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COMMUNITY - POLICE STANDARDS

for Ohio



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On April 29, 2015, the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations presented Governor John R. Kasich with recommendations and best practices available to bridge the divide between communities and law enforcement.

Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations

Recommendations lead to collaborative advisory board charged with developing state standards that can help guide all law enforcement agencies in Ohio

On December 12, 2014, Governor John R. Kasich issued Executive Order 2014-06K, which formed the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations. The task force was charged with exploring the cause of fractured relationships between some law enforcement and some communities, particularly communities of color; examining strategies to strengthen trust between communities and law enforcement to help resolve underlying friction; and providing the Governor with a report including recommendations on best practices to improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities.



Gov. John R. Kasich addresses the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations at the Ohio Union on March 16, 2015.

“The recommendations, testimony, supporting documentation, and best practices received serve as a blueprint for action. It is our collective moral obligation to seek reconciliation, develop relationships, further understanding and build trust,” said co-chair and former state Senator Nina Turner.

In order to meet this charge, and consistent with the executive order, the task force held four public forums: Cleveland State University (January 21); Central State University (February 9); the University of Toledo (February 26); and the University of Cincinnati (March 9)¹.

In addition to the forums, the public was encouraged to provide input in a variety of ways. A task force website allowed citizens to provide thoughts and ideas, and input also was sought through social media. A statewide citizen attitude survey was administered to gather feedback on citizen perceptions of law enforcement, and a law enforcement survey was administered to gather feedback on officers’ perception of community-police relationships. By the end of the forums, the task force had received public testimony from more than 150 people and heard from nearly a dozen experts from around the country. At the conclusion of the public forums, the task force held additional meetings to discuss members’ perceptions of the public testimony and to begin deliberations on potential recommendations.

¹ Please note: public forums were open to everyone, including law enforcement, to provide input. The forums were attended by many law enforcement officers and several provided public and expert testimony.

Based on input from public and expert testimony, supporting documentation, task force discussions and the individual and collective professional and personal experience and knowledge of task force members, a clear consensus for action developed around the following categories:

Accountability and oversight: Action must be taken to ensure agencies and officers will be held accountable by the communities they serve.

Community education: Create methods to establish public understanding of police policies and procedures and recognition of exceptional service to foster support for police. Police officers and community members must become proactive partners in community problem solving.

Community involvement: There must be ongoing efforts by law enforcement and the community to build trust and strengthen relationships.

Grand jury process: The grand jury process shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, or appropriate governmental authority, as it applies to the use of force.

Recruiting and hiring: The State of Ohio shall require all law enforcement agencies to adopt, at a minimum, hiring policies. The State will develop a model policy on hiring to be used by law enforcement agencies.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

Standards: The State of Ohio shall require all law enforcement agencies to adopt, at a minimum, policies including, but not limited to, the use of deadly force, with the goal of enhancing the protection of all lives. The State will develop a model policy to be used by law enforcement agencies.

Training: In order to allow officers to do their jobs safely and effectively, and to protect the public, the State of Ohio shall require a greater emphasis on, and investment in, training.

The task force presented its final report to the governor on April 29, 2015, at which time he issued Executive Order 2015-04K, establishing the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. The board will advise and work with the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), in implementing the task force recommendations and creating, for the first time in Ohio's history, statewide minimum standards for state and local law enforcement departments to follow in certain vitally-important areas including, but not limited to, the proper use of force, including deadly force, and the recruiting, hiring and screening of potential law enforcement officer candidates.

“The purpose of the task force was to develop strategies to help improve the important relationship between law enforcement and the communities they are charged with protecting,” said Karhlton Moore, OCJS executive director. “In order for this relationship to improve, we wanted to hear suggestions and possible solutions from the public.”

No later than 90 days after members have been appointed, the board and OCJS shall finalize the two standards mentioned above and OCJS will

disseminate those standards to all state and local law enforcement departments in Ohio. The board and OCJS shall develop the model departmental policies and best practices referred to above.

