



PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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April 6, 2010

Chairman Peter C. Tobin

Ohio State Highway Patrol Mission Review Task Force
c/o Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
1560 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140



Chairman Tobin,

I am providing this letter in support of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). I participated in the OACP Member Survey of February 15, 2010 concerning police departments' interaction with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In that survey, I indicated the excellent relationship my agency shares with the OSHP. I would like to take the opportunity to expand on my responses in the survey.

I have been in law enforcement for twenty-eight years. My experience includes approximately eight years in the patrol function, approximately ten years in drug investigations, and ten years in administration, to include approximately eight years as Chief of Police of the Portsmouth Police Department. I am a graduate of the OSHP Basic Police Academy. I attribute a large part of my success in law enforcement to my training and experience with the Academy. The Portsmouth Police Department continues to send new members of the department to the Basic Police Academy provided by the OSHP.

Jurisdictional jealousies and/or "turf" controversies have historically plagued law enforcement, much to the detriment of the public and the benefit of the criminal element. Over the course of my career, I have had diverse experience and contact with other law enforcement agencies. Of those relationships, I don't

know that any have been as enriching and successful as the relationship with the OSHP. I have had the pleasure of working closely with at least five OSHP Post Commanders, including Lt. Dean Conklin, Lt. Robert Woodford, Lt. John Allard, Lt. Mark Thompson, and Lt. Mike Crispen. I have had the opportunity to work closely and successfully with past OSHP District Commander Captain George Maier (current Assistant Director of Public Safety) and current District Commander Captain Paul Pride.

In an effort to provide brief, but yet significant examples of the relationship between the Portsmouth Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I provide the following:

In 1983, as a young Portsmouth Police Department Patrol Officer, I was second on the scene of the shooting of OSHP Trooper Sgt. Dwyer. As a result of the collective manhunt for suspects in the shooting, extending over several days, I had my first opportunity to work closely with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. It became apparent and was imprinted upon me that, first and foremost, we all are "law enforcement". We were not police, deputies, troopers, etc. Our objective and our job was the apprehension of the perpetrator.

In the early 1990's, I was just starting my career in drug investigations. As a result of networking with the OSHP and the sharing of intelligence, the Southern Ohio Law Enforcement Drug Task Force was able to successfully arrest and prosecute numerous individuals in the "White Stallion – Chester Caldwell" investigation. This was the most extensive drug case to date and the first "Corrupt Organization" or RICO case conducted by the Scioto County Prosecutor's Office. The key to the successful investigation and prosecution was the successful cultivation of a confidential informant by Trooper Ivan Teets of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Throughout the 1990's, the local Drug Task Force successfully investigated, arrested and prosecuted numerous individuals as a result of the assistance of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

After leaving drug investigations and moving into the administration of the Portsmouth Police Department, I continued partnerships with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Post 9-11, we worked jointly with the OSHP to provide security for the CSX Railroad Bridge in Sciotoville, Ohio. To my recollection, the bridge was designated as one of the top five, potential, terrorist critical infrastructure targets.

Since 2000, the Portsmouth Police Department has worked cooperatively to address numerous community issues, including drug interdiction and enforcement, DUI interdiction and enforcement, criminal interdiction and saturation operations, and community education programs. Both agencies work cooperatively in providing Shawnee State University with a safe and productive learning environment.

In 2006, the Portsmouth Police Department participated in the manhunt of John Parsons. John Parsons escaped from the Ross County Sheriff's Office and was subsequently captured. I was present at the search command center and witnessed the extensive ability of the OSHP to provide overwhelming assets not readily available to local law enforcement, in this case the Ross County Sheriff's Office. Assets included intensive manpower, communications, equipment, and air support, among others.

During the summer and fall of 2007, after active-shooter school incidents having occurred in the United States and at the direction of the Governor Ted Strickland, the Ohio State Highway Patrol SRT Team provided active-shooter or direct-to-threat training to members of the Portsmouth Police Department. Fortunately the training was extremely timely.

On February 8, 2008, Michael Layne entered the Notre Dame Elementary School in the City of Portsmouth. Layne entered the classroom of his wife Christy Layne, stabbing and shooting her in front of her students. As a result of the active-shooter or direct-to-threat training, members of the Portsmouth Police Department made entry into the Elementary School within approximately four minutes of receiving the call. The officers had the building cleared and had medical treatment to Christy Layne within ten minutes, saving her life. As a result of the development of the MARCS radio system and the leadership of Retired OSHP Major Darryl Anderson, the Portsmouth Police Department was able to communicate with the OSHP and other agencies that day. After stabbing and shooting of his wife, Michael Layne barricaded himself in his residence. After shooting at officers with a high powered rifle, I requested the assistance of the OSHP SRT Team. The SRT Team provided their manpower and equipment, otherwise unavailable to my agency. In addition to the SRT Team, the Portsmouth Police Department received extensive manpower support, including ground and aerial support from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Following a lengthy standoff, Michael Layne took his own life.

These are only a few of the examples of the cooperation with and the assistance of the OSHP.

In closing, the leadership and inter-agency cooperation demonstrated by the OSHP should be an example for all of law enforcement to model. We, in law enforcement, have this obligation to the public we serve. Frequently, the criminal element joins forces, working cooperatively and for the common good of the organization. Imagine the impact on crime and the communities we serve, if we were to do the same. Imagine the opportunities. I believe they could be endless and priceless. Then again, maybe I am a dreamer. However, being a dreamer and working cooperative with the Ohio State Highway Patrol saved at least one life, Christy Layne.

As the Chief of Police of the Portsmouth Police Department, I have and will continue to partner with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and would encourage others to follow, for the benefit of the citizens of Portsmouth, other communities and the State of Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles H. Horner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Charles H. Horner

Chief of Police