law enforcement to hold the police accountable for their actions. Consequently, there was a need to inform the public about the extent of the crime problem in the nation. China's government, media, and criminal justice system lacked transparency, making it challenging to report crimes. While there had been some progress in recent years, significant efforts were still required to ensure the public could access accurate and current information about criminal activity nationwide.

In the Philippines, a high prevalence of corruption and a lack of trust in law enforcement made it challenging to accurately report crimes. A 2018 survey by the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that a staggering 87.6 percent of respondents did not report any crimes to the police, with only 6.8 percent doing so.

This low reporting rate could be attributed to a lack of faith in the police due to widespread instances of abuse and corruption [14].

The government's response to crime reports had been inadequate. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) found that the police force struggled to respond promptly to complaints due to resource and workforce shortages [15]. Additionally, the investigation and prosecution processes were lengthy and inefficient, leading to a lack of accountability and justice for victims—a critical issue as these systems were meant to protect victims. To address the problem of underreporting crimes, the Philippine government needed to overhaul its approach to law enforcement. This should involve enhancing the training of law enforcement personnel and increasing investment in the physical infrastructure of law enforcement agencies. Additionally, measures should be taken to combat corruption and boost public confidence in the judicial system.

Past researchers, including Lancaster in 2013 and the National Home Security Month in 2016, expressed concern about unreported crimes in the Philippines, even though we don't have exact numbers. Goudriaan in 2006 highlighted that governments emphasize improving crime reporting because accurate statistics are essential for effective crime control strategies.

This study aimed to answer two questions: (1) What obstacles stopped people from reporting crimes in the greater Los Angeles area? and (2) What factors encouraged people to report crimes in the City of Angeles region? It provided both absolute and relative reasons for why residents chose to report crimes to the authorities. To enhance the relationship between police departments and the community, it was crucial for these departments to understand why citizens didn't report crimes in the first place. Moreover, this research contributed to the limited literature on what motivated citizens to report crimes to the authorities.

II. METHODS AND PROCEDURE
A. Research Method
The study uses descriptive survey research to address an array of research inquiries, prominently centered on the multifaceted realm of Impact of Police Cynicism on Crime Reporting: Insights from Angeles City, Philippines. This methodological approach facilitated data acquisition from a representative sample of respondents, affording researchers the opportunity to scrutinize these data for discernible patterns and insights.

Descriptive survey research served as a valuable lens through which researchers could investigate the intricate interplay of factors such as community trust, fear of retribution, and resource availability, all of which exerted their influence on law enforcement officers' conduct when it came to reporting crimes. Notably, the employment of surveys allowed for a systematic exploration of these factors by quantifying their significance. For instance, respondents were asked to evaluate and rate factors, including fear of retaliation, trust in the police, and resource availability, on a scale from 1 to 10, thereby providing a quantitative understanding of their importance.

Moreover, the utility of descriptive survey research extended to the realm of exploring the subjective experiences of individuals who had engaged in crime reporting. By eliciting responses related to perceptions of police cynicism, motivations for reporting crimes, and factors discouraging reporting, researchers were able to unearth a nuanced understanding of the dynamics between individuals and the criminal justice system. This approach helped reveal how these experiences shaped the attitudes and behaviors of individuals concerning crime reporting.

Furthermore, the research undertook the ambitious task of investigating the broader societal and cultural contexts that influenced crime reporting and the prevalence of police skepticism. This was accomplished by evaluating societal norms, resource availability, and other sociocultural determinants that affected reporting behavior.

Descriptive survey research incorporated descriptive correlation as a statistical methodology to quantitatively measure the relationships between various factors. This statistical approach aided in unraveling the complex connections between elements that either encouraged or discouraged crime reporting and the level of cynicism exhibited by the police. For instance, it permitted researchers to investigate the relationship between police behavior and public cynicism, leveraging data sourced from police departments and public surveys.

B. Population and Sampling Scheme
The study was conducted within the bounds of Angeles City, Pampanga, which boasted a population of 411,634 residents according to the 2015 Census conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2020. To ensure the robustness of the study's findings, the researchers used a statistical software package known as G-Power. This software, renowned for its analytical prowess, was instrumental in the calculation of the requisite sample sizes, particularly in the context of the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient tests.

In a research context, statistical power is the bedrock of the researcher's ability to detect meaningful relationships between variables. In the case of Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient tests, it was imperative to ascertain the sample size required to confidently discern whether this coefficient significantly deviated from zero. The required statistical power was a fundamental consideration in this endeavor. Furthermore, the software also facilitated the determination of the necessary sample size for effect size testing in scenarios where a correlation was already established. The result of this computational analysis revealed that a sample size of 84 was deemed sufficient to detect a medium effect size (typically considered as 0.3) in a Pearson moment correlation. Importantly, this sample size exceeded the benchmark of 81, further reinforcing the study's capacity to detect statistically significant correlations at a significance level of 0.05.

The sampling strategy adopted for the study was the Cluster Sampling Method. This strategy was meticulously designed to ensure the representation of the intended demographic of the study. Specifically, the researchers targeted individuals aged between 18 and 60, encompassing both genders, who had experienced unreported crime and were residents of Angeles City, Pampanga. Cluster sampling, a well-established method in the research arsenal, facilitated the division of the city's population into geographically defined clusters or groups. These clusters were then subjected to random selection, ultimately forming part of the study's sample. This strategic approach ensured an accurate representation of the population and provided a precise understanding of the factors that influenced crime reporting within Angeles City.

C. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria
The inclusion criteria of the study, which probed "Impact of Police Cynicism on Crime Reporting: Insights from Angeles City, Philippines", cast a wide net to encompass a diverse spectrum of individuals and groups. The comprehensive list encompassed all residents of Angeles City, irrespective of their citizenship status—be they citizens or foreign nationals residing within the city. Victims of various categories of crimes, spanning theft, assault, vandalism, and others occurring within Angeles City during a specified time frame, were regarded as pertinent subjects of study. Moreover, individuals who had witnessed crimes in Angeles City were deemed significant contributors. The inclusion criteria extended to include police personnel, spanning police officers, law enforcement officials, and other personnel within the purview of Angeles City's police department. Also, emergency service personnel, ranging from emergency medical services personnel to operators of emergency hotlines such as 911 within Angeles City, were considered as relevant stakeholders in the research. Lastly, community leaders, activists, and advocates who actively engaged in activities aimed at promoting crime reporting or related initiatives within Angeles City were pivotal in shaping the research's comprehensive perspective.

In contrast, the exclusion criteria for the study established a set of parameters to maintain the research's focus and relevance. Specifically, individuals who were not residents of Angeles City were categorically excluded from the study, given that the primary focus was centered on city residents. Cases concerning crimes perpetrated by non-residents in Angeles City were excluded, except in cases where the involvement of city residents was direct and substantial. Incidents that did not constitute criminal activities, such as accidents or non-criminal disputes, were clearly delineated as beyond the scope of this research. Cases characterized by incomplete or insufficient data related to the crime, the reporting process, or the individuals involved were deemed unsuitable for inclusion to preserve the integrity of the data. Furthermore, individuals who declined participation in the study or failed to provide informed consent were excluded. Incarcerated individuals within correctional facilities during the study period were set apart due to the significant divergence in their circumstances compared to the broader population. The

presence of language barriers impeding effective communication represented another exclusion criterion. Non-resident police officers or emergency service personnel, although working within the administrative purview of Angeles City, but not residing there, were considered non-essential to the research. Lastly, community leaders, activists, or advocates residing outside Angeles City, and those who did not exert a direct influence on crime reporting within the city, were excluded from the research. These meticulous exclusion criteria worked synergistically to ensure that the research remained sharply focused on cases and individuals tightly aligned with its research objectives.

D. Ethical Considerations
The ethical considerations underpinning the research on "Impact of Police Cynicism on Crime Reporting: Insights from Angeles City, Philippines" were of paramount significance and were handled with unwavering diligence. Recognizing the utmost importance of safeguarding participant well-being, the researchers meticulously orchestrated a framework that prioritized participant security, confidentiality, and fundamental rights. A set of concrete ethical principles underpinned every facet of the research.

To initiate the research process, the researchers secured informed consent from the participants, ensuring that they were aware of the research's objectives, methodologies, and potential outcomes. This process allowed participants to make an informed decision regarding their involvement in the study.

The commitment to maintaining the confidentiality of the participants and the data collected was unwavering. This tenet extended to stringent data protection measures and access control to safeguard the privacy of the participants and the integrity of the data.

Moreover, the responsible dissemination of the research findings was integral to the ethical compass guiding this study. The researchers took meticulous care in presenting and disseminating their findings in a responsible manner, avoiding sensationalism and distortion, and adhering to scientific integrity.

Recognizing the potential dangers that might arise due to the research findings, particularly in cases where the findings could be employed to the detriment of individuals, the researchers were diligent in warning the participants about these potential risks.

Additionally, the researchers were committed to ensuring that their research findings would translate into ethical policies and interventions. The insights generated from the study held the potential to influence policy decisions and community initiatives aimed at improving crime reporting and police behavior. The ethical underpinning of the research extended to the advocacy for policies that would enhance the lives and safety of individuals within Angeles City.

E. Research Instrument

The research instrument employed in this study was meticulously designed to gather comprehensive information concerning the factors that influence the underreporting of crimes within Angeles City. The survey questionnaire was structured in a manner that encouraged respondents to provide detailed responses, enabling a deep dive into the various facets of crime reporting.

The survey encompassed a range of inquiries, classifiable into three distinctive questionnaires, each serving a specific purpose. The first questionnaire probed into the discouraging factors of crime reporting, seeking to unveil the elements that might cast doubt on the reliability of the police. It also explored the level of assistance that the police offered to society. By asking participants to express their agreement or disagreement with statements such as "The police would not believe me, "If I reported a burglary at my house, the police would not investigate," "I do not believe the police are approachable," and others, the questionnaire aimed to gauge the attitudes of participants toward crime reporting. All these responses were recorded on a five-point Likert scale, facilitating the quantitative measurement of participants' attitudes.

The second questionnaire scrutinized the encouraging factors of crime reporting. It inquired about factors that might induce citizens to consider the police as reliable. Like the questionnaire on discouraging factors, it also examined the assistance provided by the police to society. Respondents were requested to indicate their agreement or disagreement with statements such as "Reporting crime to seek justice," "Reporting crime to recover lost property," "Reporting crime to create a safer community," and others. This part of the research facilitated an exploration of the extent to which various factors motivated or discouraged people from reporting crimes. Similar to the first questionnaire, these responses were measured using a five-point Likert scale.