No later than March 31, 2017, and annually thereafter, OCJS shall publish a report listing which state and local law enforcement departments have and have not adopted and fully implemented those two statewide minimum standards. The board may also:

- Recommend to OCJS additional statewide minimum standards and/or additional model departmental policies and best practices for law enforcement departments in Ohio beyond the two standards specified above.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of any statewide minimum standards and/or model departmental policies and best practices and recommend modifications if necessary.

- Recommend to OCJS any other measure believed necessary to implement the task force's recommendations.

- The board and OCJS also may develop measures to encourage state and local law enforcement departments to adopt and implement any statewide minimum standards they develop.

“This is a very exciting time for Ohio to not only build upon the great work of the task force, but to possibly become a national model for others,” said task force co-chair and ODPS Director John Born.

Right: Barbara A. Bolling, President of the Indiana NAACP Conference, speaks during the public forum held at Central State University on Feb. 9, 2015.



Illegal Liquor used for Training

Ohio Investigative Unit provides alcohol for standardized field sobriety test training

Ever wonder what happens to the spirituous liquor agents seize at illegal liquor establishments? It is used for training officers and troopers to detect alcohol impairment in drivers.

Illegal sales operations in Ohio are establishments that operate without proper licensing from the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Liquor Control. Selling alcohol without a permit or after permitted hours violates Ohio law and is subject to a criminal investigation by the Ohio Investigative Unit and/or local law enforcement.

Once it is determined illegal sales are taking place, agents obtain a search warrant and seize illegal alcohol including beer, wine and intoxicating and spirituous liquor (liquor with 21-percent alcohol or higher).

The alcohol remains in evidence until a court issues a forfeiture order. Most of the beer, wine and intoxicating liquor, as well as unsealed bottles of spirituous liquor, is destroyed. Some spirituous liquor is stored at an evidence facility in Columbus until police training academies request alcohol for standardized field sobriety training, which includes exercises where students observe the adverse effects in persons who have consumed controlled quantities of alcohol. The alcohol is provided at no cost to training academies.

When the drinking has concluded, each drinker is given a breath test before going through the standardized testing process with trainees. Standards for the

