



Lancaster Police Department

130 South Broad Street • Lancaster, Ohio 43130-4385

TO: OSHP Mission Review Task Force
FROM: Chief David W. Bailey *DWB*
SUBJECT: Professional Interactions with OSHP
DATE: April 7, 2010

DAVID W. BAILEY
Chief of Police

Telephone Emergency
911 or 687-6680

Police Services
740-687-6681

Information
740-687-6683

Records
740-687-6684

Detective Bureau
740-653-2117

Community Services
740-687-6626

Administration
740-687-6688

FAX
740-687-6687

I have been a member of this agency since 1979; consequently I have had numerous opportunities to interact with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. We have always had an excellent relationship with the OSHP and it is my contention that they offer invaluable support to smaller agencies. I offer these brief points in support of my assertions.

- Accessibility to OSHP Support Services: Despite being a large law enforcement agency with many levels of supervision, OSHP is quick to react to requests for access to their support services. I have not experienced delays due to bureaucracy, or the "process interfering with the purpose". Here are some examples:

1. During a high profile child abduction and attempted murder case in our jurisdiction, one telephone call to general headquarters immediately resulted in a polygraph examiner being assigned to our agency for as long as we required the service. At that time, we had no polygraph examiner; hence this was a tremendous investigative advantage.
2. In March of 2010, our agency partnered with Post 23 to conduct a traffic enforcement blitz within our city. The blitz was easily arranged and very productive. In addition to addressing critical enforcement issues, the public observed law enforcement agencies sharing resources in a time of reduced funding. Throughout the year, local post commander Lt. Gary Lewis will share traffic crash data with us and then engage local law enforcement agencies in a variety of enforcement campaigns.
3. The OSHP quickly responds to our requests for recovery and analysis of vehicle "black box" data and for assistance with complex and/or fatal crashes. They also offer accident reconstruction services at no cost to our agency, plus are willing to act in an advisory capacity regarding complicated crashes.
4. The OSHP investigative unit offers additional support by allowing us to use their polygraph services on more routine cases than the one captioned above. This was particularly helpful when our agency's own examiner was deployed to Iraq.

5. The OSHP offers assistance in the field to our Patrol Bureau at times of peak activity, or during critical incidents by providing back up support.
6. Trooper David Bever has made a tremendous effort to place his K-9 unit at our service at all times of the day and night. Our agency does not have a K-9 program and this is a tremendous advantage for us.

Our small agency (70 officers authorized) cannot afford to provide and maintain these specialized services on our own. We are in an unenviable position with shrinking financial resources, and a concomitant rise in the demand for police services. I assume that many other small agencies must be similarly positioned, thus the support of OSHP is critical at this financial juncture. We enjoy an excellent relationship with our county sheriff and could turn to him for assistance, but his agency is dealing with budget issues as well.

- The OSHP as a Partner in the Local Law Enforcement Community: A lesser known facet of our local OSHP post is their integration into the local law enforcement community. I offer these examples:
 1. The OSHP supports and participates in local law enforcement meetings. They share intelligence and information regarding best practices and new developments in accident investigation technology.
 2. OSHP members support community projects and have served as members of area service clubs.
 3. Members of our local post have served as guest speakers at our Citizens Police Academy.
 4. OSHP provides troopers to present in-service training to our agency, at no cost on a wide range of subjects.
 5. Our local post actively participates in city and county emergency planning exercises and has provided role players in a court security exercise.
 6. Over the past few years, Lancaster Post Commander Gary Lewis, Sheriff Dave Phalen, and I have worked closely on joint projects to promote motorist safety and zero tolerance for impaired driving. We have partnered on sobriety check points in the city and county, and made joint public service announcements aimed at promoting safe driving practices.
 7. Together with the OSHP, our local law enforcement community has promoted and encouraged a climate of interagency cooperation and team work, which has been applauded by our residents.

In closing, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is a professional and collaborative law enforcement agency that provides critical support to Ohio's smaller police agencies. They are willing to share their expertise and are a model for best practices in law enforcement. Smaller agencies do not have the funding or the technical abilities to provide many of the specialized and advanced services that OSHP offers at no charge.

In some cases, local police agencies are consumed with answering calls for service, and it is comforting to know that OSHP is available to help monitor the traffic throughout our city and county.