

**Vermont Department of Public Safety
Law Enforcement Advisory Board
Business Plan
2005**

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 15th. 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 2007-2008

The Board shall meet minimum of six (6) times in 2007.

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. Indemnification of instructors at the Academy.
 - Continue discussion of the ramifications of the Chiefs and Sheriff's July 1st deadline for withdrawing instructors.
 2. Crash data collection project
 - Take testimony on this project in an effort to help facilitate the accurate and timely collection of crash data.
 3. Crime Victim's Bill of Rights Issue
 - Examine the DOC form that should accompany a defendant when they are lodged.
 - Examine the VSP's production of an e-learning course for VSP personnel on victim's issues for application to other agencies.
 4. Rural Law Enforcement issues
 - Continue to define and clarify the VSP's role and responsibilities be addressed as old business from the Board's original mandate.
- 5 State and Federal housing for detainees issue should be discussed further. We remain one year closer to the point where it reaches critical mass.
6. Funding and location for computer forensics.
 7. The response to trans/border crimes should be discussed. Not only does it directly affect border towns, a recent example was cited of a Serbian born U.S. Citizen who crossed the border at Champlain into Canada. He was refused entrance into Canada and when he returned to the States, they found a loaded AK-47 in his vehicle, with extra clips, and large amounts of ammo.
 8. Emergency Management Issues
 - Take testimony on how what they do integrates with local government and law enforcement.
 9. VCOMM and Interoperability – particularly relevant to the Governor's stated goal to make Vermont an E-state with wireless capability Statewide.

10. Highway Safety Issues – Crash fatalities and how to reduce these crashes.
 - Evaluate and document the process used and the success achieved in turning around the State’s motor vehicle fatality trend in 2006.
 - Take testimony from those involved as to what they did, what actions they took, and what the outcome was.
 - Consider the same strategy for other law enforcement issues such as the apparent increase in armed robberies, home invasions, and drug enforcement activities.
11. Dispatch service issues – what has the impact of mobile data been on dispatch/communication centers,
12. 911 Upgrade and other issues that may be brought before the Board.
13. Recruitment and retirement issues to be heard as needed throughout the two years.
 - Receive update on the success of the management trainings at the police academy.