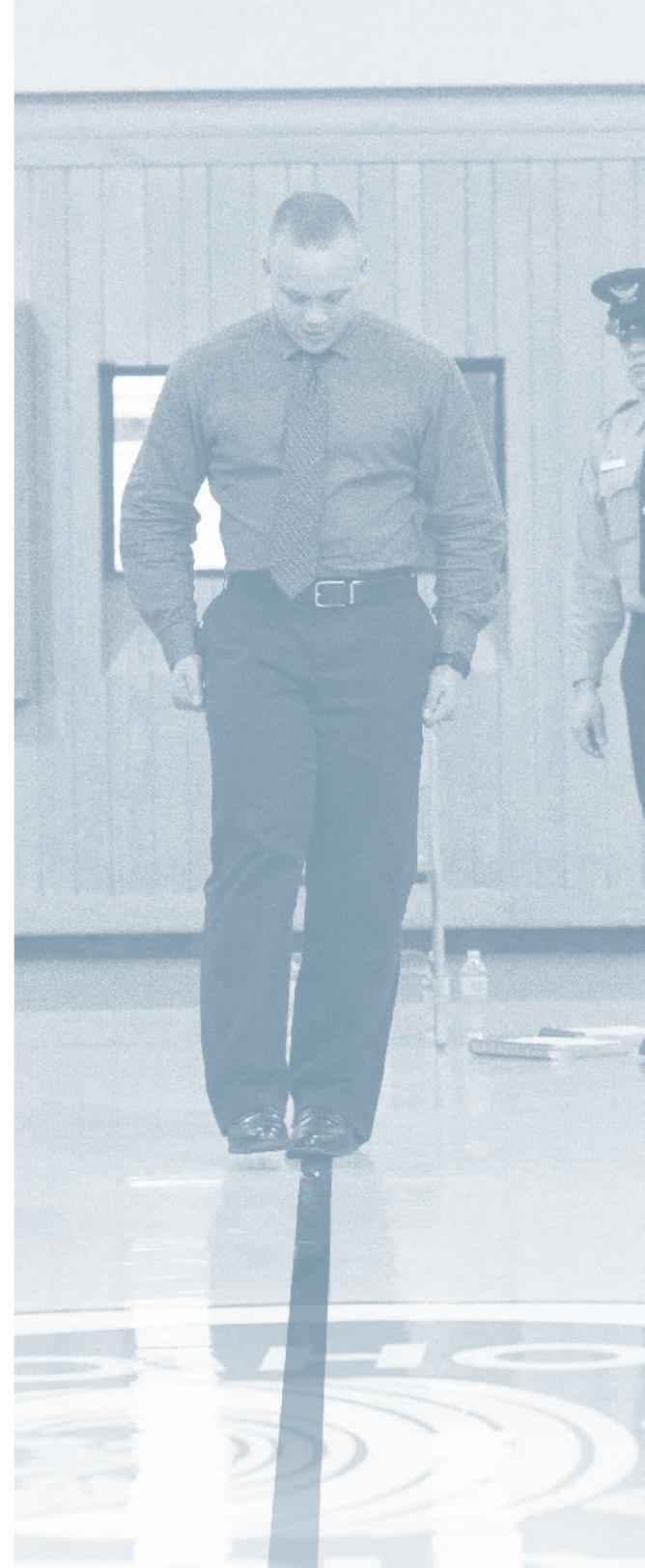
drinking and testing processes are set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Each step of the drinking process must be documented, including anything consumed prior to testing, weight, gender, each drink poured and snacks or food consumed.

Each trainee has a drinker go through the standardized field sobriety test, including the horizontal gaze nystagmus, walk and turn and one leg stand tests. The training uses real intoxicated people in a controlled environment to help officers better learn proper mechanics.

Before the drinker may leave at the conclusion of the training, a sober family member or friend must sign a waiver stating he or she will not let the drinker drive. The person must also be 18 years of age and agree to take responsibility for the intoxicated person including transportation home.

Agencies interested in obtaining free spirituous liquor for standardized field sobriety testing may contact the Ohio Investigative Unit at (614) 752-5528.

Right: The Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy uses spirituous liquor seized by the Ohio Investigative Unit to facilitate standardized field sobriety test training.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.



Special plates offer motorists many choices

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) proudly offers a wide variety of special license plates, which may include the use of initials or personal messages in addition to an assortment of organizational logos. Nearly 270 logo/organizational plates enable the public to support a particular college, military organization, environmental or other special interest group. Currently, almost one million Ohioans have special license plates.

Most special plates require an additional fee to cover production and handling costs. Some special plates also include a fee earmarked for the sponsoring organization. These costs may range up to \$50, depending on the plates, and is due annually, including years when only a validation sticker is needed.

All special plates can be obtained through any Deputy Registrar office, at OPlates.com, by mail or by calling the Ohio BMV at 1-800-589-TAGS, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Personalized Plates

Personalized license plates may contain a message of the customer's choice, but must contain at least four letters. The maximum number of letters and/or numbers is seven. Through personalized license plates, the BMV allows motorists to express themselves, while at the same time limiting profanity, offensiveness, or phrases that could incite lawless behavior.

A consent agreement with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was established for balance

and helped the BMV institute a disciplined review process. The BMV has a Special Plates Review Committee which meets daily to review requested plate combinations. The committee consists of multiple individuals whose positions range from senior management to customer service.