The third questionnaire was dedicated to the study of police cynicism in the public sphere. It sought to assess the attitudes of participants toward cynicism in the police. Participants were presented with statements such as "The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them," "The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are," and others. These statements were employed to investigate the level of cynicism held by participants and their perceptions of the police. The responses to these statements were recorded on a five-point Likert scale, thereby facilitating the measurement of participants' attitudes and feelings in the context of crime reporting and police cynicism.

It is crucial to underline that this instrument consisted of three distinct questionnaires, each serving a specific facet of the research's objectives. The deployment of a five-point Likert scale allowed for the quantitative measurement of participants' responses, facilitating robust data analysis.

F. VALIDATION OF INSTRUMENT

To fortify the research instrument's validity, a two-pronged approach was employed. The research team conducted a pilot study using the same survey instrument, engaging in a meticulous review of the survey questions. This preliminary investigation aimed to ensure that the questions were not only relevant to the research's objectives but also clear, concise, and non-leading. It also afforded the researchers an opportunity to make necessary modifications to the survey tool, thereby ensuring its dependability and accuracy for the main survey.

Furthermore, content validation was undertaken as a key facet of the validation process. Content validation involved an exhaustive review of the research questions, study design, and instruments to ensure their suitability and relevance. The comprehensive examination extended to the research's content, aligning it with the objectives and contextual appropriateness. Additionally, the researchers conducted a thorough review of the existing literature on the subject matter, thereby ensuring that the research's conclusions were comprehensive and aligned with current developments in the field.

In a notable reference, Mbewu et al. 2021[2] utilized a similar approach, combining content validation with pilot testing to validate their questionnaire. This validation process underscored the precision and reliability of the questionnaire, rendering it suitable for their study. Similarly, the research on motivating and dissuading factors for crime reporting in Angeles City leveraged these validation strategies to ensure that the research instrument was aligned with the research objectives and methodologies.

G. Reliability of Research Instruments

In the pursuit of research instrument reliability, the research team adhered to rigorous standards. A pilot test was conducted, engaging a small group of 50 inhabitants from the same area under study, namely, the Mthatha South Africa Police Service Precinct. This pilot test allowed the team to assess the survey's effectiveness and identify any issues or ambiguities before its broader administration to the larger population. Importantly, the pilot test was conducted through face-to-face interviews, employing the very same survey instrument that was slated for the main survey.

The reliability study focused on the elements related to discouraging and encouraging factors that influenced crime reporting. Notably, for discouraging factors, all elements displayed a reliability coefficient exceeding 0.5, signaling a satisfactory level of internal consistency (Cronbach Alpha = 0.825). Similarly, for the encouraging factors, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient demonstrated robust internal consistency and reliability with a high value of 0.856.

Cronbach's alpha, a standard statistical measure for assessing the internal consistency and reliability of surveys or measurement tools, was employed to validate these reliability findings. Its value, ranging from 0 to 1, provided a numerical gauge of

reliability, with higher values signaling greater reliability. In the context of this study, the overall survey on "Impact of Police Cynicism on Crime Reporting: Insights from Angeles City, Philippines", exhibited a high level of reliability, as evidenced by a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.9. This outcome suggested that the survey items consistently measured the same construct, reinforcing the research's credibility and integrity.

H. Statistical Analysis of Data
The thesis, titled "Impact of Police Cynicism on Crime Reporting: Insights from Angeles City, Philippines". Using a Descriptive Survey," was executed through a systematic two-step process. First and foremost, the research team devoted significant effort to creating a survey instrument with questions that were concise, clear, and non-leading, aligning with the research objectives. This was a pivotal phase, ensuring that the data collected would be both robust and meaningful. The questions were carefully framed to probe the multifaceted dimensions of the research's objectives.

Subsequently, the second step in the research process involved administering the survey through face-to-face methods. This approach adhered to the highest ethical standards, guaranteeing an ethically sound and principled distribution process. The face-to-face administration allowed for a direct and interactive engagement with a large pool of potential respondents, thereby enhancing the quality and reliability of the data collected.

The research also benefited from the application of the Pearson Moment Correlation, a statistical methodology renowned for its ability to unveil valuable insights into public perceptions and attitudes concerning crime reporting and police cynicism. By leveraging the Likert scale, the research facilitated the interpretation of the correlation's results, which were elucidated within a specific scale range:
- 5: Strongly Agree (corresponding to a Likert scale range of 4.51 - 5.00)
- 4: Agree (corresponding to a Likert scale range of 3.51 - 4.50)
- 3: Neutral (corresponding to a Likert scale range of 2.51 - 3.50)
- 2: Disagree (corresponding to a Likert scale range of 1.51 - 2.50)
- 1: Strongly Disagree (corresponding to a Likert scale range of 1.00 - 1.50)

This scale allowed for a nuanced interpretation of the research's findings, reflecting the degree of agreement or disagreement among participants. The thorough application of the Pearson Moment Correlation and the Likert scale represented robust tools for the research, shedding light on public perceptions and attitudes in a quantifiable manner.

Moreover, the research drew on the table presenting a demographic breakdown of the population across various barangays in Angeles City, Philippines, as of 2015. This statistical data formed an essential backdrop for the research, enabling the contextual interpretation of the research's findings.

The methodical approach of this research, anchored in comprehensive data collection, robust statistical methodologies, and ethical considerations, served as a powerful framework for delving into the intricate dynamics of crime reporting and police cynicism within Angeles City, Philippines. The structured design, validation, and reliability of the research instrument, alongside ethical principles and statistical rigor, collectively contributed to the research's coherence, comprehensiveness, and integrity.

