Law Enforcement Advisory Board

MINUTES

<u>August 19th, 2024 – 9:30 AM</u>

1. Call to Order

    The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM. LEAB Members present included: Shawn Burke, Anthony Facos, Chris Brickell, Trevor Whipple, Jennifer Harlow, Matthew Valerio, Mark Belisle, Kelly Price, Justin Stedman, and Mandy Wooster.

2. Agenda Additions

    No additions were made.

3. Approve June 17th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

    Justin Stedman made a motion to approve the draft minutes which was seconded by Anthony Facos. The measure passed unanimously.

4. Pursuit Policy Presentations

    - Col. Birmingham – Tabled to the next meeting.
    - Trevor Whipple provided a detailed overview of the Vermont League of Cities & Towns Vehicle Pursuit Policy. The policy was developed in 2021 by the Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute. VLCT does not mandate nor monitor agency adoption / compliance with the policy resources they provide to the municipalities they insure. VLCT does encourage their insured to use their model policy resources in shaping their individual agency policies.

    The policy focuses on a few key areas of interest; sanctity of human life, constant evaluation of risk, when to initiate and discontinue vehicle pursuits, wrong way drivers, and the use of tire deflation devices.

    Trevor Whipple noted that the Vermont Police Academy does not train recruit officers in high-speed vehicle operation. Trevor Whipple also noted that the model policy does rely on supervisor responsibilities in mitigating risk but, many law enforcement officers in Vermont operate alone absent supervisory oversight.

    Mark Belisle raised a question as to indemnification of personally owned vehicles used by Constables. Trevor Whipple explained that generally Constables who use personally owned vehicles should be insured for that use and list the municipality as an insured on their policy.

    The board discussed establishing a best practice policy, engaging the broader law enforcement community. Matthew Valerio specifically cited that practitioners should be the architects of an operational policy such as this. The board decided to establish a working group to take this initiative up.

5. Discuss Interview / Interrogation Training

   Shawn Burke raised a question related to the board's interest in having a presentation from a law enforcement entity on the P.E.A.C.E. model of interview and interrogation. The board unanimously supported the idea. Mandy Wooster volunteered to identify a member of the Vermont State Police who could provide this information to the LEAB at a future meeting.

6. Motion to adjourn by Matthew Valerio. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Harlow.