When reviewing requests, the committee uses ACLU guidelines and rejects requests that contain words, combinations, and/or phrases (in any language and when read either frontward or backward):

1. That are profane (swear words or expletives), obscene, sexually explicit or scatological.
2. That are so offensive they could reasonably be expected to provoke a violent response from viewers without additional comment.
3. That advocate immediate lawlessness or advocate lawless activities.

The BMV wants to hear about your unique license plate through its "What's on Your Plate" contest! Just send the BMV a photo of you with your personalized license plate and a brief summary of how you chose your plate's message. Email the photo and summary to Communications@dps.ohio.gov and you could be featured on BMV's Facebook page and website. You could also win a decorative plate award with the personalization of your choice! Plates must be current and valid.

Launching a Special Plate

The process of introducing a logo license plate for sale in Ohio requires assistance from a member of the legislature to draft a bill on behalf of the organization. This will involve communication between organizational leaders and the legislator to ensure the bill is inclusive of the organization's purpose, goals and financial support, if any. To obtain support, organizations may contact representatives or senators at the Ohio Legislative Information Hotline, 1-800-282-0253, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Once a bill is drafted, the legislator(s) will submit it to the General Assembly for approval.

To enter into Ohio's Special Plate Program, organizations must also obtain 500 signatures from Ohio residents who intend to purchase a set of the plates. Colleges or universities do not require legislation to enter into Ohio's Special Plate program, but must obtain 150 signatures from Ohio residents who intend to purchase the license plates. These are covered by section 4503.51 of the Ohio Revised Code.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

Military Sacrifice Plate

As of June 2, 2015, any member of the immediate family of a person who died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and not of willful misconduct as a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, either active or reserve, the National Guard under federal or state control, or the United States Coast Guard may apply for the Military Sacrifice plate.



For a complete list of special plates, please visit: bmv.ohio.gov/special_plates.stm.

THIS IS A DRILL!

Ohio Emergency Management Agency exercises help ensure preparedness

Despite veiled threats, the assailant's warnings were virtually undetected, much like the police officers' radio calls from certain "dead spots" within the mall. These are just two of the key lessons learned in a recent "active shooter" exercise at a central Ohio shopping mall. They are officially described below:

- "Private security officer administrators do not have ready access to actionable intelligence to effectively plan for and deal with threats to their facilities;" and
- "Responding agencies do not have a clear understanding of portable radio coverage and signal strength."

But one of the biggest takeaways — not discussed in the immediate "hotwash," or the more formal After Action Report — is a ready-made tabletop exercise template that any mall, anywhere, can download and implement. When completed, it will include a Situation Manual, a PowerPoint briefing for participants, and a Facilitator's Guide. It will house everything the aspiring mall manager should need to conduct an active shooter tabletop exercise, minus participants.

Selected from the State of Ohio's All-Hazard Exercise and Evaluation Manual, in accordance with U.S. Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) standards, the goals of this policy-level, Mall Safety Tabletop Exercise Template, are:

- Initial notification — Demonstrate the ability of dispatch personnel to notify response and support agencies, mobilize emergency personnel and provide accurate and timely information prior to responding to a catastrophic incident;

- Intelligence/information sharing and dissemination — Demonstrate the capability of multi-jurisdictional, multidisciplinary intelligence/information sharing and dissemination among private, local state and federal agencies and their partners, following prescribed plans and the National Response Framework;
- Law enforcement investigation and operations — Demonstrate the capability of law enforcement personnel and related entities to detect, examine, investigate and conduct law enforcement operations related to potential terrorist activities; and
- On-site incident management — Evaluate the lead jurisdiction's capability to direct and control incident management activities for a catastrophic incident by establishing incident command in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

This tabletop emphasizes the role of coordination and information strategies that are as critical to a common operating picture as they are to the overall response effort. It brings together an array of community partners including private businesses and local and state responding agencies.

Developed to provide participants an opportunity to evaluate and validate current response concepts, policies, plans, and capabilities to respond to an active shooter incident, the exercise focuses on policy-level concerns related to command and control policies, coordination, critical decisions, notifications and the integration of private and public assets.