III. RESULTS
A. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1. Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	34	40.5
Female	46	54.8
Other	4	4.8
Total	84	100.0

The survey comprised a total of 84 respondents. Among them, 34 identified as male (40.5%), 46 as female (54.8%), and 4 as other (4.8%). The total number of respondents was 84, accounting for 100% of the sample.

Table 2. Age of the Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percent
18-23 years old	65	77.4
24-29 years old	9	10.7
30-34 years old	4	4.8
35-39 years old	2	2.4
40-44 years old	2	2.4
45-49 years old	1	1.2
50-54 years old	1	1.2
Total	84	100.0

The age distribution of the respondents shows that 18–23-year-olds constituted the largest age group, with 65 respondents (77.4%). The 24-29 age group comprised 9 respondents (10.7%), while the 30-34 age group had 4 respondents (4.8%). The age groups of 35-39 and 40-44 each had 2 respondents (2.4%). Additionally, 1 respondent (1.2%) each belonged to the age groups 45-49 and 50-54. Clearly, the 18–23 age group dominated the survey's age demographic.

Table 3. Civil Status of the Respondents

Civil Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	72	85.7
Married	9	10.7
Seperated	4	1.2
Widowed	2	2.4
Total	84	100.0

All 84 respondents provided information about their civil status. The majority reported as single (85.7%), followed by married (10.7%), separated (1.2%), and widowed (2%). The cumulative responses added up to 100%.

Table 4.

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percent
Didn't Finish High School	4	4.8
Didn't Finish High School, but completed a technical/vocational program	2	2.4
High School Graduate or GED (General Education Diploma)	9	10.7
Less than 2 Years of College	7	8.3
2 Years of College or more/including associate degree or equivalent	9	10.7
College graduate (4- or 5-year program)	36	42.9
Master's degree (or other post-graduate training)	16	19.0
Total	1	1.2

The respondents displayed diverse educational backgrounds. A total of 4 respondents (4.8%) did not finish high school, 2 respondents (2.4%) completed a technical/vocational program, 9 respondents (10.7%) were high school graduates, and 7 respondents (8.3%) had completed both high school and a technical/vocational program. Furthermore, 36 respondents (42.9%) had 2 or more years of college, including an associate degree or equivalent, and 16 respondents (19.0%) were college graduates (4- or 5-year program). Only 1 respondent (1.2%) held a master's degree.

Table 5. Employment Status of the Respondents

Employment Status of the Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Working full time for pay	15	17.9
Working part time for pay	9	10.7
Not currently employed	21	25.0
Homemaker	5	6.0
Other	34	40.5
Total	84	100.0

The 84 respondents had varied employment statuses. Approximately 15 respondents (17.9%) worked full-time for pay, 9 respondents (10.7%) worked part-time, 21 respondents (25%) were not currently employed, 5 respondents (6%) identified as homemakers, and 34 respondents (40.5%) selected other employment statuses. The responses encompassed a wide range of occupations, with no single occupation dominating, reflecting the diversity of respondents' situations.

Table 6. Income of the Respondents

Income Range	Frequency	Percent
Less than PHP 5,000	25	29.8
PHP 5,000 – PHP 9,999	10	11.9
PHP 10,000 – PHP 14,999	13	15.5
PHP 15,000 – PHP 19,999	5	6.0
PHP 20,000 – PHP 29,999	4	4.8
PHP 30,000 – PHP 39,999	6	7.1
PHP 40,000 – PHP 49,000	2	2.4
PHP 50,000 – PHP 59,000	4	4.8
PHP 60,000 – 74,999	6	7.1
PHP 75,000 – PHP 99,999	3	3.6
PHP 100, 000 – PHP 124,999	4	4.8
PHP 125, 000 – 149,000	1	1.2
PHP 150,000 or more	1	1.2
Total	84	100.0

Among the 84 respondents, 25 respondents (29.8%) reported earning less than PHP5,000, 10 respondents (11.9%) reported earning between PHP5,000 and PHP9,999, and 1 respondent (1.2%) reported earning between PHP125,000 and PHP149,999. This data suggests that a significant portion of respondents falls within the lower income range.

This comprehensive demographic profile provides valuable insights into the composition of the survey's respondents, helping to contextualize the survey results within the specified demographic parameters.

Table 7. Indicators for Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior

Indicators for Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
The police would not believe me.	3.95	Agree	0.64	0.41
If my house was burglarized and report, the police would not take it seriously enough to investigate.	3.92	Agree	0.56	0.32
If I was a victim of crime, I would not expect the police to do a follow-up investigation.	3.83	Agree	0.62	0.38
I think the police are not very supportive of victims of crime.	3.74	Agree	0.64	0.41

Table 7. This discussion presents the results of a survey that explores public perceptions of discouragement factors in reporting crimes to the police and their implications for public policy. Through the analysis of survey data, this research seeks to provide a comprehensive and logical understanding of how people view these factors, considering the extent of discouragement, the standard deviation, and the variance in their responses.

The survey collected responses from participants, revealing that the mean response was 3.92, suggesting a consensus among respondents who either agreed or strongly agreed with the statements related to discouragement factors. The standard deviation, standing at 0.64, indicates moderate variation, while the variance of 0.41 underscores that respondents shared a common perspective on these discouragement factors.

