

City of Cincinnati



Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.
Police Chief

April 5, 2010

Police Department
310 Ezzard Charles Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
(513) 352-3536
(513) 352-2949 (FAX)

Mr. Peter C. Tobin, Chair
State Highway Patrol Mission Study Task Force
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigations
1560 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Dear Chairman Tobin,

The Cincinnati Police Department enjoys a strong partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol that has positively impacted regional traffic safety and served as a model for law enforcement partnerships both across the State of Ohio and nationally. This partnership formally began in June of 2006 and complements the Cincinnati Police Department's Core Strategy of Traffic Safety. Working together, our agencies focus on three primary areas: Airspeed enforcement on Cincinnati Interstate highways, Operating a Vehicle while Impaired Checkpoints and Metropolitan Area high visibility joint enforcement.

Airspeed enforcement on targeted high auto accident Interstate highway locations has resulted in a 92% reduction in fatal auto accidents on Interstate highways within the City of Cincinnati corporation limits and an average reduction in Interstate highway speeds of 7.5 miles per hour. 92% of all citations written during airspeed enforcement are for more than 20 miles per hour above posted speed limits.

Operating a Vehicle while Impaired checkpoints are conducted eight times a year in locations selected after joint agency analysis of City of Cincinnati traffic patterns, auto accident locations and Operating a Vehicle while Impaired arrest data. Since their inception, the checkpoints have resulted in 182 arrests for Operating a Vehicle while Impaired and 242 other Felony and Misdemeanor arrests. As the checkpoints have been shown to have a deterrent effect on area criminal activity for up to 3 weeks after their completion, the selection criteria are now matched with known City of Cincinnati gang territories to increase the reduction of area criminal and traffic violations. Community groups in the City of Cincinnati regularly partner with our agencies on checkpoints and make formal requests to host a checkpoint in their neighborhood, enhancing police and community relations.

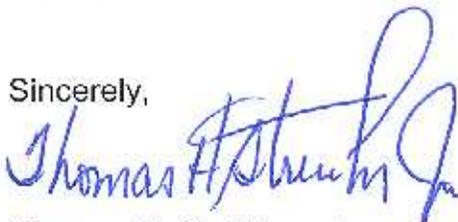
Metropolitan Area high visibility joint enforcement involves City of Cincinnati Traffic Officers working in tandem with Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers to remove aggressive and impaired drivers from the roadways; reduce serious injury and fatal auto accidents and to deter criminal activity via high visibility enforcement and arrest activity. Since the inception of the Metropolitan Area enforcement, our agencies have jointly made 907 arrests for Operating a Vehicle while Impaired and received the 2008 National Mother's Against Drunk Drivers President's Award, the highest award for enforcement of Operating a Vehicle while Impaired. The joint enforcement also resulted in an additional 328 criminal arrests, 172 drug arrests and the apprehension of 225 wanted persons.

As a result of the combined efforts of the Cincinnati Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the City of Cincinnati has seen an overall 48% decrease in fatal auto accidents, a 45% decrease in serious injury auto accidents and a 26% decrease in total auto accidents. These reductions free up valuable Cincinnati Police Department resources and reduce associated overtime costs to our Department in these difficult economic times.

Speaking from another perspective, the City of Cincinnati experienced the riots in April of 2001. It was quite obvious that we did not have sufficient resources to address this situation and were in dire need of assistance. I was contacted directly by then Superintendent Morckel who offered the assistance of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Colonel Morckel indicated he would need four hours to assemble resources and deliver approximately 200 troops to Cincinnati. It is unfathomable to think any other law enforcement agency could muster 200 members with sufficient equipment and arrive in Cincinnati in the midst of a civil emergency within four hours of the request. However, the Ohio State Highway Patrol did just that. The level of professionalism, support, cooperation and compassion displayed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol was a critical component of the successful resolution of this chapter in the history of the City of Cincinnati.

I strongly support the efforts of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and I look forward to continuing the partnership between the Cincinnati Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to save lives and reduce crime in the City of Cincinnati.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas H. Streicher, Jr." The signature is stylized and cursive.

Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.
Police Chief