When piloted in Ohio, the 3 1/2-hour exercise included 23 players, three facilitators, four evaluators and 18 observers, including local and state law enforcement, and mall security, as well as private security from nearby businesses. While further development of the template continues, plans call for another pilot with another Ohio mall before the package is finalized.

This was one of several recent exercises conducted by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, which has taken the all-hazards approach to emergency management to heart. In recent months, seven regional oil and gas exercises were held in eastern Ohio where hydraulic fracturing has been booming. In addition, a dam breach exercise, a harmful algal bloom (HAB)/drinking water exercise and nuclear power plant hostile-action based exercise have kept emergency management professionals busy.

While an all-hazards approach is prudent, one of those hazards that can hit anywhere, anytime, especially in this day and age, is a terrorist attack or lone gunman shooting in a crowded area. Just like with all other potential disasters, if you exercise your emergency preparedness and response plans in a detailed manner, you are more likely to have a favorable outcome, even in a situation as unfortunate as this one. But luckily, THIS IS A DRILL! THIS IS ONLY A DRILL!

Ohio EMA offers a ready-made Mall Safety Tabletop Exercise template that any mall, anywhere, can download and implement.



Study of media reports show Ohio has most school threats nationally

A recent study conducted by Cleveland-based National School Safety and Security Services concluded Ohio had the most school threats in the nation during the first half of the school year. The study relied on media reports from August through December, and identified 812 national school threats — an increase of 158 percent since last year. Ohio led all states with 64 threats, followed by California with 60, New York with 46 and Texas with 41.

Of the national threats, 70 percent were aimed at high schools, 18 percent toward middle schools and 10 percent toward elementary schools. The report found 44 percent were associated with bomb threats and 29 percent were related to shooting threats.

“While a vast majority of these threats were found to be hoaxes, it is important that all of us with a public safety role as well as school officials take all threats seriously and investigate them thoroughly,”

explained Rick Zwyer, Chief of Operations for Ohio Homeland Security.

The study also recognized social media applications and other electronic communication methods as an emerging medium through which threats are issued against schools. The study showed 37 percent of threats were issued through email, social media, text messages and other electronic mediums.

Social media apps such as Yik Yak, After School, and Whisper are gaining popularity amongst students, but remain challenging to law enforcement because they allow users to post anonymous content. Identifying perpetrators becomes more difficult and complex because investigators must work with an app’s developers or controlling entity to obtain information. Nationwide, 45 threats were communicated using these apps during the first half of the school year.

“While this study provides needed insight into this growing problem nationwide, officials here in Ohio wanted to take a closer look at school threats specific to our state and use official police reports to create a comprehensive analysis,” explained Zwyer.

Ohio Homeland Security’s Threat Assessment and Prevention Unit plans to release analysis based on official police reports dated August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2014, later this year. Analysts are collecting a variety of threats including: bomb threats, active shooter/active shooter threats, suicide or attempted suicide, weapon possession on school premises (including discharge of a firearm), assaults with a weapon which occur on campus and threats to kill or threats which involve a weapon.

Concepts in Process Improvement Workshop Trains 35

The Ohio EMS for Children Program and the Ohio Trauma Committee's Pre-Hospital Workgroup presented two one-day workshops in March for hospital EMS coordinators. Thirty-five participants learned the basics of process improvement, participated in a hands-on exercise and received information on adult learning techniques to assist them in presenting the workshop material to EMS agencies in their areas.

"This workshop is giving them the tools to evaluate their processes to make them better, causing better care for all Ohioans," said Timothy Erskine, Chief of Trauma Systems and Research for the Division of the Emergency Medical Services.