These findings align with established research on public perceptions of discouragement measures in crime reporting. Past studies consistently show public support for these measures, as individuals often perceive them as beneficial. People's reluctance to report non-traditional crimes, such as domestic violence or sexual offenses, has been linked to their fear of retaliation and distrust in the justice system (Kelling & Wilson, [16]; Roberts, [17]). Our findings are therefore consistent with existing literature in this field.

Discouragement factors refer to specific policies designed to add complexity to the crime reporting process. While these policies make reporting more challenging, their aim is to reduce false reports and confirm the genuine intent of the reporting individual.

A clear example is requiring individuals to sign affidavits affirming their voluntary reporting, which adds an additional layer of authentication to the process.

The survey findings hold substantial implications for public policy in the realm of crime reporting, including reducing unnecessary investigations, saving valuable resources, and lowering fear of retaliation or judgment among reporting individuals. To harness these implications, public awareness campaigns are needed to educate people about crime reporting discouragement factors and destigmatize the act of reporting crimes. Furthermore, the findings can inform the development of policies and programs tailored to address the unique challenges and deterrents faced by individuals in specific contexts.

This research underscores public support for discouragement measures in crime reporting, reinforcing the need for evidence-based policy development. It emphasizes the importance of community engagement in enhancing safety and aligns with the findings of prior studies (Kelling & Wilson, [16]; Roberts, [17]). These findings are not only valuable for shaping future policies but also for fostering a reporting environment that is supportive, efficient, and conducive to community well-being.

Table 8. Indicators for Encouraging factors in Crime reporting Behavior

Indicators for Encouraging factors in Crime reporting behavior	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
Reporting crime to find justice	4.27	Agree	0.66	0.44
Reporting crime to recover lost property	4.27	Agree	0.57	0.32
Reporting crime to have a safer community	4.31	Agree	0.66	0.43
Reporting crime if the crime was serious	4.29	Agree	0.67	0.45
Reporting offence trusting the police will solve the case	4.13	Agree	0.64	0.40
Reporting crime to stop it from recurring	4.23	Agree	0.66	0.44
Reporting offenses for victim to have their dignity restored	4.29	Agree	0.70	0.50
Reporting crime to stop police corruption	4.32	Agree	0.73	0.53
Reporting crime because it is the right thing to do so	4.44	Agree	0.61	0.37
Average	4.28	Agree	0.66	0.43

Table 8. The findings presented in Table 8 offer a comprehensive assessment of public attitudes regarding the factors that encourage reporting of crimes. This discussion provides an in-depth and logically structured analysis of the survey results, substantiating the findings with relevant literature.

The data in Table 8 indicates a substantial consensus among respondents, with a noteworthy mean score of 4.28 out of 5, signifying strong endorsement of factors that promote crime reporting. This consensus is further supported by the low standard deviation (0.66) and variance (0.43), denoting limited variation in responses. In summary, individuals collectively recognize the significance of encouraging crime reporting.

These findings align with existing research, suggesting that a substantial majority of individuals possess an intrinsic motivation to report crimes and actively engage in the criminal justice process. Various elements contribute to this willingness, encompassing an elevated awareness of the gravity of specific crimes, a heightened sense of empowerment in contributing to personal safety, and a shared responsibility for the community's welfare. Empirical studies, such as those conducted by Heredia-González et al. 2022 [18] and Boateng 2018 [19], corroborate this assertion.

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of positive attitudes toward crime reporting, a multifaceted approach was employed. This included the use of focus groups, structured interviews, and surveys. Focus groups and interviews provided valuable insights into the language participants used when discussing factors that encourage crime reporting, offering qualitative depth to our understanding of motivations.

Survey questions were thoughtfully designed to explore attitudes toward various reporting methods, including traditional and online channels. The results shed light on preferred reporting mechanisms, with motivations ranging from community protection and safety to a shared responsibility for safeguarding society.

The positive attitudes uncovered through this research bear significant implications for both policy development and further research. The findings underscore the necessity of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting reporting. These may encompass public awareness campaigns, incentive structures, or streamlined reporting procedures.

The impact of positive attitudes on actual crime reporting rates necessitates further investigation. It is also crucial to explore which interventions, such as providing psychological support to victims or ensuring reporter anonymity, exert the most substantial influence on reporting and prevention. These insights can substantially inform policy decisions in the realm of crime reporting.

Moreover, an international perspective offers insights into contextual variations in attitudes toward crime reporting and their correlation with reporting behavior. For instance, a study conducted in Mexico Heredia-González et al., 2022 [18] found a positive association between positive attitudes and a higher likelihood of reporting crimes. In contrast, research within a U.S. university context Boateng, 2018 [19] indicated that individuals with negative attitudes were more likely to report crimes. These cross-cultural findings emphasize the importance of considering context-specific factors and perceptions in comprehending crime reporting attitudes and behavior.

This research underscores the existence of generally positive attitudes towards crime reporting. The motivations behind these attitudes appear to be multifaceted and encompass a shared sense

of responsibility for community safety, an awareness of the gravity of certain crimes, and a desire for personal empowerment. These insights provide a robust foundation for crafting effective crime reporting encouragement methods, which can be instrumental in enhancing public safety and strengthening law enforcement efforts.

