

**Vermont Department of Public Safety  
Law Enforcement Advisory Board  
Business Plan**

**PURPOSE – What is our purpose?**

As defined in the 24 V.S.A. § 1939 and by the members of the Law Enforcement Advisory Board the mission of the group is as follows;

*To advise and report to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, the General Assembly on issues that affect the cooperation and coordination of more than one law enforcement agency.*

**GOAL – What are we working towards?**

Given monies available, the Board shall review *policies* and *practices* in an effort of developing a *comprehensive approach* to providing the best policing services to Vermonters.

The Board shall also provide *educational resources* to Vermonters about public safety challenges in the state.

The Board shall develop *policies and recommendations* for law enforcement priority needs.

**TASKS – What should the Board review?**

Statutorily mentioned tasks include;

- Retirement benefits,
- Recruitment of officers,
- training needs,
- homeland security issues,
- dispatching, and
- Comprehensive drug enforcement.

Other tasks deemed important by the Board should also be reviewed. It is expected that issues or tasks may arise at any time and may be brought before the Board for resolution.

**OUTCOMES – What are we going to produce?**

The Board shall hold a formal review process to meet the above goals and tasks. A *report* shall be produced in brief summary to the General Assembly and Governor annually by January 15<sup>th</sup>. A *formal review process* shall include testimony from interested parties, if deemed necessary by the Board, or a thorough discussion of the issues/tasks followed by a recommendation made and voted on by the Board.

## **ORGANIZATION– What is the make up of the Board and how does it operate?**

The Board is made up of the following;

- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Director of the Vermont State Police (VSP)
- Director of the DPS/ Division of Criminal Justice Services (CJS)
- A member of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police appointed by the president.
- A member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association appointed by the president
- A representative from the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) appointed by the Executive Director.
- A member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the president.
- The Attorney General or his/her designee.
- A state's attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs.
- The U.S. Attorney or his/her designee.
- The Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC).
- The Defender General or his/her designee.
- One employee-representative of the Vermont state police, appointed by the director of the Vermont state employees' association.

The Board shall elect a chair and vice-chair who will serve for two years.  
A quorum shall consist of 6 members.

Decisions of the Board shall require a majority vote.

## Action Plan for 2008-2009

The Board shall meet a minimum of six (6) times in 2008.

The Board shall begin discussing the following issues with the outcome being to document the issue and offer recommendations to help solve the problem. These issues are in priority order.

1. Assist the Legislature and Department of Finance and Management in their evaluation of an RFP for an independent look at how we perform law enforcement functions in the State. Also assist them in studying the problem of how to improve law enforcement services within Vermont.
2. Review and evaluate current practices surrounding law enforcement's arrest of a parent or caretaker of a minor child, especially if the child is present at the time of the arrest. This is a legislative request from the 2008 legislative session.
3. Rural Law Enforcement issues
  - Continue to define and clarify roles for all enforcement resources in the State.
  - Continue to research ideas for additional funding sources.
4. Smooth roll out of Crash data collection project with AOT. This project impacts roadway engineering projects and driver safety.
  - VSP going live January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Several agencies testing it now.
5. Crime Victim's Bill of Rights Issue
  - VSP portion is resolved
  - Chiefs and Sheriff's will report their course of action.
6. State and Federal housing for detainees issue still unresolved.
6. Location for computer forensics lab
  - US Attorney Tom Anderson will be speaking to the joint Sheriffs and Chief's meeting in December on this issue.
7. The response to trans/border crimes.
8. How Emergency Management integrates with local government and law enforcement.
9. VCOMM and Interoperability –
  - a. Monitor the progress of the interoperability issues for emergency service providers and monitor the project as it relates to;

- b. The goal of Vermont becoming a fully functional e-State by 2013. This is important because of the radio infrastructure that will be used to achieve this goal.
10. Highway Safety Issues –
- Monitor and support the use of incentive monies for achieving 85% seat belt compliance rate.
  - Monitor the data driven approaches to crime and traffic safety projects (DDACTS).
11. Dispatch service issues – what has the impact of mobile data been on dispatch/communication centers
- Benefits – example is Essex shooting, mobile units had a picture of the suspect within 5 minutes of the first shooting.
  - Sustainability after Federal funds dry up
  - Dispatch cost saving?
12. Recruitment and retirement issues to be heard as needed throughout the two years.
- Follow up on management training identified in study and conducted with funding from the Board. What impact has it had on retention?
  - Finding qualified candidates to fill openings.
13. Information sharing and training generally
- VJISS briefing
  - What information goes to whom
  - Intel, what is valuable and useful information
  - What specialized intelligence training needs to go to the officers in the field