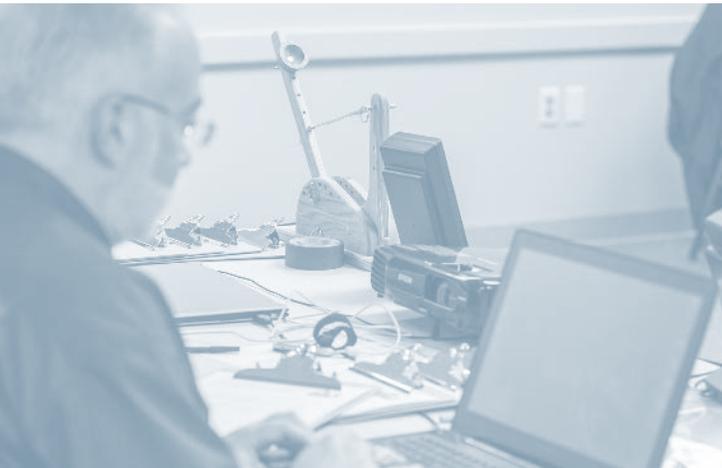
The goal of the workshop is to reach as many Ohio EMS agencies as possible with information about process improvement projects. This "train-the-trainer" format provides EMS coordinators at local hospitals the tools to reach out to their EMS agency counterparts.

This effort is happening at the same time as the development of national performance measures for EMS Compass that will support local communities in providing high-quality emergency care to patients. When those measures are released in mid-2016, EMS agencies may find their performances deficient.

"In these workshops, we provide a way for people engaged in EMS to identify what they do as a process and some tools to improve what they do," said Joe Stack, EMS for Children Coordinator/Ohio Safe Kids Coordinator for the Division of Emergency Medical Services. "This has implications for patient safety, staff training, fleet management, cost reduction and a host of other areas depending on where process improvement tools are applied."

The workshops are a shortened version of one provided by the National EMS for Children Data Analysis and Resource Center (NEDARC) for EMS for Children Partnership Grant coordinators across the country; two NEDARC staff members from the University of Utah helped in the presentation of the two workshops.

Small catapults are used to teach the basic principles of process improvement.



BMV Announces Winner of Art Contest

The submissions are in and Byron Borgmann from Delaware Hayes High School is the winner!

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) launched an art contest for students in grades 9-12 in April. The BMV requested original artwork related to the BMV and received 64 submissions from across the state. BMV staff narrowed the submissions down to five finalists, and then the public voted on BMV social media to select the winner.

Byron's artwork will be temporarily displayed at the Statehouse over the summer and then permanently displayed at BMV headquarters in Columbus.

Making an IMPACT

Around 6,000 high school students filed into the Convocation Center at Ohio University this prom season for a program with a lively atmosphere and a poignant message that encourages good decision making.

The program, IMPACT, is aptly named for the impression it leaves on the southeastern Ohio students that attend. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is proud to be involved for the tenth year in this effort to help young people make good decisions, especially when choosing not to drink or text while driving.

IMPACT is presented by Prom Pledge, Impact, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded for the purpose of saving lives through an energetic assembly-style setting. Students are entertained by a local DJ and fed pizza while entering the building to create a welcoming, comfortable environment where they learn about problems that affect them and their peers.

This year's focus was on the importance of keeping your word, with a presentation by Alex Sheen, founder of the nonprofit, Because I said I would. Students received blank "promise cards" to fill in with their own promises, like never driving while drunk, being honest or always putting their phones away before getting behind the wheel.

Past speakers have shared their stories of family members dying of alcohol poisoning or holding responsibility for the death of friends following crashes involving alcohol.

The students also see a staged crash scene and a multimedia presentation focused on choices involving alcohol, drugs, poor driving habits and peer pressure.

IMPACT has become a program that students look forward to attending, and the Patrol is proud to be a part of it. For more information on IMPACT, head to www.prompledge-impact.org.

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IMPACT

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presented by
From Pledge, Impact, Inc.

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EXIT

because
I said
I would.

Alex Sheen, founder of Because I said I would, talked to nearly 6,000 high school students about keeping your word as part of IMPACT.

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