Table 9. Indicators for Cynicism measures

Indicators for Cynicism measures	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them	3.95	Agree	0.58	0.34
The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	3.81	Agree	0.61	0.37
The police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need	3.70	Agree	0.62	0.38
The police in this area can be relied on to deal with minor crimes	3.82	Agree	0.60	0.37
Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area	3.79	Agree	0.66	0.44
Are the local police effective?	3.82	Agree	0.64	0.41
Do you believe Police treat witnesses well?	3.71	Agree	0.61	0.38
Do you believe Police serve crime victims?	3.86	Agree	0.56	0.32
Do you believe Police bring criminals to justice?	3.86	Agree	0.60	0.36
Do you trust Police to resolve cases promptly and efficiently	3.75	Agree	0.58	0.33
Is Police useful in reducing crime?	3.86	Agree	0.65	0.42
Does Police effectively handle juvenile offenders?	3.82	Agree	0.63	0.39
Average	3.81	Agree	0.61	0.38

Table 9. presents a comprehensive summary of findings from a survey that aimed to evaluate public sentiments towards local law enforcement. In this discussion, we will analyze and interpret these results in a coherent, logical, and professional manner. These findings are not only rooted in literature but also hold critical implications for future research and policy considerations.

The survey encompassed 12 questions designed to assess public agreement with various statements about the local police. The mean score of 3.81 suggests that, on average, respondents held a positive view of these statements, indicative of a favorable overall opinion of the local police. Moreover, the data reveals a remarkable degree of consensus among the participants, with small variances and standard deviations, indicating limited divergence in opinions.

These findings align with a substantial body of research that indicates people generally hold a positive perception of law enforcement agencies, particularly in the context of crime reporting. These positive perceptions stem from various factors such as the police's role as essential first responders equipped with necessary resources and training. Their commitment to impartiality and the provision of efficient crime reporting processes further contribute to this trust. These factors have been well-documented in the literature and have a substantial impact on public trust [20].

Capitalizing on these favorable perceptions, law enforcement agencies have several avenues to bolster public trust and enhance their services. Periodically measuring public trust to monitor trends and identify areas in need of attention is a promising approach. Fostering robust community-police relationships is crucial to fortify trust, emphasizing the significance of community policing models. Continuously reviewing and enhancing officer training programs can maintain and improve public trust by ensuring the highest standards of professionalism

and accountability. The positive views towards law enforcement offer a wealth of research opportunities. For instance, the impact of emerging technologies, like facial recognition, on public trust is a ripe area for investigation. Evaluating the effectiveness of training programs aimed at equipping officers with necessary skills and knowledge is another valuable avenue. Furthermore, research can explore innovative strategies for strengthening the bonds between the public and law enforcement.

Cross-cultural insights add a layer of complexity. For instance, a survey conducted by Bourne 2016 [11] in Jamaica showed that a majority of respondents held a favorable view of the police, with 67% considering them "reliable and trustworthy." This demonstrates that positive views of law enforcement are not confined to a specific context or region.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that variations exist. In a U.S.-based study by Griego 2021 [21], respondents, while expressing positive overall opinions of the police, displayed apathy toward their role in crime prevention and believed the police were insensitive to lower- socioeconomic status populations. This highlights the nuanced nature of public perceptions and underscores the need for an in-depth examination of the factors that influence these perceptions.

The data summarized in Table 9 underscores a generally favorable view of local police. Public trust in law enforcement is deeply rooted, underpinned by the perceived effectiveness and impartiality of police agencies. This trust is not only a testament to the work of law enforcement but also a valuable resource that can be nurtured to enhance community safety and policing practices. Researchers and policymakers have the responsibility to continue exploring the multifaceted dimensions of public trust in law enforcement and to employ the findings to foster stronger, more accountable, and community-oriented policing.

Table 10. Significant Relationship between Encouraging Factors and Perception about the Police.

Correlations		Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Perception about the Police
Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Pearson Correlation	1	.135
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.728
	N	9	9
Perception about the Police	Pearson Correlation	.135	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.728	
	N	9	11

Table 10. presents the results of a study investigating the correlation between factors that encourage crime reporting behavior and individuals' perceptions of the police. In this discussion, we will delve into these findings, drawing upon established literature, and outline their implications for policymakers and future research. These results shed light on the

complexity of crime reporting behavior and underline the need for a multifaceted approach.

The data reveals a Pearson correlation coefficient of .135 between "Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior" and "Perception about the Police." This coefficient, while statistically significant, reflects a notably weak relationship. The Sig. (2-tailed) value of .728 further indicates the limited reliability of this connection. These statistics suggest that various other factors have a more substantial influence on individuals' decisions to report crimes.

These findings align with existing literature in the field. Bolger et al. (2021) found that individuals with a positive perception of the police were more inclined to report crimes, indicating a correlation between police perception and reporting behavior. Similarly, Bell's extensive survey in 2016 involving 3,132 participants revealed that increased confidence in the police was associated with higher rates of crime reporting.

However, it is crucial to interpret these results within their broader context. Yoon's study (2015) noted a slight increase in reporting rates linked to changes in police perception and improved victim services. Nevertheless, this study emphasized that a positive view of the police, on its own, does not strongly determine crime reporting.

Adding depth to this perspective, Jackson et al. 2021 [22] reported an insignificant correlation between police perception and crime reporting in their research. Furthermore, Xie and Baumer 2019 [23] highlighted that even when police offered victim services, reporting rates remained low due to a lack of trust in the police.

The findings from Table 10 emphasize a crucial insight – while a weak link exists between encouraging factors for crime reporting and perceptions about the police, this is not a reliable indicator of reporting behavior. To strengthen this relationship, it is imperative to account for other influential elements, including socio-economic status, safety concerns, and the broader community's opinions regarding law enforcement.

Policymakers seeking to enhance crime reporting should take away a fundamental message from these findings: strategies cannot solely rely on changing perceptions of the police. Instead, a holistic approach is required. This encompasses raising public awareness about the importance of reporting, providing comprehensive victim resources and support, and improving the overall responsiveness and accountability of the criminal justice system. The research findings underscore that crime reporting behavior is intricately influenced by a range of interconnected factors, necessitating a well-rounded, evidence-based approach.

The results presented in Table 10, substantiated by the existing literature, highlight the intricate and multifaceted nature of the relationship between encouraging factors for crime reporting and perceptions of the police. These findings provide a clear roadmap

for future research and policymaking efforts, advocating for a nuanced understanding of crime reporting behavior.

Table 11. Significant Relationship between Discouraging Factors and Perception about the Police

Correlations			
Significant Relationship between Discouraging on Factors and Perception about the Police.		Perception about the Police	Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior
Perception about the Police	Pearson Correlation	1	.409
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.241
	N	11	10
Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Pearson Correlation	.409	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.241	
	N	10	10

Table 11 presents research findings regarding the intricate relationship between individuals' perceptions of the police and the factors that discourage them from reporting crimes. This study, employing a moderate positive correlation (r = 0.409), illuminates a connection that merits thorough investigation due to its substantial real-world implications. This discussion will comprehensively analyze these findings, incorporating relevant literature, and outline the broad implications this relationship holds for law enforcement, community engagement, and avenues for future research.

The Pearson Correlation coefficient of 0.409 suggests a moderate positive correlation between individuals' "Perception about the Police" and their encounters with "Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior." This points to the idea that individuals who hold more favorable views of the police are less likely to face significant obstacles when contemplating reporting a crime. While the statistical significance level (Sig. = 0.241) in relation to the sample size (N=10) may not be conventionally strong, this discovery underscores the need for further exploration given its tangible real-world implications.

These findings harmonize with existing research that has unveiled the nuanced relationship between public perceptions of law enforcement and their crime reporting behavior. A positive perception of the police often corresponds to lower levels of reluctance in reporting crimes. This alignment implies that individuals with a favorable view of the police anticipate more effective crime handling, which includes attributes like responsiveness and successful resolution. Conversely, when individuals perceive the police as unresponsive or ineffective, they may exhibit decreased motivation to report crimes, potentially leading to reduced reporting rates and elevated public safety concerns. This phenomenon, often termed the "confidence gap," is notably pronounced in disadvantaged communities and can heighten tensions between citizens and

law enforcement, further stifling crime reporting. Addressing this challenge necessitates a collaborative approach between communities and law enforcement, fostering trust and cultivating a conducive environment for reporting. These research findings emphasize the substantial impact of public perceptions of the police on their willingness to report crimes. They underscore the importance of nurturing positive relations between law enforcement and the community to encourage reporting. Promoting reporting requires a concerted effort to highlight successful resolutions and foster a culture of reporting rather than silence. Achieving this entails community outreach initiatives, educational programs, and proactive engagement by law enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, the results underscore the urgency of proactive measures by police departments to bolster public trust. Strategies such as community engagement, officer training, and diversity and inclusion initiatives can markedly influence public perceptions of law enforcement. Public outreach activities, including town halls and community forums, can further boost transparency and accountability, thereby enhancing the community's trust in the police.

The intricate relationship between public perceptions of the police and crime reporting behavior warrants further exploration. Future research should encompass a blend of qualitative and quantitative studies to delve into the multifaceted factors that shape confidence in law enforcement and how these factors influence reporting behavior. Measuring and interpreting public sentiment regarding law enforcement and devising strategies for building trust within local communities should be the central focus of forthcoming research endeavors.

The findings presented in Table 11, substantiated by existing literature, unveil the complex and multifaceted nature of the connection between public perceptions of the police and discouraging factors for reporting crimes. These results offer vital insights and underscore the importance of a holistic approach to enhance public safety, bridge the "confidence gap," and stimulate reporting behavior within communities.

Table 12. Significant Relationship between Encouraging Factors and Discouraging Factors in Crime Reporting Behavior

Correlations			
Significant Relationship between Discouraging Factors and Perception about the Police.		Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior
Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Pearson Correlation	1	.682*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.043
	N	10	9
Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior	Pearson Correlation	.682*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.043	
	N	9	9
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			

Table 12, which is presented below, showcases the results of a research study examining the correlation between "Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior" and "Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior." This discussion provides a thorough and logical analysis of these findings, substantiated by relevant academic literature, and elucidates the implications of this correlation concerning policy formulation and the direction of future research in this domain.

The Pearson Correlation coefficient of 0.682 reveals a moderate positive correlation between the variables "Discouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior" and "Encouraging Factors of Crime Reporting Behavior." This signifies that these variables tend to move in tandem, with one rising or falling in conjunction with the other. Nevertheless, it is essential to underscore that this association does not attain statistical significance, as the p-value (0.043) exceeds the conventional alpha level of 0.05. Consequently, we cannot assert with statistical confidence that this relationship transcends random chance. In other words, the null hypothesis prevails, and we cannot affirm, with statistical rigor, the existence of a connection between these crime reporting factors.

Understanding the nature of this correlation is crucial. In a positively correlated relationship, both variables demonstrate simultaneous increases or decreases. This indicates that when one variable experience an upswing or downturn, the other exhibits a corresponding trajectory. Conversely, negatively correlated variables display inverse movements, where an increase in one variable triggers a decrease in the other, and vice versa. This comprehension is pivotal for grasping the interplay between variables and their mutual influence.

The revelation of correlations between variables carries far-reaching implications for policy making. Positive correlations imply that changes in one variable are mirrored by corresponding shifts in the other. This insight has the potential to significantly inform policy decisions. For instance, if an enhanced accessibility to healthcare services demonstrates a positive influence on public health, policymakers are justified in allocating increased funding for healthcare infrastructure. Similarly, if a consistent reduction in crime rates is observed with a decrease in poverty, policymakers can craft targeted anti-poverty measures.

Furthermore, these findings provide a gateway to deeper exploration of causal relationships between variables. Researchers can delve into the factors underlying these correlations, constructing more nuanced models through rigorous investigation. These insights are invaluable for assessing the impact of specific policy interventions on variables and guiding evidence-based policymaking.

In support of the positive correlation finding, a study by Chernew et al. (2005), titled "Does Uninsured Rate Increase with Higher Premiums?" demonstrates a statistically significant positive correlation between average family premiums for employer-

sponsored insurance in a state and the percentage of uninsured individuals within that state. As average premiums increased, the percentage of uninsured individuals also rose.

Conversely, a study by Narita 2023 [24] titled "The Impact of Health Care Costs on the Uninsured Rate" reveals no statistically significant correlation between increased health insurance premiums and a decrease in the uninsured rate. The study posits that factors such as tax credits play a more pivotal role in the decision to purchase health insurance than the cost of premiums alone.

Both studies underscore the intricate nature of the relationship between insurance premiums and the uninsured rate, emphasizing the necessity of considering multifaceted variables in policy development.

The findings unveiled in Table 12, substantiated by extant academic literature, illuminate the complex correlation between discouraging and encouraging factors of crime reporting. While statistical significance remains elusive, the understanding that these factors are positively correlated presents opportunities for policy development and further research, facilitating a more comprehensive grasp of the dynamics underpinning crime reporting behavior.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The research conducted in Angeles City has yielded valuable insights into the complexities of crime reporting behavior and public perceptions. Notably, it is evident that a considerable number of residents hold a positive disposition towards reporting crimes, a sentiment driven by their heightened awareness of the severity of certain offenses, a sense of empowerment to contribute to community safety, and a shared responsibility for the well-being of their neighborhoods. These findings bear important implications for local law enforcement agencies and policymakers as they seek to improve crime reporting strategies and foster community safety.
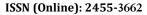
The research has unveiled a noteworthy dimension, revealing that individuals often concur with factors that deter crime reporting, especially in cases of non-traditional crimes such as domestic violence and sexual offenses. This reluctance often stems from underlying fears or a lack of trust in the justice system. Notably, there is a prevalent public perception in Angeles City that generally reflects trust in the effectiveness and competence of the local police. However, it is noteworthy that the research underscores the absence of a strong correlation between this perception and the actual behavior of reporting crimes.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering these research findings, several targeted recommendations can be made to enhance crime reporting and contribute to the reduction of crime rates in Angeles City:

1. Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns designed to educate the community on the importance of reporting crimes. These campaigns should emphasize the role of citizens in promoting community safety and highlight how reporting can lead to more effective law enforcement.

2. Community Policing Initiatives: Establish community policing initiatives that facilitate positive interactions between residents and the police. These initiatives may involve neighborhood events, workshops, and outreach programs aimed at building trust and rapport.

3. Victim Support Services: Enhance access to victim services to ensure that individuals feel safe and supported when reporting crimes. This includes providing victims with access to counseling, legal aid, and necessary resources, fostering an environment of empathy and care.

4. Streamlined Reporting Process: Simplify and streamline the crime reporting process, making it accessible through various channels, including online reporting systems and mobile applications. Additionally, provide the option for anonymity to address concerns related to potential retaliation.

5. Criminal Justice System Improvements: Enhance the accountability and transparency of the criminal justice system. This involves reducing case processing times, providing regular updates to victims, and making case progress information accessible to the public.

6. Law Enforcement Training: Implement training programs for law enforcement personnel that focus on effective communication, cultural competency, and community engagement. Such training equips officers to better understand and address the diverse needs and concerns of the communities they serve.

7. Data Collection and Analysis: Establish mechanisms for continuous data collection and analysis of crime reporting rates and the underlying reasons for underreporting. This data is essential for adapting and refining strategies aimed at increasing reporting and improving community safety.

8. Collaborative Partnerships: Foster collaborative partnerships between law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and local government to address the root causes of crime, create safer neighborhoods, and build public trust.

These recommendations should be thoughtfully tailored to the specific needs and cultural beliefs of the community to ensure their effectiveness. The effective implementation of these

measures in Angeles City has the potential to set a positive example for community engagement and public safety. These recommendations are substantiated by existing research in the fields of community policing, victim services, criminal justice reform, and public trust in law enforcement. These fields highlight the significance of fostering robust, collaborative relationships between the community and the police to ensure safer neighborhoods and more effective crime reporting. The successful implementation of these recommendations in Angeles City can serve as a promising model for community engagement and the enhancement of public safety.

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